

# Kūlana o Kapolei

Summer Newsletter 2024



Aunt Lynette sending us off to Molokai for 'Aha Ao Pulapula - Haku Ho'oponopono Graduation, May 2024

What a Summer we have had! Please enjoy the following summary of a mythic, exciting, far-reaching and expansive few months with niu friends, old ideas and on-going practices that bring us into shared purpose and into the work of our lives. Kūlana o Kapolei is changed through the excellence of others and with the quality that is our UH West Oahu community infused within the needs of our beloved Hawai'i. Here is a snap-shot of what is coming in this Newsletter:

- 'Aha Ao Pulapula – Haku Ho'oponopono recognition ceremony, Molokai
- Niu Now at FestPAC – 10 days of coconut events and lessons with our mana moana!
- 'Aha Niu: International Coconut Summit – 3 days of 'ike niu (coconut knowledge)
- Pili 'Āina – Honoring our Storied Landscape (set for Monday, August 19)
- Pasifika Philosophies movement via PhD course offerings in Suva, Fiji
- Uluniu Fall Volunteer Schedule – Helping our coconut grove on campus!
- Army Cultural Briefings expansion work with cultural agroforestry focus
- Mō'ike Aloha – Hawaiian epistemology workshops for Wailau Ola students
- 'Aha Kumulā'au coming to UH West Oahu on Friday, September 10th!



# Kūlana o Kapolei

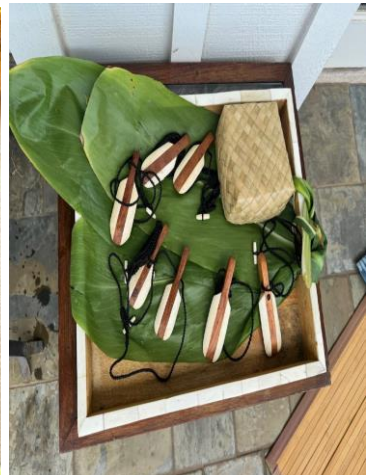
## Summer Newsletter 2024

### ‘Aha Ao Pulapula

Haku Ho‘oponopono Recognition Ceremony  
For the Haumana of Aunty Lynette Kaopuiki Paglinawan  
Waialua, Molokai: May 2-4, 2024



A unique and intentional ritual to honor the haku ho‘oponopono haumana of Aunty Lynette Kaopuiki Kahekili Paglinawan occurred in May on the island of Molokai. Aunty Lynette had been working with a group of Native Hawaiian female lawyers for five years (via Zoom) on ho‘oponopono practices, values and systems, and we spent 3 days together marking the lessons and acknowledging the work ahead. The project was sponsored by the Native Hawaiian Bar Association through the vision of Yuklin Aluli, Esquire. The ‘Aha Ao Pulapula was supported by the Indigenous Restorative Justice Project - Life Comes From It, and the Pu‘uhonua Society. Mahalo nui to Dr. Lilinoe Bassett for her home, and cultural practitioners Ipo and Kunani Nihipali of Molokai.





# Kūlana o Kapolei

## Summer Newsletter 2024

### Niu Now @ Festival of the Pacific!

June 6-16, 2024



A mythic, joyful and inspiring exchange happened during the huge and exciting Festival of the Pacific (FestPAC) held at many locations throughout Oahu from June 6-16, 2024. Thousands of Pacific Island peoples participated in large and small events, villages, conferences, talks, presentations, performances, lunches, fashion shows, art, literature readings, dances and cultural gatherings at the Hawai'i Convention Center. This is why we held our Niu Now events during this time – we knew our Oceanic cousins would be there to share their 'ike niu – coconut knowledge! UH West Oahu played a significant role in putting this agroforestry, food security, and cultural rejuvenation effort via “Niu Now” events, thanks to the support of our Chancellor, many of our students, alumni, faculty and staff. It was a special time of profound experiences for all who participated, especially during our 'Aha Niu: International Coconut Summit! E ola ulunui!



The 'Aha Niu: International Coconut Summit was well attended daily with 100+ participants! Mythic.

## Mahalo Messages for our Niu Now presence @ FestPAC

Mahalo a nui for creating abundant opportunities to encounter and learn from Oceania people devoted to the niu. I am forever grateful for the loving space you inspired and encouraged throughout the ten days of FestPac. The fellowship, knowledge, insights offered at Pau Hana Place, the international niu summit and beyond was enhanced and multiplied by a big inclusive human circle overflowing with love, gratitude and aloha so that we all came away enriched, connected and transformed. This is what I experienced, and why I feel filled to the brim with gratitude and happiness. Words cannot capture the impact of what transpired during the niu encounters. But time will, because without question there is a deepened respect for the niu - especially by our young people. **Jeannette Hereniko**

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Talofa lava Beloveds! It has been a life affirming Indigenous Intelligence, Excellence with Aloha, Ofa, Alofa and so much more. I Second Manu's essence and feeling right now re NIU and all its excellence in keeping us grounded, life of service, kokua, tautua and giving us a way forward with our work and lifting our communities and Oceania in mana enhancing indigenous cultural metaphors. **Dr. Sa'iliemanu Lilomaiaava-Doktor (UH West O'ahu)**

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Mahalo, mahalo, mahalo nunui for your love and joy that exude from the pages of this document; I totally feel it!! I am truly truly grateful for the opportunity to sit with you and our Niu Now gang and collaborate. I have learned and continue to learn from you to not be afraid of my voice, to conduct radical collaborations, and to infuse my individual excellence and intelligence where it carries purpose. I left physically tired, but spiritually grounded and ready to tell the story of the Niu and infuse it in this year's curriculum. Words can't explain how much a simple idea of sharing 'ike niu returned me to myself. Let's do more!!!! **Dr. Fa'i Lowe**

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It was such a blessing and honor to be part of Niu Now and witness the power of the united energies togetherness! Thank you! Let the coconuts continue to lead our way. **Farmer Lai**

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Mahalo nui, Kinisou chapur Auntie Manu and all of you who made the Niu Now event possible! It was the "medicine" I have been looking for to remedy my spiritual tear & wear and wounds! I took note of who was there and how everyone was strategically there for a reason! I gained new friends and families and rekindled the fire with some of you! I love every piece of it and yes, let's do more or do it again! Again, thank you to the whole Niu clan! Yes, that's the clan that we all belong to now! Niu clan! "Niu-Ro"- The coconut that unites us! With so much Aloha and Gratitude! **Josie Howard (Director: We Are Oceania)**

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Mahalo piha for the invite, the lovely gatherings and your beautiful visual summary of Niu Now. Truly a spectacular event which inspired our 'ohana - planted four niu in Waipi'o this past weekend and already started to use our new tools to wehe ka pulu o nā niu in our yard. Mahalo nui to all who helped to make Niu Now a reality. **Dr. Ku Kahakalau (Hawai'i Island)**

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What an amazing and life-changing experience! Mahalo nunui to our Niu now 'ohana. We learned so much from you folks. It set an everlasting impression in the work to come ahead. We look forward to growing this initiative and sharing in the 'Ike Niu ahead. **Leila Kealoha (Puna)**



U H W E S T O A H U

P R E S E N T S

# Pili 'Āina

Singing to our storied landscape.

## *PŪ'U O KAPOLEI*

*BELOVED WAHI PANA,  
SACRED SPACE, WHERE  
MAKAHIKI SEASON IS  
STILL PRACTICED AND  
COMMUNITY GATHERS.*

## *PALEHUA*

*THE MAUKA LANDS OF  
HONOULIULI WHERE  
THE HEAVENS RESIDE  
AND WHERE MANY  
PROJECTS AND IDEAS  
BLOSSOM.*

## *KAPAPAPUHI*

*WEST LOCH OF  
PŪ'ULOA (PEARL  
HARBOR) IS FILLED  
WITH HISTORY, LIFE  
AND STORY.*



**MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2024**

**9:00 am - 3:30 pm**

For more details please contact Camonia Graham-Tutt or Aunty Manu  
[camonia@hawaii.edu](mailto:camonia@hawaii.edu) / [manulani@hawaii.edu](mailto:manulani@hawaii.edu)



# Kūlana o Kapolei

## Summer Newsletter 2024

**CERTIFICATE IN PHILOSOPHICAL COMPETENCY**  
Pasifika 'Whole of Life' Philosophies for a New Development Consciousness



Two weeks intensive micro-qualification course in Fiji  
Date: July 20 - August 2, 2024  
Venue: Pacific Theological College  
**Application Deadline: 31 March 2024**

We cannot change the current destructive development narrative until we change its philosophical foundation? Delve into Pasifika communities' unique 'Whole of Life' philosophies to bridge the development gaps and how these could provide holistic underpinnings for public policies. Explore the contrast between Western and Pasifika philosophies to foster a new development consciousness, emphasizing deep connection to land and ocean. Engage in immersive philosophical experiences in village communities for three days, and discuss the future with regional policy-making institutions.

**APPLY NOW**

76 Vuna Rd, Veitovo, Suva Fiji | Postal Address: Pacific Theological College, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji.  
PACIFIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE  
info@ptc.ac.fj (+679) 331000 https://ptc.ac.fj



**MODE OF DELIVERY:** face to face (with mentors, regional development partners, indigenous institutions and centres, village communities and Researchers, University Lecturers)

**ELIGIBILITY:** Policy makers, Masters students, PhD Candidates, Early Career PhD holders and Researchers, University Lecturers

**COURSE FEE:** FJD\$3,900.00 (covers Tuition, Accommodation, Meals, Communities engagement, Cultural protocols, Course Materials, Internet, and Pasifika attire)

**COURSE CO-ORDINATOR:** Professor Dr. Upolu Luma Vaai, Pacific Theological College, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji Islands. Email: ulvaai@ptc.ac.fj Telephone: +679 331000 ext. 101

**OBJECTIVES**

1. to understand the Pasifika relational philosophical mind and how this has shaped the development in the Pasifika communities for centuries and to use that as a decisional tool to critically analyze the conventional development narrative;
2. to develop a strategy of codifying and translating these philosophies to build resilience and to critically inform policy spaces in development, diplomacy, security, climate change and economic wellbeing;
3. to experience with communities the philosophies that shape knowledge and conducting research in Pasifika communities, in particular in relation to protocols, ethics, and values of learning and dynamics of relationships;
4. to create a new development consciousness based on the 'whole of life' philosophical foundations of relationships that have kept the Pasifika communities sustained and resilient throughout centuries to assist in creating new development models or frameworks.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

1. Understand the Pasifika philosophical mindset
2. Critically analyze the conventional development model from a relational 'whole of life' philosophical perspective
3. Demonstrate skills of codifying and translating Pasifika philosophies to inform review or creation of new development policies and/or models
4. Demonstrate skills of research to forge a new 'whole of life' development consciousness that is transformative and communities-based.

**MENTORS**

Professor Dr. Manulani Meyer	Sala Dr. George Carter
Professor Dr. Unaisi Nabobo Baha	Associate Professor Dr. Frances Vaka'uta
Professor Dr. David Gegeo	Mr. Asake Casimira
Dr. Eri Naisile	Professor Dr. Upolu Luma Vaai
Mr. Savanaca Narube	

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Pasifika "Whole of Life" Philosophies course attracted PhD and post-PhD students to Fiji in July. Dr. Frances Vaka'uta.

Here is where radical collaboration within ancient sensibilities is solidified and expanded. Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Rarotonga, Hawaii, Kiribati, and other unique Island Nations gathered around the "Whole of Life" curriculum directed by Reverend Professor Upolu Luma Vaai of the Pacific Theological College (soon to become Pacific Community University) in Suva, Fiji. 34 mature PhD and post PhD students gathered for 2 weeks with profound teachings and experiences in rural Fijian Villages and with Heads of State to share Indigenous insights on development, spirituality and climate change issues. It was a truly and deeply profound experience for every single participant. We are changed with the quality of our collective truth.







E KOMO MAI!

# ULUNI PROJECT

## SUMMER / FALL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE 2024

### MONTHLY WORK SESSIONS

Come and learn about the making and care of uluniu - coconut groves on our UH West Oahu campus! Come and enjoy the company of others.

### EVERY FOURTH SATURDAY

- July 27 (Thomas Square today!)
- August 24 @ UH West Oahu
- September 28 @ UH West Oahu
- October 26 @ UH West Oahu
- November 23 @ UH West Oahu

### LOGISTICS

Please wear covered shoes, hat, bring water and a pot-luck lunch item!

- 8:00 am - 12:00 noon

### CONTACT

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • Indrajit Gunasekara | indrajit@hawaii.edu |
| • Manu Aluli Meyer    | manulani@hawaii.edu |
| • Landon Rone         | landon22@hawaii.edu |



# Kūlana o Kapolei

## Summer Newsletter 2024

Kupu ka niu kupu ke kanaka.  
When coconuts grow, humanity flourishes!



### Indrajit Gunasekara

- UH West Oahu Financial Aid Advisor
- Aloha 'Āina Student Club Advisor
- Uluniu Student Club Advisor
- Uluniu Project Coordinator
- Co-Founder of Niu Now

Indrajit, an active and beloved figure on our UH West Oahu Campus is now the Coordinator of Coconuts for Hawai'i (!) Indrajit has applied for and accepted this position with the help and vision of Dr. Heather McMillen of the Urban Forestry Program. He begins his job in September 2024, and we are all excited and grateful that he can fulfill this vital and timely position. Dr. Noa Lincoln of UH Mānoa supervised Indrajit for his thesis: *Identification and Preservation of the Hawaiian 'Niu Hiwa' within Hawai'i's Coconut Diversity*. Look for Indrajit in the Fall as he is housed here on campus for his coconut work! We send you off into your next journey with aloha!



Indrajit is from Southern Sri Lanka with over 3, 000 years of coconut knowledge. He brings this depth of wisdom to his new role as Coordinator of Coconuts for the state of Hawai'i. He spent 10 years in the Financial Aid Departments at KCC and here at UHWO. He co-founded Niu Now, a grassroots effort dedicated to “niu as a relationship rooted in community and aloha 'āina”. He has produced Niu Nurseries that gifted 2,000+ healthy niu seedlings to community and created 25+ uluniu (coconut groves) on O'ahu, Molokai, Maui and Lanai. Indrajit is our kumu niu – our beloved teacher of 'ike niu.



# *PBS Special* **NIU NOW MOVEMENT** AT UH-WEST OAHU

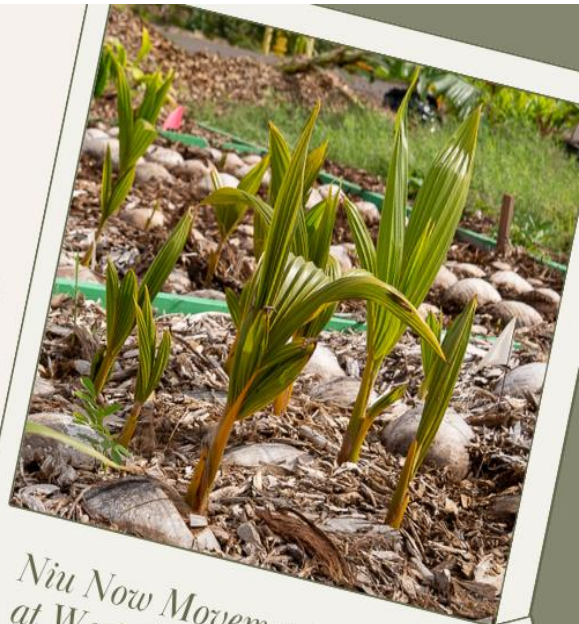
Niu Now Movement is currently being aired as a PBS Hawai'i Special featuring Auntie Manulani Meyer, Indrajit Gunasekara, and Jahanna Kahele. The focus of the Niu Now Movement is to find ways we as a community can revive and rejuvenate our uluniu (coconut groves). To not only focus on the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) but to now plant coconuts!

Click Here to View PBS Special

*[bit.ly/3VLbv05](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbeof6d1DXc)*



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
WEST OAHU



*Niu Now Movement  
at West Oahu*



*Indrajit Gunasekara and  
Auntie Manulani Meyer*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbeof6d1DXc>

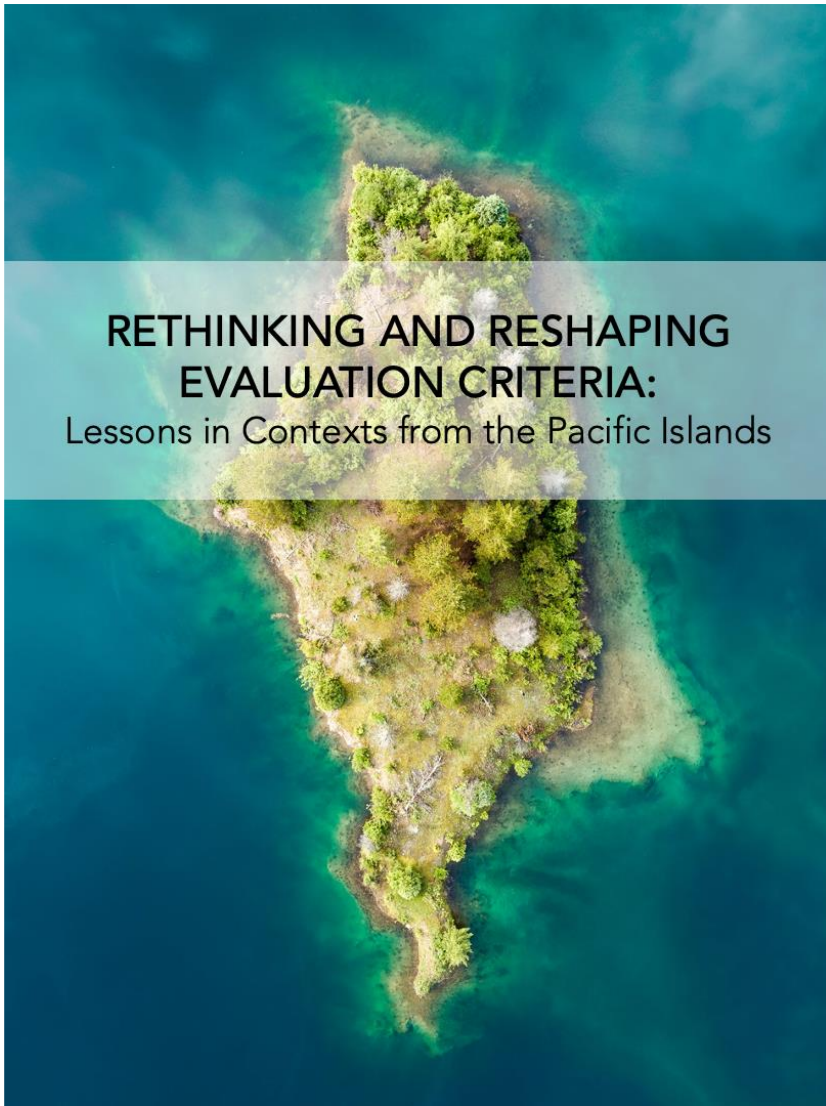
This 10-minute PBS Special highlights why Kūlana o Kapolei exists! Because of the needs of our time, it is vital that higher education radically shifts, and that relevance evolves. A.I. has arrived (let's use it), and our world needs a re-centering of values and priorities. Here is the activation of meaning, choice, and why Indigenous interpretation is now being highlighted. What, indeed, are the values you embody? Who are the thinkers you emulate? What does the society you wish to live in look like? How has your pedagogy changed? Now is the time for radical awareness and effulgent coherence that includes Indigenous insights linked to the care of land/sky/waterways, transformative evaluation, and enlightened pedagogy. Are you engaged in this way?

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Evaluation is at a crossroads.  
Professor Sanjeev Sridharan

*Rethinking and Reshaping Evaluation Criteria: Lessons in Contexts from the Pacific Islands*



### RETHINKING AND RESHAPING EVALUATION CRITERIA: Lessons in Contexts from the Pacific Islands

Building on Patton's (2021) call for a more transformative evaluation approach, we raise reflective questions on the relationships between evaluation criteria and local contexts by learning from evaluations conducted in the Pacific Islands. We seek to surface ideas from evaluations conducted in the Pacific Islands that might help shape an agenda for future discussions on learning from evaluation criteria at the system-level. Key areas of focus of the paper include: the need to define system-level capacities and how they can be sustained, the importance of clarifying models of system-level learning in a congested project landscape, the need for criteria for transformation, and the need to help organizations develop differentiated strategies. The paper raises questions to help plan and evaluate interventions and systems to promote contextually-sensitive practice and connect this to evaluation criteria.

Authors:

- Sanjeev Sridharan, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
- Natalie Nimmer, Government of Marshall Islands
- Vidalino Raatior, San Jose State University



# Kūlana o Kapolei

## Summer Newsletter 2024

Army Cultural Briefings continue at Schofield Barracks



Kūlana o Kapolei gives monthly briefings to new Army soldiers. They, in turn, send us uluniu volunteers!



Ioane Jahn, UHWO SCFS Graduate, setting ground cover for uluniu @ Kūkaniloko. Ioane works with military volunteers monthly at Kūkaniloko as they assist with the cultural agroforestry work there.



# Mō'ike Aloha

Hawaiian Thinking in Modern Times

*with aunty  
Manu Aluli Meyer*

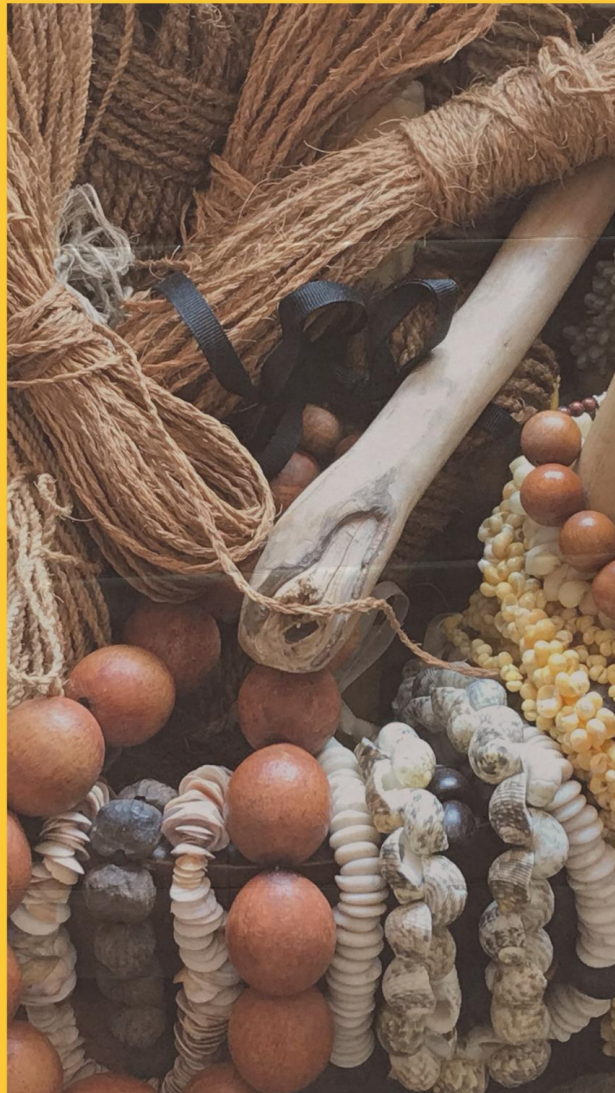
**Fall, 2024**

Sponsored by  
Papahāna  
Wailau Ola @ UH  
West Oahu

- **August 28**
- **Sept 25**
- **Oct 23**
- **Nov 27**

9:00 - 10:00 am

*Please contact PWO  
for more information*  
**pwo@hawaii.edu**



Every Fourth Wednesday of the month!



Kaulunani and UH West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems Program invites Hawai'i Urban and Community Forestry Practitioners, like you, to...

# 'Aha Kumulā'au

Please join us for a community forestry-style ho'olaule'a:

- Hands-on opportunities to connect with kumulā'au like niu and hala
- Small group discussions and presentations, with topics like:
  - **Counting What Matters** | *Evaluation*
  - **Beyond BMPs** | *Invasive Species*
  - **SCFS Grads** | *Workforce Development*
  - **Weaving Project Partners** | *Community Engagement Strategies*



**University of Hawai'i at West O'ahu**  
91-1001 Farrington Hwy, Kapolei, HI 96707

**SAVE  
THE DATE!**

**Friday  
Sept.  
20th**

**9 am  
to  
4 pm**



**Free event,  
travel  
covered!\***

Travel funds, as available, will prioritize supporting 1 attendee per organization.