

# Kūlana o Kapolei

## Makahiki Season Newsletter

October-December, 2023



Uluniu work with our UHWO ohana!



Aloha 'āina practitioners in our mala!



Cultural Briefing work with US Military

Kūlana is the *inside* animating principle of kuleana/responsibility. Kūlana is thus the *purpose* of why we do what we do. So, Kūlana o Kapolei here at UH West Oahu is the “inside purpose” that brings cultural coherence to our UH West Oahu campus, to our Hawai‘i communities, and ultimately to our world. We do this in many ways: through talks, keynotes, and panel discussions, by hosting conferences, summits, meetings, class visitations, creative pedagogical and research work with faculty and students, and by supporting aloha ‘āina work via our uluniu (coconut grove) beside our Student Organic Garden. We also teach workshops on Mō‘ike Aloha (Hawaiian epistemology) for our transfer students in the Wailau Ola program. It is truly exciting to envision our higher learning environment where ‘ike kupuna (ancestral knowledge) and ‘ike ‘āina (knowledge from land) is once again infused into our thinking and evaluation practices. Continuity, a synonym for Indigenous knowledge, is first and foremost *embodied principles*. These principles are found in our Pahuhopu – our UH West Oahu Institutional Values. Here is how Kūlana o Kapolei embodied them during our Makahiki Season:

### Po‘okela: Enduring excellence

- *Working with our US Military in Cultural Briefings allows healing to be activated*

### Kaiāulu: Our beloved community

- *Awareness of CRB, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, helps us secure a future with niu (!)*

### Hana Lawelawe: Quality service to our world

- *Ho‘oponopono is a life-changing experience we offered during this Makahiki Season*

### Mālama ‘Āina: Caring for land/ocean/waterways

- *Our annual Makahiki Season workday @ Kūkaniloko was mythic! Over 75 people came and helped us care for our uluniu (coconut grove) with 108 niu*

### Waiwai: True wealth

- *We are humbled by the work ahead. We experienced waiwai through collaborations with many people/projects: Justice Innovations Summit, Coconut Projects, Military, and Radical Evaluation Class with Dr. Sanjeev Sridharan.....*



**Saturday  
Dec. 2,  
2023**

**11:00-1:00**

Please bring  
ho'okupu and  
Pot-luck item  
for lunch!

*Zonsikamakahiki!*

**Help welcome the Makahiki Season  
@ Waolama, Palehua Village**

Please come to ritualize the coming of Winter to our beloved mauna.  
Meet new/old friends and come to honor what Makahiki means -  
Peace, Gratitude & Excellence

**Please contact Manu for more information**

**808-954-2531**

Makahiki Season begins when nā huihui o makali'i, Pleiades, rises at sunset in the East. It is a Hawaiian way to mark the beginning of Winter. We honor this Season with three distinct principles: Peace, Gratitude, Excellence, and by watching for the elemental forms of Lono – rain, dark heavy clouds, short rainbows.... winter! Lono-i-ka-makahiki!

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What an amazing workday we had in October!



Learning how to weave launiu – coconut leaves

Our monthly Uluniu Project Workdays (every fourth Saturday) are always filled with an amazing array of community members, UHWO faculty, staff, and students from many concentrations. Mahalo to Dr. Sa’ili Doktor for making it ‘mandatory’ for your class (!) It was lovely to hear their laughter and to feel their aloha for the work we shared. Rouel Velasco, our Director of Student Life, shared that this work is his time to “relax” and we all laughed out loud! Mahalo to Dr. Matt Lau of SCFS for his consistent aloha for our cultural agroforestry work. It is exciting to feel and see our growing uluniu filled with niu poko (coconut dwarfs) ulu (breadfruit) and a niu nursery filled with 300+ niu growing! Mahalo also to our kumu niu, our teacher of all things niu, Indrajit Gunasekara from our Financial Aids Department (!)



CRB Update: The dreaded Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle is indeed heavy on our hearts, but we have had time to digest the impact and begin to think through how we can best respond. We are led by Indrajit and Jesse/Piliialoha’s passion for our niu diversity in Waianae currently being wiped out by CRB. They have begun to plan a large Niu Nursery on the grounds of the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center (WCCHC) and hope to put in over 1,000 niu malo’o (seed nuts) from 20+ varieties found in Makaha, Nanakuli, Kamaile, Lualualei, Ka’ala, and Waianae by the end of December, 2023. It is a serious focus to save our Waianae niu diversity so some niu are going to Molokai and Maui to grow!

Kupu ka niu ke kanaka  
When coconuts grow, humanity flourishes

# Uluniu Workday

SATURDAY,  
NOVEMBER 4, 2023

KŪKANILOKO  
WAHIAWĀ

8-12 PM

RSVP: [bit.ly/uluniu23](https://bit.ly/uluniu23)

*Honoring our coconut heritage*

Pot-luck lunch! Please bring a dish to share and enough water to keep yourself hydrated.



Lono-i-ka-makahiki! Here is what we say when our Hawaiian Winter arrives! We have committed ourselves to an uluniu (coconut grove) beside the wahi pana (sacred space) of Kūkaniloko. Every first Saturday of November, we descend on this uluniu to mālama 'āina. This year was mythic....

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75+ Volunteers came to our annual Uluniu o Kūkaniloko workday to honor the Makahiki Season! Magical + precious day.



FIVE SCFS graduates are part of the uluniu team!



Keiki came to help water and loved helping!



### Marking the Makahiki Season at our Uluniu o Kūkaniloko!

Saturday, November 4th found 75+ people and children under soft rains working to pull grass and place weed mats around 108 niu placed within a polymotu pattern of 16 niu varieties beside the wahi pana of Kūkaniloko. Mahalo to Kahea Acosta and Ioane Jahn for their profound preparation for our coconut grove workday. Mahalo to Tom Lenchanko, Noa Lincoln, Lori Walker, Kukui Maunakea-Forth, and to all our UH West Oahu Niunates for spending a mythic day caring for our future. Kupu ka niu kupu ke kanaka! When coconuts grow, humanity flourishes!

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Dynamic Intelligence Hui – Friday, October 20, 2023 (10:00 am – 11:30 am)

Pictured above: Fiorella Penalzoza, Rebecca Romine, Robyn Tasaka, Jessica Miranda, Matt Cavert, Sa'iliemanu Lilomaiava-Doktor, and Holly Itoga enjoying a discussion of how we can evaluate our students in ways more in line with the evolutionary process we are now in as a world. *Fabulous* issues emerged: cultural coherence within our thinking, dynamic intelligence, a maturing and effective response to Artificial Intelligence, and pedagogical philosophy throughout our course syllabus. We were able to use Dr. Becca Romine's syllabus and it was a special moment to bear witness to this form of excellence, and to acknowledge our growing awareness that something is shifting, and that our systems of higher learning must work to consciously evolve. Dr. Cathy Ikeda is helping us all develop "ike ono" – this idea that our praxis (conscious teaching practices) is something students recognize, and that the learning is relevant, engaging, and a mutually causal process with our beloved community. Yes, times are changing. Are you changing with it? We are here for you! Please come to our gatherings if you are interested in the topic of "Dynamic Intelligence". All are welcome. Contact Dr. Jessica Miranda or Dr. Manu Aluli Meyer for more details of our Spring 2024 Schedule! [wellsjes@hawaii.edu](mailto:wellsjes@hawaii.edu) or [manulani@hawaii.edu](mailto:manulani@hawaii.edu)

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## Makahiki Season Newsletter

Hutia te rito o te harakeke. Kei hea te komako e kō? Kī mai ki ahau:  
He aha te mea nui o te ao? Māku e kī atu, he tangata, he tangata, he tangata!

*If you pluck the heart from the flax bush (which will then die) Where will the bellbird perch?  
I ask you: What is the most important thing in this world? I tell you, it is people, it is people, it is people!*  
Māori



Kahea began our welcome ritual



60 Middle Schoolers from Kamehameha!



The wonder of finding CRB larvae!

The Aloha 'Āina class of Kamehameha Middle School, lead by Kumu Mark Kahalekuiinaihe Pacarro and his daughter, our very own I'iwileo Pacarro, was a smashing and creative success. Students experienced the purpose of ritual, the beauty of our hale (Kuahuokalā) and the function and potential of both our mala (garden) and uluniu (coconut grove). Kumu Mark's Aloha 'Āina class even combed through our mulch pile for CRB – Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and learned many things about how to remain steady and productive in this time.



Waianae High School came to visit our campus on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 and Indrajit Gunasekara of our Financial Aids Dept and Kahu'āina of the uluniu – caretaker of our coconut grove – toured them around. Students need exposure to the potential of activating their sense of service and aloha 'āina instincts with projects at our institutions of higher learning. Our uluniu + mala are such spaces where we are looking for people interested in the care of both land and people. Good thing we have these spaces and teachers!

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### Radical Collaborations: Transformative Eco-Cultural Practices for Collective Healing and Renewal



A wonderful and creative opportunity looms for UH West Oahu via a grant entitled: “Radical Collaborations”. We are working with Dr. Virginie Magnat and Dr. Sean Wilson of the University of British Columbia on ‘transformative eco-cultural practices’ that work to heal and renew our society. What does that look like? Just take a look around our campus and begin to notice what we are doing to practice our Pahuhopu – our institutional values! We are dedicated to the life of land, the wealth of our community, and to the beauty of knowledge that links both in ways that keep Hawai‘i safe and evolving. Mau ke aloha no Hawaii – love always for Hawai‘i.



Food Panel: Vilsoni, Kau, Subhashni, Indrajit, Failautusi



Radical Collaboration with the US Military Community



**Vinaka vakaniu!**

Good, like coconuts!

**SAVE THE DATE**

## **'Aha Niu: International Coconut Conference**

*Honoring our coconut heritage*

**June 12-13, 2024  
Honolulu, Hawai'i**



2 Day Conference with international colleagues dedicated to the care, stories, beauty, function, art, and production of coconuts and uluniu (coconut groves) throughout Moananuiākea



'Aha Niu will coincide with FestPAC (June 6-16, 2024) to offer coherence and creative cultural collaboration with our Oceanic cousins! We will be GATHERING (designated area) with niu practitioners + other niunates for one week at the Hawai'i Convention Center. Come find us!

For more information please contact  
Dr. Manu Aluli Meyer

[manulani@hawaii.edu](mailto:manulani@hawaii.edu)

**13th Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture!**

**E komo mai e 'olu'olu mai 'oe!**

*Please come to meet niu friends!*

Who would like to help in our exciting 'Aha Niu: International Coconut Conference? We will be at the Festival of the Pacific, held at the Hawai'i Convention Center from June 12-13, 2024. Our 'Aha Niu is attracting coconut practitioners from throughout moana-nui. Please join us!

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4S – Society for Social Studies of Science “Decolonizing Science Panel” with 400+ attendees was radical + magic!

Professor Joan Fujimura invited three kanaka wahine scholars to express themselves on the dynamic topic of “Decolonizing Science” during the 4S Conference held at the Hawai’i Convention Center on November 9, 2023



Joan Hideko Fujimura is an American sociologist and the Martindale-Bascom Professor Emerita of Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the president of the Society for the Social Studies of Science. Joan Fujimura’s research is in the sociology of science, technology, and medicine; medical sociology; race and ethnicity; social theory; gender and science; qualitative methods. Her recent research has examined how genomics had been used in biomedical research. She and her team were especially interested in how large genome-wide association studies incorporated social understandings of race in constructing genetic science and its subsequent impacts on medicine and on the misrepresentation of race as genetic

Malia Akutagawa is an Associate Professor of Law and Hawaiian Studies with both the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa’s Hawai’i inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge – Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies and the William S. Richardson School of Law. Malia’s scholarship includes State and federal laws protecting iwi kūpuna (Native ancestral burials), preserving cultural and historic sites, and engaging Native communities and stakeholders in consultation on these matters. She was a profound + clear speaker!



Dr. Mehana Blaich Vaughn is an Associate Professor at the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa in the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management and U.H. Sea Grant College program. Her research, teaching and outreach focus on understanding and nurturing community care and governance of land and waters in Hawai’i. She loves to dance, make lei in the wili style of her grandmother, Amelia Ana Ka’ōpua Bailey, and share mo’olelo shared with her by ‘ohana.



Dr. Manulani Aluli Meyer is a passionate advocate and spokesperson for Indigenous epistemology and its role in world-wide awakening. She is currently the director of Kūlana o Kapolei, a project dedicated to bringing ‘dynamic intelligence’ back into our thinking and teaching here at UH West O’ahu. She comes from a diverse background of teaching, coaching and wilderness education. Her second book: Ho’opono – Mutual Emergence, is a compilation of writings within the last 20+ years, and due in 2024.

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## Justice Innovations Summit

International Gathering of Restorative Justice Practitioners in Hawai'i!

### PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

Thursday, February 15, 2024 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE IN HAWAII LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING @ THE HAWAII STATE CAPITOL (*free & open to the public*)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, 2024, *9am-3pm* PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS....

Protecting the Environment with Restorative and other Justice Innovations

**Kūlana o Kapolei** is planning + facilitating the Indigenous People's Justice Practices Workshop for the Pre-Conference on Friday, February 16th.

### **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 2024**

4:00 pm Opening Summit Ceremony, meet & greet with pupu and beverages

### **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17th, 2024**

8-4:00 pm Doors Open – Registration packet pickup and continental breakfast

5:30 pm Hawaiian Dinner

### **SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18th, 2024**

8-4:00 pm Doors Open – Continental Breakfast

5:30 HFRJ hosted Dinner for all Summit Participants

### **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19th, 2024 (President's Day Holiday)**

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge: Kamakakuokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies

9:00 am Doors Open – Continental Breakfast

10-2pm Dr. Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio, Dean of Hawai'inuiākea School of Hawaiian Knowledge hosts a Hawaiian history of justice concepts and initiatives, then an Indigenous Panel Discussion with practitioners discussing and sharing from their cultural perspectives around the globe. Performances of creative cultural expressions including by previously incarcerated women on justice, resilience, and hope.

<https://justiceinnovationssummit.org/>

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*Hahai no ka ua i ka ululā'au.*  
Plant a forest and the rains will come.  
Share purpose with others and transform the world.



Auntie Manu with Heteriki Huke



Pono Boy with mom!



Marquesan tattoo



Dr. Irvine, Kaiulani Akamine, Dr. Merritt

Something deepened on our campus (!) It happened with quiet integrity and cultural intentionality. We welcomed our mana moana - Oceanic cousins - in a ritual that honored our historic and modern connections. We welcomed the filmmaker and creative supporters of Patutiki, the art of Marquesan tattoo, on Tuesday, November 14, 2024. Mahalo nui to Dr. Lelemia Irvine and Kaua Nuemann for organizing us all. Welcoming Committee: Dr. Lea Kinikini, Dr. Saili Lilomaiaava-Doktor, Dr. Lelemia Irvine, and Kaua Nuemann (Mea Oli Heahea + Welcoming Chanter) Mahalo to Dr. Kainoa Pestana for the Ha'i'ōlelo; Nuuanu Lenchanko, Ho'opa'a; Chalice Ka'ilikea, the Naulu Center 'ohana for the Mele Honouliuli; Kumu Hula Kaiulani Akamine, olapa and Dr. Kauī Baumhofer-Merritt, olapa.



Our Niu Nursery with 400+ healthy niu, 23 varieties!



UHM Philosophy PhD students!



November 25 Uluniu workday was a blast! What a day!

Yes, this Makahiki Season Newsletter closes with another moment to honor our collective effort with niu. Kūlana o Kapolei simply must be clear: "The health of the land is the health of the people". That quote comes from a beloved cousin, Dr. Emmett Aluli, and because we are marking his one year passing with an Aha Kuluwaimaka (the last gathering of tears) on Nov. 30th, I wanted to include his spirit here. The highlight of this Uluniu workday was the UH Mānoa Philosophy PhD students. They were fun and hard working (!)