

## 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures Declaration

This declaration was drafted by a group of Native Hawaiian community members who came together organically after separate discussions brought forth common sentiments regarding the need to have Native Hawaiian voices, values, and experiences influence the economic recovery for our 'āina aloha. The signatories listed reflect the interconnected and overlapping roles that individuals, 'ohana, organizations, coalitions, and networks play in our communities. This working document served as a *starting point* to facilitate broader engagement and collective action in support of our shared principles.

### A Call for Unity

Every crisis opens a course to opportunity. Some of the world's greatest accomplishments were born from adversity by those who were inherently equipped with vision and resolve. The COVID-19 pandemic will leave a saga of sorrow, loss and frustration with an equal and overwhelming amount of sacrifice, heroism and victory. This "new normal" has thrust us into what our kūpuna Hawai'i would call a hūliau, or a turning point and time of change, for all of us who call Hawai'i home.

While we are reeling from this visceral reminder of how vulnerable we are to external impacts on our 'āina aloha, or beloved homeland, our history as a resilient people is undeniable. The Native Hawaiian community in particular is one that for centuries has fought to overcome obstacles that all of us here in Hawai'i are now faced with. Whether rebounding from infectious disease that decimated our population or successfully advocating for equitable remedies from government systems, these challenges are today ones that we confront as a collective.

Now perhaps more than ever, the ancestral values that guided us through these challenges and numerous others provide a pivotal leverage point for all of us as we set a course towards a stronger, sustainable Hawai'i and seize this opportunity for hūliau.

### Guiding Principles:

- 'Āina Aloha: We are of and from this 'āina that ultimately sustains us. We employ strategies for economic development that place our kuleana to steward precious, limited resources in a manner that ensures our long-term horizon as a viable island people and place.
- 'Ōpū Ali'i: Our leaders understand that their privilege to lead is directly dependent on those they serve. From the most vulnerable to the most privileged, we seek to regenerate an abundance that provides for everyone. Decision makers understand and embrace their duty and accountability to Community. Our social, economic and government systems engage and respond to a collective voice in integrative ways to balance power and benefit.
- 'Imi 'Oī Kelakela: We are driven by creativity and innovation, constantly challenging the status quo. We are mindful and observant of needs, trends and opportunities and seek new knowledge and development opportunities in ways that enhance our way of life without jeopardizing our foundation of 'āina aloha.

- Ho'okipa: We are inclusive and embrace the collective that will call Hawai'i home, grounded in the fundamental understanding that it is our kuleana to control and manage our resources in a way that allows us to fulfill our role as hosts here in our 'āina aloha.

## Future Directions

These principles will calibrate our course not only to recovery but rediscovery of our potential as a unique people and place. Over the past five decades, we have seen local, national and international models of social, educational, agricultural and economic resiliency emerge from our Hawaiian community. This is due in no small part to a grounding in these foundational values. We have been here for millennia and will be for many more. There is nowhere else we could or would choose to be. We are committed to this kuleana of 'āina aloha and ensuring the sustainability of this place and those who choose to make it home.

As we seek to engage at decision making tables, adding value and insight to Hawai'i's economic path forward post COVID-19, we implore and invite you to support and engage with us ([view and comment on the action agenda](#)). From healthcare, education and digital innovation to food security, tourism, and affordable housing strategies, we are mākaukau for this imminent huli'au!

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 Vince Dodge  
 Voyaging Foods  
 Wai'ale'ale Sarsona, PhD  
 Wai'anae Economic Development Council  
 Wai'anae Protestant Church  
 Wailani Robbins  
 Waimea Hawaiian Civic Club  
 Waipā Foundation  
 Waiwai Collective  
 Wallace Ito  
 Walter Kahumoku, PhD  
 Walter Ritte  
 Wanda Kabutan  
 Waolama  
 Whitney Velez  
 Will Caron  
 William Awa  
 William Pieper  
 Winona Kaalouahi Lee, MD  
 World Indigenous Nations University - Hawaii Pasifika  
 Wyatt Musashi Maui Bartlett  
 Xoana Soneira  
 Young Progressives Demanding Action  
 Zachary Lum  
 Zelda Keller  
 Zero Waste O'ahu

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*[1] This declaration was drafted by a group of Native Hawaiian community members who came together organically after separate discussions brought forth common sentiments regarding the need to have Native Hawaiian voices, values, and experiences influence the economic recovery for our 'āina aloha. The signatories listed reflect the interconnected and overlapping roles that individuals, 'ohana, organizations, coalitions, and networks play in our communities. This working document serves as a starting point to facilitate broader engagement and collective action in support of our shared principles.*

Wondering how you can get involved? [Provide input on the Huliau Action Agenda.](#)

Action Agenda

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## Coming after steps 1 - 3. Not yet activated.

Distribute proposals developed to enact and enable the change we seek.

- Coalesce the information gathered in previous steps to prepare a strategic vision that includes specific recommendations, models, and tactics to achieve that vision.
- Distribute that strategic vision broadly and hope that it serves as a tool for community, business, and government stakeholders to use as a guide for the re-development of Hawai'i's economy.
- Create change in our communities.

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## 'Āina Aloha Economic Futures - Collective Action

### Initiative Goals

Initiate and execute a process to gather grassroots community input to develop a vision for Hawaii's economic future that is grounded on a core set of values that embrace our unique island culture and identity.

- Empower, through a collective process, a broad spectrum of voices throughout Hawai'i who care about the well-being of our environments and communities and who see that our current economy has not supported that.
- Demonstrate an inclusive process as a successful model that should be applied in further contexts
- Demonstrate effective servant-leadership with solutions
- Encourage adoption of core values and collective proposals
- Change the narrative, change our future

### What are our collective actions?

Co-create with a community-first process, through a series of engagement steps, to provide opportunities for community members and thought leaders to elevate solution-based ideas that will guide Hawaii's economic recovery.

### Step 1: Declare core values

[Propose a set of guiding principles to offer a foundation](#) for a collective effort and provide an opportunity for community stakeholders to unify around common, core values.

### Step 2: Set an action agenda

Gather broad based community input to develop a second document that delves deeper than the [Declaration](#) and will offer actionable guidelines from which specific policies and projects can be developed in various areas of economic interest.

- [Seek community input](#)
- Circulate the [Huli'au Action Agenda](#) for signatory support

### Step 3: Develop proposals

Web-based virtual planning sessions where participants will select breakout rooms focusing on their areas of expertise to develop strategic outcomes and tactics that cascade from Steps 1 & 2.

### Step 4: Move forward

Distribute proposals developed to enact and enable the change we seek.

- Coalesce the information gathered in previous steps to prepare a strategic vision that includes specific recommendations, models, and tactics to achieve that vision.

- Distribute that strategic vision broadly and hope that it serves as a tool for community, business, and government stakeholders to use as a guide for the re-development of Hawaii's economy.
- Create change in our communities.

## How do we hope people will respond?

- We hope that community members at-large will:
  1. Respond by promoting and adopting the core values into their daily routines;
  2. Seek out leaders and projects in their own communities that embody these values;
  3. Engage in the 'Āina Aloha Economic Future effort by sharing ideas and lifting up projects in their own communities that can or are effectively responding to our "new normal."
- We hope that the private sector (large organizations, institutions, and business sector leaders) will respond by:
  1. Engaging their networks to work alongside grassroots community partners to implement the work happening on the ground, at the community level;
  2. Adopt and promote the 'Āina Aloha core values in their decision-making processes
- We hope that the public sector (government agencies and elected officials) will respond by making swift policy changes that allow the values and ideas borne of this community-based process to become real components of our daily lives and part of the "new normal."

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