



— MOLOKA'I —
**Native Hawaiian
Beginning Farmer**
— PROGRAM —

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The Goal

To create 22 new farmers. If achieved, this will double the number of farmers in Hoolehua.

Objective 1:

Conduct agriculture educational program to develop skills of beginning farmers by applying predominantly experiential and “learn by doing” teaching techniques to train participants in crop production and business management.

Objective 2:

Conduct training on utilizing rental services for farm equipment needs and develop management handbook on equipment rental cooperative for homesteaders.





Justification for Project - Hoolehua Hawaiian Homes

- Over 7,800 acres of flat agricultural land
- State irrigation system with 2/3 prior rights to water
- Less than 5% of land in agricultural production
- Knowledge in agricultural production and business management identified as key impediments to increased production
- Farm population is aging





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Prerequisites

- Hoolehua Hawaiian Homesteader
- Access to ag land under control of their immediate family.
- Access to agricultural water
- Half acre of land ready to be prepared for planting
- Less than 2 years farming experience



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The Strategy...

- Classroom
- Demonstration
- Hands-on
- Mentoring

“I like that there are three instructors, with three different teaching styles. Glenn’s teaching style is one that I am very receptive to because I really like absorbing the knowledge that he throws out there and he throws it out there at a fast rate. Alton is really hands-on...the kinesthetics. He wants us to get out and work in the field.” ~Marshall Joy, Class II



The Carrot...

- *Research* and Identify Your Crop
- Establish Your Market
- Create A Production Map for 1/2 acre
- Implement Your Production Map
- We will bank-roll your 1/2 acre demonstration project, and prepare an additional 1/2 acre for you to farm after the end of the program



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Or Anywhere Else A “TEACHABLE MOMENT” Arises!

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Liming Fields



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Field Diagnostics Class



Making Seedling Mixes and Benches



Class in Incremental Plantings



Identifying Viruses



Repairing the main line



Installing Drip Irrigation



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Class 1

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Successes



Class 1:

- 14 participated in class and field training; 42.8% female
- 6 implemented Production Map
- 42% started farming
- Over 4.25 new acres of crops from participants, including eggs, butternut squash, bittermelon, eggplant, long beans, okra, wing beans, papaya, kabocha, watermelon, canteloupe, sweet corn, and microgreens
- Mentoring of Class 2 by Class 1 participants

“Anyone who’s thinking about farming and is serious should sign up. I feel the Beginning Farmer Program is effective. I appreciate the assistance from the agents. Yes, when they come to the farm they don’t always bring good news, but I see the bad as good. Learn from your mistakes, see how to recover, and move forward.” ~John Freeman - Class 1



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Butternut Squash



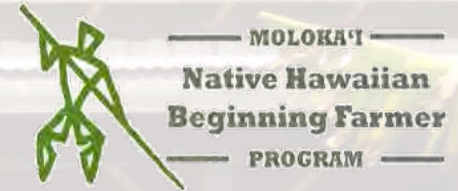
Organic Papaya



Planting Strawberries



Successes



Class 2:

- 16 participated in classes and field demonstrations; 37% female
- 50% completed production map
- 50% started farming
- Mentoring from Agents & Class 1 participants

“I think this is a wonderful program. I like all the teaching methods, but I like the hands-on the most. How to determine the windbreak layout and how to determine the angles of the windbreak and the irrigation layout was the best! I am very green, just learning about farming and I’m proud of fact that I learned how to do production mapping. Glenn doesn’t give us the answer to our questions; he guides us to find the right answer so we know where to go to find it the next time.”

~ Cora Schnackenberg, Class 2



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Growing Taro
in Kalamaula



Mentoring between Classes



Laying plastic mulch



Interdependence and Training



Field Demonstration
on Cover Crops



Organic
Watermelon



Watermelon for Local Market



Broccoli for Local Market



Pollinator Education Program

- Two rounds, 10 participants each = 20 total
- Jennifer Hawkins, Coordinator

Collaborators

- Ethel Villalobos, Scott Nikaido – UH Bee Project
- Brenda Kaneshiro – Molokai Meli

Intensive training in hive and bee management, collecting wild hives, augmenting nectar, pollen sources, and processing honey.



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words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones. ~ Proverb

Enjoy

LOCAL MOLOKAI HONEY

OLD FASHIONED

COMB HONEY



MOLOKAI MELI

Net Wt. approx.
12.5 oz. 357 g

HC 1 Box 754, Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748 ~ www.RealHawaiiHoney.com

Naturally produced under organic apiary practices.



Survey of Communication Methods

- 80% used cell phone as means of contact
- 60% used e-mail
- 60% stopped by the office

Survey of Learning Methods

- 70% of participants learned best through field activities where they could see and touch.

Rating of Program

- 90% of participants rated program
'EXCELLENT'



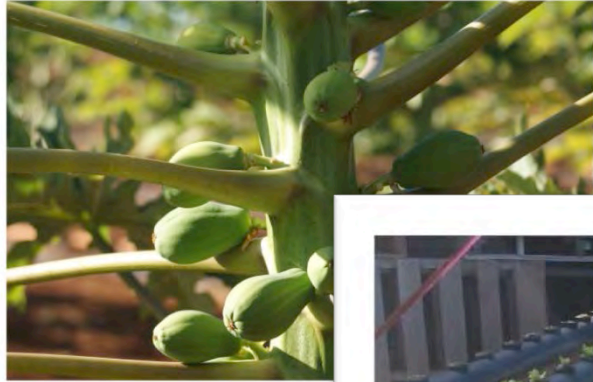
Post-grant Activities

- Monthly BFP Newsletter
- Created a new farmers cooperative, Makakuoha Co-op and completed strategic plan
- Partnership with Kohala Center, Molokai Community Services Center, and Kuha'o Business Center
- Secured a \$40,000 USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant to haul green waste from land fill to be converted into compost.
- Secured a \$32,475 USDA Small Socially-Disadvantaged Producer Grant for ongoing support and training of co-op
- Resource Library
- On-going one-on-one technical assistance

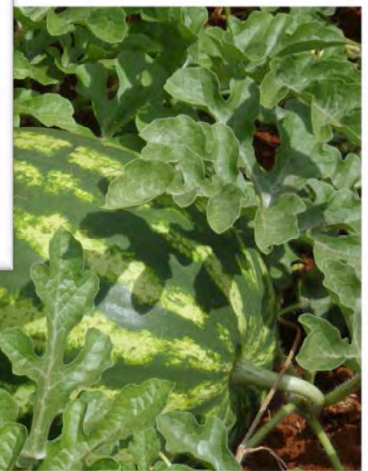


Partners and Collaborators

- Hikiola Cooperative
- Maui Community College-Molokai Farm
- UH Bee Project
- Molokai Meli
- Hoolehua Homesteaders Association – Tractor Service
- USDA Plant Materials Center
- Molokai Community Services Center
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Department of Hawaiian Home Lands
- UH CTAHR CES – Manoa-based Faculty
- The Kohala Center
- County of Maui, Office of Economic Development, Kuha'o Business Center



Beginning Farmer & Rancher
Development Program



The FRU



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