



THE LIMU HUI

In 2014, at the request of elders (kūpuna) who gather and care for native Hawaiian limu around the islands, Kua‘āina Ulu ‘Auamo (KUA) partnered with the ‘Ewa Limu Project in an initiative to “gather the gatherers.”

As a result, in September 2014, over 30 traditional limu practitioners representing six Hawaiian islands came together for four days of learning, sharing, knowledge documentation, and discussion. Gathering and network-building is a key approach for restoring limu knowledge, practice, and abundance. Gathering our limu gatherers nurtures trust, accelerates knowledge sharing, and grows collaboration towards common goals.

ABOUT LIMU

Along with fish and poi, limu (seaweed) was once the third important component of the Hawaiian diet, providing the salad and spices to a typical meal. Limu has uses in food, medicine and in religious ceremonies. Many different kinds of limu are used by lapa‘au (healing) practitioners to treat a wide range of ailments from small cuts and scrapes to respiratory and alimentary problems. In the conflict resolution process of ho‘opono‘ono, limu kala, the forgiveness limu, is used as a symbolic end to the conflict.

Limu knowledge and practice today endures, held primarily by elders in rural, sometimes remote communities. Their ability to maintain traditional limu practices and pass on their limu knowledge are hampered by the decreasing abundance of a resource that was once plentiful. Urban development, improper harvesting, climate change and other pressures continue to grow and affect limu around the islands.

The loss of native limu runs hand-in-hand with loss of Hawaiian cultural practice and loss of generational ancestral knowledge and their spiritual identity. Reversing this co-extinction process will require effective and immediate efforts for co-restoration.



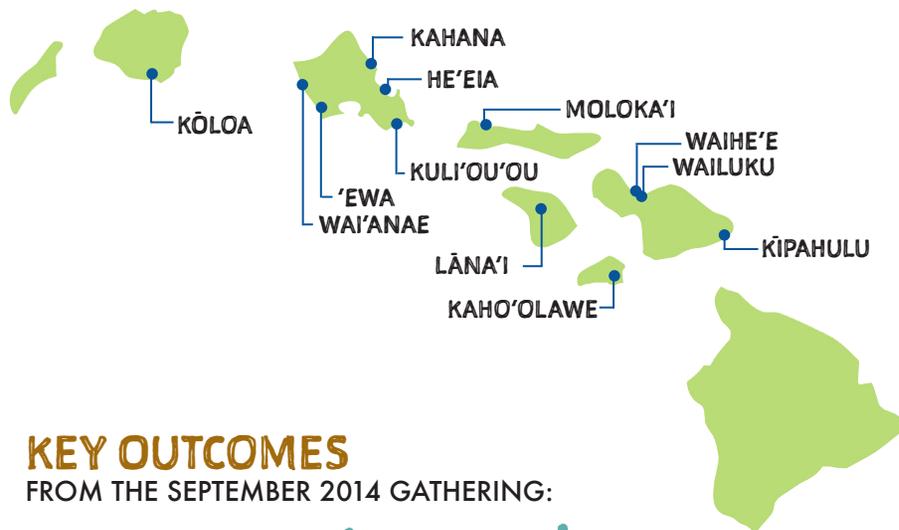
Pictured above is huluhuluwaena, a limu favored by Queen Liliuokalani, and below limu kala, the forgiveness limu.

Ka i‘a lauoho loloa o ke kai The long haired fish of the sea

‘Ōlelo No‘eau 1368



ALL PHOTOS BY KIM MOA



a growing hui
 This hui is still being formed but participants at the first gathering include families and limu loa (limu masters) from 'Ewa, He'eia, Kaho'olawe, Kahana, Kīpahulu, Kōloa, Kuli'ou'ou, Lāna'i, Moloka'i, Wai'anae, Waihe'e, and Wailuku.

KEY OUTCOMES

FROM THE SEPTEMBER 2014 GATHERING:



31 limu practitioners connected face-to-face sharing and growing potential collaboration. Many had not connected or worked together previously.

24 limu practitioners participated in documenting their knowledge on film. 94% surveyed said they “strongly agreed” the recording of their knowledge was respectfully done.

22 limu practitioners participated in a facilitated discussion about potential actions on which they could work together. 100% surveyed indicated a desire and willingness to continue participation.



IN 2015...

Limu loa from around the islands will gather again in September on the island of Moloka'i for the second “gathering of gatherers.”

CONTACT: Wally Ito, 808-672-2545, wally@kuahawaii.org



Today, Hawai'i's communities are coming together. They are working to reclaim their role as stewards of their places, advancing just solutions to Hawai'i's most difficult environmental and social problems.

They are joined in this work by others who are researchers, teachers, businesses, artists, resource managers, decision-makers and individuals in Hawai'i and around the world.

KUA exists to serve this movement.

KUA Board of Directors

Hi'ilei Kawelo, Chair
 Maka'ala Ka'auamoana, Vice Chair
 Ernie Cruz, Jr., Secretary
 Kapalai deSilva, Treasurer
 Anne Swayne Keir
 Wayne Tanaka

2014 Supporting 'Ohana

Mahalo nui loa to The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, Hawai'i Community Foundation FLEXgrants & Omidyar 'Ohana Fund, Keith & Judy Swayne Family Foundation, Sidney E. Frank Foundation, Toyota TogetherGreen by Audubon, Hawai'i People's Fund, Conservation International Hawai'i Fish Trust, the Pacific Aquaculture & Coastal Resources Center, and individuals around Hawai'i and the world who help make this work possible.

kuahawaii.org