



# Ola Na Kini

*Regenerating Native and Edible Forests and Communities*

Healing the  
land, ocean, & multitude  
of life through  
engagement & education

A program of the **Mālama Learning Center** in partnership with West O'ahu students, educators, conservationists, cultural practitioners, and landowners.

# Ola Nā Kini

*Regenerating Native and Edible Forests and Communities*



*Starting in mid-2017, Ola Nā Kini, a native and edible forest planting program, will emerge on the slopes of the southern Wai‘anae mountains, bringing back life-giving plants to places where they once thrived. Led by the Mālama Learning Center (MLC), a non-profit environmental and cultural education organization based in Kapolei, Ola Nā Kini will break ground in selected regeneration sites on conservation and agricultural lands.*

*The goal is to heal the land, ocean, and multitude of life through engagement and education.*



Nānākuli Valley wildfire, 2016

Wai‘anae boasts the oldest mountains on O‘ahu, enduring a rapidly changing landscape since the first people arrived. Centuries of human impact have fragmented the lowland native forests of the southern Wai‘anae mountains. Once clothed in native dry to moist forests, thousands of acres lay barren or covered with invasive plants, and erosion leading to the ocean proceeds with heavy rainfall. Erosion is not only an eyesore, it is a threat to marine life as well as human health, smothering shorelines and reefs and accelerating movement of pollutants. While wildfires and invasive species continue to threaten the remaining fabric of native

ecosystems, what remains represent a rich diversity of plants and animals found nowhere else in the world -- life that tells stories of our bio-cultural heritage that are vitally important today for our overall health and wellness.

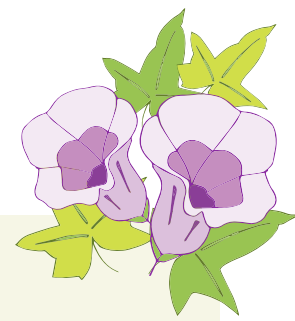
Prior to embarking on large-scale plantings, different methods must be tested to have the best chance of long-term recovery as the environmental conditions vary greatly at different locations. Scientists, foresters, and landowners acknowledge the challenging conditions but also urge the boldness needed to recover these areas and expand knowledge of dry



*'Ola Nā Kini' comes from a verse from a traditional Hawaiian pule (prayer), which translates to "life for the multitude." The multitude may refer to people as well as elements of nature. The pule seeks to bring life of good deeds for all.*

to moist forest regeneration. MLC has received support from such conservation professionals and advisors from the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and the University of Hawai‘i.

The pu‘uwai (heart) of Ola Nā Kini is in growing thousands of plants. This will start with native Hawaiian and edible plants -- trees, shrubs, and groundcover -- propagated initially from seeds and cuttings collected from nearby lands, adapted to dry and moist forests, and coastal shrublands. These plant layers from the ground up are important toward establishing a healthy ecosystem and agro-forestry landscape. As native trees generally take decades to grow large, harvest of wood resources will not be the goal, but seeds and fruit may be harvested to grow more plants as well as use for cultural traditional practices. Fruit of agricultural orchard and other crops would be harvested as well to feed the community.



The initial steps entail:



1 Construction of on-site plant propagation facilities (e.g., propagation lab, shade-house and outdoor nursery) at Pālehua.



2 Collection of seeds and cuttings of appropriate native Hawaiian trees and shrubs from nearby areas to be used for propagation (hundreds of seedlings have already been started).



3 Preparation of six intensively planted regeneration test sites, each approximately one acre in size, from mauka to makai with fencing to protect plants from grazing and invasive animals like (as needed) and innovative irrigation systems.



4 Coordination of students, volunteers, and interns to provide hands-on support to propagate, plant, maintain, and study regeneration sites, as well as educate local and out of state visitors.



Community volunteers



Interns

Education will be woven throughout Ola Nā Kini for a wide audience including elementary to college students and volunteers. They will devise creative solutions to many challenges, working directly with conservation and agricultural professionals and learning first-hand about 21st century careers. Services will include:

- School Programs
- Conservation Leadership Internships
- "Lima Ilalo - Hands to the Earth" Community Work Days
- Native Plant Give Away Days
- Private Guided Tours

Ola Nā Kini will be grounded on public lands as well as land owned and managed by Gill 'Ewa Land and Pālehua Ranch, who each have generational ties to conservation, but limited capacity. Working in partnership with these landowners and others, including Camp Pālehua, Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center, and members of the Wai'anae Mountains Watershed Partnership, Ola Nā Kini will involve students, teachers, cultural practitioners, community members, scientists, resource managers, and visitors through hands-on, place-based education.



Stone San Nicolas, a former student of MLC, created this logo depicting elements, from the mountains to the sea, embraced by Ola Nā Kini.



## How to Help

Join us in volunteering and raising start up funds for Ola Nā Kini from corporate, business, foundation, and individual donors. MLC proudly acknowledges **Hawaiian Electric Companies** as the lead and “emergent” sponsor of Ola Nā Kini. Hawaiian Electric’s sponsorship commemorates the company’s 125th anniversary serving Hawai‘i.

Please see the Sponsorship Benefits sheet for more information. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Other methods such as annual sponsorships, tree planting and crowd-funding campaigns, and visitor industry partnerships will be utilized to sustain this program.

*As the work to rehabilitate the forest and heal the landscape may take decades, Ola Nā Kini is a visionary and long-term project that can wait no longer – future generations will depend on our actions today.*



### *About Mālama Learning Center*

Since its inception in 2004, Mālama Learning Center has worked to unify schools, residents, and businesses in West O'ahu through education that incorporates art, science, conservation, and culture. Mālama Learning Center uses a hands-on approach to learning, preparing its participants for diverse real-world experiences and 21st century careers.



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