

Highlights of Hawai'i School Garden Network – 2007-2019

This is the story about the Farm to School and School Garden movement in Hawai'i.

This is a story about passion, inspiration, persistence, and inclusiveness.

Funding for development came from private family Foundations and the USDA.

1910 – First School Garden Report from the College of Hawai'i (became UH Manoa) The First School Garden in the State was started at Hilo Boys and Girls School in 1853, followed by Lahainaluna School on Maui. By 1910 every school in Hawai'i had a garden integrated into the curriculum. School gardens lasted into the early 1970s, with food going into the school cafeteria lunch program feeding families and children.

2000: Donna Mitts reinstates the first school garden program on Hawai'i Island at Pa'auilo Elementary and Intermediate School and is followed in 2005 by the founding of the Mala'ai Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School by Garden Educator Amanda Rieux.

2007: Steve Coffee at The Kohala Center surveys all schools on Hawai'i Island identifying school gardens and/or interest in developing a school garden program. There were 20.

January 2008: First meeting of the Hawai'i Island School Garden Network (HISGN) with Director Nancy Redfeather and the 20 schools. Needs identified were: funding, local resources, volunteers, professional development, and curriculum support. Support work begins.

2009-2015 The Ulupono Initiative's yearly School Garden Grant Program becomes available as start-up funding for Hawai'i Island school garden programs.

2010: HISGN founded the state Hawai'i Farm to School Hui. Members include Island School Garden Networks, State Agencies (DOE, DOH, and DOA), UH Hawaii at Manoa (Extension, Master Gardeners, 4-H). and community organizations.

2011-2019 USDA SPECA Grant funds the development of the first statewide School Garden Teacher Training and Certification Program/Science Innovation – Ku 'Aina Pa. 2012 First 5 day Summer Intensive of the Ku 'Aina Pa Program.

2012-2019: The national FoodCorps Hawai'i program begins with 9 Service Members serving as full time Garden Educators in 9 public schools.

2008-2015: Statewide yearly School Garden Conferences held at HPA.

2008-2019: 170 professional development School Garden Workshops, events, and conferences for teachers were created and presented on Hawai'i Island.

2014: USDA Farm to School Grant funds the creation of the Hawai'i Island School Garden Curriculum Map with 14 Teachers over one year. This online Curriculum Map for K-8 connects garden based learning in 4 theme areas and state standards in ELA, Math, Science and Health. First Summer Intensive 2015.

2014-2016: Teachers Teaching Teachers Program – Year long monthly professional development workshops for teachers presented by Ku 'Aina Pa Cohort Teachers.

2015-2019: From a Senate Resolution, the P-20 Agriculture Education Working Group is formed with UH CTAHR; 3 years, yearly reports to the Legislature, statewide stakeholders, recommendations for legislation. Goal: To create a coordinated framework and support for agricultural education PreK-20. Final Report December 2018.

2015: Hawai'i Farm to School Bill (Act 2018) is passed in the Hawai'i State Legislature: Program with Coordinator in HDOA.

2016: First Farm to School Pilot Program is created in the Kohala Complex. Cafeteria menu is changed to reflect local purchasing, scratch cooking, and whole fresh foods. The complex's School Garden Program and High School Farm are expanded.

2017: DOE creates the 'Aina Pono Farm to School Program in Hawai'i.

2019: The Hawai'i Farm to School Hui launches the first Garden to Cafeteria Pilot in the Kohala Complex.

2019: DOE partners with Hawai'i Farm to School Hui to put on the first statewide all day School Garden Workshop for Teachers, Administrators, and Specialists in Honolulu.

2019: The Hawai'i Island School Garden Network moves from The Kohala Center to the Mala'ai Culinary Garden of Waimea Middle School.