



Lower Puna Rising is a Community Driven, Design Build Collective.  
Co-Creating Transformative Solutions for a World of Possibility.

## O.U.R. Konohiki

### One United Resource for our Puna Community

**Co-Creating a Sustainable Ag-Cooperative to address food security and build community resiliency.**

**Challenge;** The traditional Hawaiian land management system known as Ahupua'a is making resurgence locally and for good reason. Our Puna community is seeking proactive solutions to the shared challenges we face regarding food insecurity, dependency, poverty, unemployment, disaster resiliency, unskilled, uninspired and underutilized labor. We have witnessed the degradation of our ecology and soil fertility with destructive land practices. We have felt the loss of cultural norms and traditions with a continual influx of new residency. Models of cooperation and interdependence that once offered unity through trade, joint work and shared goals have become a distant memory. Our community fabric and the health of our Aina continue to absorb the burden of these inconsistencies.

**Context;** Puna Makai is well poised to embrace a shift to land based modalities that are more in alignment with Hawaiian wisdom and modern regenerative practices. It is our kuleana as a community to collaborate, vision, support and activate grass roots solutions that address our unique set of challenges and the opportunities we face collectively. Together we can best determine how to utilize our social capital, shared resources, local wisdom and inspiring leadership to maximize the full potential of our self reliant, back to the land enthusiasm. We have this opportunity to join together and create a vision of hyper localization that works for everyone, which is accessible, sustainable, profitable and responsible. Much like the ancient Hawaiian system, we can create a modern version that supports the needs of the land and her people equally.

**Opportunity;** We can begin to transition away from poverty and unemployment by creating local jobs and development for our next generation of land steward by offering; inspiration, support, training and opportunity. We can better prepare for hardships and decrease outside dependency during natural disasters and times of need. We can expand our capacity for abundance, production, trade and commerce to build resiliency here locally. We can begin to remediate and build soil fertility while expanding our shared capacity for food security by creating sustainability, through a dedication to values and practices that do no harm to our Aina. We can shift to a system of land management that is culturally contextual, socially and ecologically responsible, successful and profitable. We can foster the connections between our residents that unite our community under a common goal, for a greater good, while building local pride and shared purpose.

**Vision;** The Previously mentioned Ahupua'a system operated successfully because it was managed through an appointed position called Konohiki. The role of Konohiki was to balance conservation and recourse management with the needs of the current community and the keiki to come. A contemporary land management system could gather inspiration from such a position to navigate the similarities and differences of ancient traditions and modern practices by creating a system that works for everyone.



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Imagine small farms ran by independent families, organized and supported by an Office of Konohiki.

- Konohiki offers intellectual support for educational outreach, system design and experimentation.
- Konohiki offers physical support with recruiting, management, labor, and administration.
- Konohiki offers recourse support with soil, plants, inputs, feed, livestock, and equipment.
- Konohiki offers land support with preparing, sowing, maintaining, harvesting, and storing.
- Konohiki offers commercial support with marketing, processing, distribution, and sales.
- Konohiki offers sustainable support with shared ethics, restoration, mitigation and conservation.

**Solutions;** Start ups and ag-entrepreneurs would benefit from an agency that offered much needed assistance during the initial phases of effort that come before making a profit. A system that was able to offer small loans, give business advice, market and help produce products for commercial purposes. An Office that could manage seed supplies while making and distributing natural farming and organic inputs. An Office of Konohiki that provided nursery stock and livestock while making available materials like feed, soil, mulch and farm equipment needed to make it all happen. Farm support systems to make it all happen. (

**Strategy;** The non-profit's primary source of revenue is through subleasing land and selling or renting value added services, products and recourses to the land stewards. In addition, the non-profit can use its status to raise funds through grants, programs, donations and investors. These economic resources can be directed to sustain the many programs and grow investment capital to further support the commitment to the community. Office of Konohiki can also generates capital through leasing access to ag-related services that are not land based but support the needs of our customer base. Some of these programs could include, small engine repair, educational opportunities, packaging and shipping, as well as administration. What is possible and a stage concept for how to accomplish that goal is the next phase. Specifics regarding financial and organizational details will be better understood as the Business Plan is created in the months to come.

**Organization;** Imagine a conscious business, with a triple bottom line ethic of planet, people and profit. With a board of directors, a coordinator and a small staff of passionate participants working along side for-profit farmers and ag-related businesses. With opportunity for worker, consumer and multi-stakeholder cooperatives to increase participation. The board could embrace shared organizing modalities that allows for a system of self-management replacing the traditional management hierarchy with a peer-to-peer operating system that increases transparency, accountability, and organizational agility. More details on organizational structure will be addressed during the proposed Community Design Meetings.