



THE LIMU HUI

In 2014, at the request of kūpuna (elders) 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.”

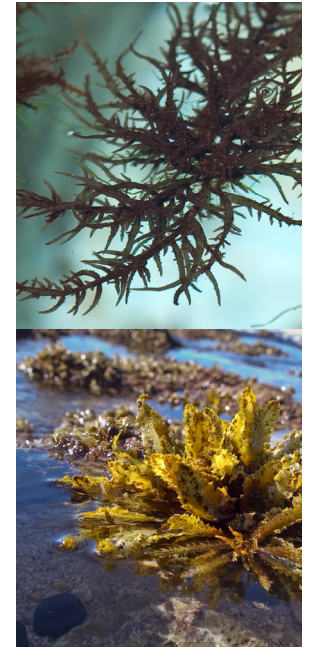
As a result, in September 2014, over 30 traditional limu practitioners representing six Hawaiian islands came together for four days of learning, sharing, knowledge documentation, and discussion. Gathering and network-building is a key approach for restoring limu knowledge, practice, and abundance. Gathering 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 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‘oponopono, 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, generational ancestral knowledge and spiritual identity. Reversing this co-extinction process will require effective and immediate efforts for co-restoration.



(above photo) huluhuluwaena, a limu favored by Queen Liliuokalani, (below) limu kala, the forgiveness limu.

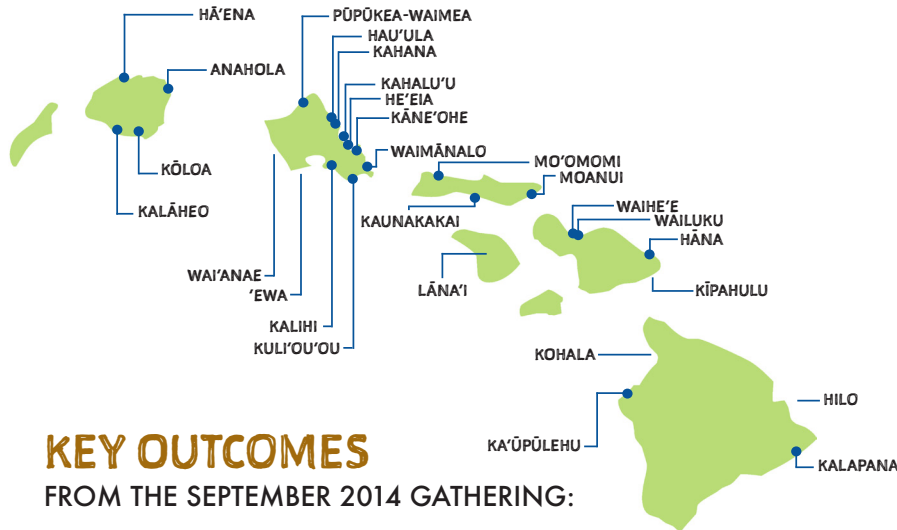
Ka i‘a lauoho loloa o ke kai (The long haired fish of the sea)

‘Ōlelo No‘eau 1368



PHOTOS: KIM MOA



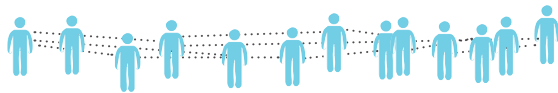


a growing hui

Since the first gathering of loa limu (limu masters) in 2014, this network has grown to include over 50 cultural practitioners, educators, researchers and community members from across Hawai'i who are committed to the protection, perpetuation, preservation and restoration of limu knowledge, practice and ancestral abundance of limu throughout our islands.

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.



GATHERING THE GATHERERS...

Since 2014, KUA has continued to gather loa limu from around the islands annually in addition to facilitating opportunities for sharing of traditional limu knowledge and education about limu restoration

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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.

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- + 2 members of the E Alu Pū network

Supporting 'Ohana

Mahalo nui loa to our organizational partners, funders, supporters and individuals around Hawai'i and the world who help make this work possible.

For a full list of funders and to learn more about individual loko i'a organizations with their own online presence, visit:

kuahawaii.org/limuhui