



Operations Plan: Honolulu Food Forest

STATEMENT OF PROJECT

The Honolulu Food Forest working group invites the citizens of Honolulu to rediscover their relationship with public and urban spaces, and explore the meaning of community through the creation of an edible landscape that provides abundant natural resources. Various nonprofit & community based organizations and several departments of the City & County of Honolulu have expressed their support for this project. This community initiative aims to bring a diverse community together around the commonality of food, and to encourage urban stewardship and pride in a shared space, a neighborhood, and the gateway to our state's capitol city.

Honolulu is one of the most livable cities in the world. The Honolulu Food Forest project will also establish the city as one of the most innovative, joining ranks with other progressive municipalities such as Seattle (Beacon Food Forest), New York (Hyde Park), and Los Angeles (LA Public Orchard).

Kamali'i Park is an underutilized space avoided or ignored by the thousands of commuters who pass by the space each day. Viewed from above, the park is positioned as the 'piko', or center of the downtown neighborhoods; changes that are made here have significant potential to resonate throughout our communities.

Transforming a park which stands as the gateway to downtown Honolulu into a productive, beautiful, and edible landscape will make a statement loud and clear that the people of Hawai'i are ready to meet the challenges of climate change head-on, and are proactively taking steps to adapt to a changing world.

The fruit trees and other useful and culturally significant species selected for planting in Kamali'i Park will reflect the diversity, resiliency, and cultural histories of our own community. Creating a working model of an edible landscape on public lands will demonstrate that it is possible for everyday people to steward 'The Commons'—our shared, public resources—ethically, responsibly, and effectively. If open parklands and grassy fields have their place to help provide for our needs in our communities, why not public fruit trees and orchards?

The Honolulu Food Forest Citizens' Working Group is:

Breanna Rose – former downtown resident
David Atcheson – current downtown resident
Hunter Heavilin – Ecological Design
Justin Franzmeier – Foodscaping Specialist
Matthew Lynch – Permaculture Design

Community Partners:

808 Urban
Camp Mokule'ia
Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design
Hawaii Academy of Performing Arts
Hawaii Pacific University
Honolulu Police Department
Island Foodscaping
The Institute for Human Services
Mental Health Kokua
PermablitzHI

Honolulu Food Forest Citizens Working Group Overview:

Matthew K Lynch, Director

The Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design, Executive Director
matthewklynch@gmail.com | 808-386-8470

Relevant experience & qualifications:

- Experience in community & enterprise development internationally & locally, with a focus on developing food security initiatives.
- Experienced Permaculture Designer on sites ranging from 1,000sq ft – 15 acres.
- Experience in organizing, producing & implementing volunteer Permablitz workdays.
- Recognized by State of Hawaii Senate for producing & co-teaching 3 Permaculture Design Courses (the first ever on this island) in 2012.
- Launched PermablitzHI reciprocal volunteer network (which since September 2011 has activated over 2,100 man-hours of labor & generated over \$90k in economic value – with \$0 operating budget).
- Experience in organizing, producing & implementing volunteer Permablitz workdays.

Hunter Heavilin, Lead Designer

Roth Ecological Design, Designer
hunter@thegreenhousehawaii.com | 808-391-8687

Relevant experience & qualifications:

- Degrees in Tropical Forest Ecosystem and Agroforestry Management.
- Experienced Ecological Designer on sites ranging from 1,000sq ft – 15 acres.
- Experience in organizing, producing & implementing volunteer Permablitz workdays.
- Experience in community development internationally & locally, with a focus on small island developing states.
- Consults with Hawaii Association of Independent Schools on sustainability-related topics ranging from food production to waste management.
- Recognized by State of Hawaii Senate for producing & co-teaching 3 Permaculture Design Courses (the first ever on this island) in 2012.
- Experience in organizing, producing & implementing volunteer Permablitz workdays.

David Atcheson, Community Outreach & Web Development

Transition O'ahu, Steering Committee Member
david@atcheson.net | 808-223-9467

Relevant experience & qualifications:

- Past president, Wedgwood Community Council (Seattle)
- Served on the steering committee of the Wedgwood Vision Project (neighborhood planning)
- Served as the campaign director for The Cascades Conservation Partnership (wildlife lands acquisition), 2003-2004
- Permaculture Design Course graduate (Oahu, 2012)
- Web design and development and e-marketing
- Experienced in trail maintenance (brushing & lopping, logging out, drainage)

Breanna Rose, Community Outreach

Kanu Hawai'i, Board Member
brearosa@gmail.com | 808-283-4256

Relevant experience & qualifications:

- Experience in collaborative leadership, coordination of both community and high-level meetings & events, and action-orientated strategic planning
- Environmental Educator in sustainability, gardens, & waste management for Growing Green Schools
- Coordination & installation of St. Peter's Episcopal Church Community Garden
- Permaculture Design Course graduate (Oahu, 2012)

Justin Franzmeier, Design & Implementation

Island Foodscaping, Owner
islandfoodscaping@gmail.com | 808-352-8973

Relevant experience & qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Family Resources from University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH).
- UH Master Gardener's Certification.
- Launched PermablitzHI reciprocal volunteer network (which since September 2011 has activated over 2,100 man-hours of labor & generated over \$90k in economic value – with \$0 operating budget).
- Experience design, implementation & maintenance of edible landscapes throughout Oahu ranging in size from 1,000 sq ft - 15 acres.
- Experience in organizing, producing & implementing volunteer Permablitz workdays.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES & TIMELINE:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Overseen by</u>
Submit proposed design (CAD drawing) to DPP for review	ASAP	HH
Receive approval from DPP	Pending	HH
Submit Operations Plan & Budget to Parks & Recreation	4/15/13	CWG
Receive approval from Parks & Recreation	Pending	CWG
Gather letters of support from all Community Partners	Ongoing	ML
Presentation to Downtown Neighborhood Board	2/7/13	CWG
Presentation to Fort Street Merchants Association	Pending	CWG
Presentation to Council Member Carol Fukunaga, District 6	02/5/13	CWG
Create Community Engagement Strategy	05/31/13	APCRD / 808
Community Engagement Events planned	05/31/13	APCRD / 808
Website	05/31/13	DA
Press Release to Media outlets	05/27/13	APCRD
Buzz video completed	05/27/13	CHOPCHOP
Crowdfunding campaign launch	06/01/13	APCRD / 808
Community Engagement Event #1	06/15/13	APCRD / 808
Community Engagement Event #2	07/13/13	APCRD / 808
Community Engagement Event #3	08/10/13	APCRD / 808
Crowdfunding campaign close	09/01/13	APCRD / 808
Implementation	July 2013	IFD / APCRD
Irrigation re-worked	07/09/13	IFD
Gather Materials & Site prep	07/12/13	PERMABLITZHI
Community Installation Day!	07/13/13	PERMABLITZHI
Maintenance & Succession Planning	Ongoing	APCRD
Recruit Project Manager	10/01/13	APCRD
Opening ceremony	08/10/13	APCRD
Ongoing events	Ongoing	APCRD / 808
Monthly maintenance	Ongoing	IFD / MHK / IHS
Website maintenance	Ongoing	DA

KEY:

HH	Hunter Heavilin
ML	Matt Lynch
DA	David Atcheson
CWG	Citizen's Working Group
APCRD	Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design
808	808Urban
CHOPCHOP	ChopChop Media
IFD	Island Foodscaping & Design
PERMABLITZHI	Permablitz Hawaii
MHK	Mental Health Kokua
IHS	Institute for Human Services

OPERATIONS PLAN NARRATIVE:

Description of activities:

Submit proposal to Department of Planning & Permitting for review. A CAD file of the proposed design for the Honolulu Food Forest will be submitted to the Department of Permitting & Planning (DPP) for review & comment on whether a permit is required.

Submit Operations Plan and Budget to Department of Parks & Recreation for review. A plan detailing the strategy for the physical management of the site, mitigation of potential liability, and ongoing viability of the project beyond the initial investment & implementation will be submitted to Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) for review and approval.

A detailed budget for the allocation of the initial appropriation of \$50,000 by the City & County of Honolulu will also be submitted for review & approval.

Management and Liability. Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design (APCRD) intends to oversee management and maintenance of the park so that DPR need not allocate any additional energy or resources towards Kamali'i Park. The Institute for Health Services (IHS) and Mental Health Kokua (MHK) have both expressed an interest in committing labor resources towards weekly maintenance of the park as a way to supplement and enhance some of their existing programming.

Appropriate signage and a liability insurance policy obtained by APCRD, the support of Honolulu Police Department (HPD) enforcement during the park's opening and closing hours, and advice from the City's legal counsel can help to mitigate the City's liability exposure.

Create Community Engagement Strategy. A strategy for successfully engaging with communities in the immediate neighborhood will be created based upon the lessons learned and successes of projects like HPD and 808Urban's partnership at Kuhio Mini Park (Liliuokalani & Kuhio Ave).

ChopChop Media, a local company of award-winning filmmakers with experience in creating successful online marketing campaigns, will create an integrated social media campaign to build awareness and support for the project. As part of this strategy, a crowdfunding campaign will not only raise additional funds to leverage the initial investment by the City, but will double as a 'buzzworthy' vehicle to tell the story of the project and raise public awareness.

Community events such as *Homegrown harvest swaps*, *Skillshares*, *Edible plant giveaways*, *Pop-up markets*, and *Sustainability fairs* can be held leading up to the transformation of the park into an edible landscape.

Implementation. Permablitz Hawai'i (PermablitzHI) will facilitate a community workday in order to install the edible landscaping over a single weekend. Mini-workshops will be featured throughout the day so that participants "learn by doing" and develop a sense of ownership of this public space.

Island Foodscaping & Design (IFD) will prepare the site for the community workday, including repair and re-working of existing irrigation and coordinating delivery of all necessary materials and supplies.

Maintenance & Succession Planning. A combination of matching crowdsourced and foundational funding will be used to hire a Project Manager with experience in community organizing. Having a dedicated staff person will allow us work through any challenges that may arise in the establishment phase of the project. This person’s focus will be to establish a community-based organization that is willing and able to take over the management responsibilities of the park, including overseeing ongoing maintenance and community harvest days and ongoing community engagement.

With oversight and training from Island Foodscaping & Design, the organizations involved with physical maintenance of the site can be trained on proper care and maintenance of an edible landscape. APCRD will oversee the establishment and succession phases of the project, so that once the community successfully adopts the park as their own, we will have discovered a working model that can be replicated in other communities.

DESCRIPTION OF COMMUNITY PARTNERS WHO WILL OVERSEE ACTIVITIES :

The Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design (APCRD) – A nonprofit registered in Hawaii with a focus on restoring degraded landscapes, and developing demonstrative and educational resources exploring regenerative design. APCRD’s role in this project is to manage the project, create best management practices for an edible public landscape, and work to establish a community board to manage the project once it has been established.

808 Urban – A nonprofit arts organization headquartered in Kaka’ako, 808 Urban is a collective of “community cultural workers”: artists, organizers and volunteers committed to improving the quality of life for our communities through arts programming. 808’s role in this project is to share strategies and techniques learned from their success in organizing community boards and community engagement campaigns, and to develop the design and installation of a culturally appropriate mural which tells the story of this place (past, present, and future) proposed for the Diamond head-facing wall of the Honolulu Fire Department station located at the corner of Fort & Beretania Streets.

The Institute for Health Services (IHS) - The Institute for Human Services, Inc., is a comprehensive social services agency working to prevent and end homelessness in Hawaii. IHS’ role on this project is to provide volunteer labor for watering, pruning, maintenance, harvest, picking up trash, removal of graffiti (if required; through their community engagement strategies, 808 Urban’s projects have successfully avoided the need for graffiti removal from their murals), and outreach to homeless individuals occupying the area. The opportunity to provide these services fills a need for at least two of IHS’s outreach and educational programs—a win-win for both organizations.

Island Foodscaping & Design (IFD) – IFD is a small, locally owned business with expertise and experience in designing and installing edible landscapes throughout O’ahu. IFD’s role on this project is to provide advice and expertise on irrigation design and modification, monthly maintenance during the Food Forest’s establishment phase, and training of community stakeholders such as MHK and IHS on proper care and management of an edible landscape.

Mental Health Kokua (MHK) – MHK is a community-based nonprofit organization providing housing, case management, psychosocial rehabilitation, psychiatry, and counseling services to assist persons recovering from serious mental illness in achieving their optimum level of independent living in the community. MHK has also offered their Safe Haven facility (located across from Kamali’i Park) for use to hold regular meetings about the Honolulu Food Forest. Their role in this project is to utilize the transformed public space as an outdoor experiential education site, which can be integrated into their ongoing rehabilitative programs. More specifically, they have offered to provide

volunteer labor for watering, pruning, maintenance, harvest, picking up trash, and removal of graffiti (as necessary), and to function as a sort of passive, on-site manager.

Permablitz Hawaii (PermablitzHI)– PermablitzHI is a grassroots, volunteer-based, reciprocal network whose mission is to restore Hawaii’s food security, one backyard at a time. The core group of organizers that drive this movement have a successful track record in gathering materials and resources to mobilize volunteer labor forces, which regularly transform entire landscapes in a single day. Since its launch in late 2011, PermablitzHI has activated in excess of 2,100 person-hours of volunteer labor and generated at least an estimated \$96,000 worth of economic value at its monthly events, all with an annual operating budget of \$0.

Hawai’i Pacific University (HPU) – HPU is a private, nonprofit university with a student population of approximately 7,000 undergraduate and 1,200 graduate students. The University has expressed interest in supporting the Honolulu Food Forest as a potential site to expand their bicycle parking, and as a potential outdoor classroom site to host practical and experiential learning practicums for appropriate classes, such as their *Biology* and *Food Anthropology* undergraduate programs and their master’s program in *Global Leadership & Sustainable Development*.

Honolulu Police Department (HPD) – HPD has expressed their enthusiastic support for this project as a part of the mayor’s focus on community policing, and as a viable strategy to transform a space that is currently a hotbed of undesirable activity. They have advised on the proposed physical redesign of the park in order to ensure that they will be able to effectively patrol the park during its closed hours, have shared best practices and lessons learned from successful public-space-revitalization projects (such as the Kuhio mini-park revitalization with 808 Urban), and have agreed to an on-going partnership with the Honolulu Food Forest to engage the surrounding community and help keep this public park a safe and friendly place.

PLAN FOR ONGOING SUSTAINABILITY OF PROJECT:

Economic viability. Crowdfunding campaign will be a key driver of our initial campaign to raise community awareness and support for the Honolulu Food Forest project.

This campaign will raise additional funds to leverage the initial investment made by the City & County of Honolulu. This campaign will also serve to demonstrate the level of public support for this type of pilot-project, both within and outside of the immediate neighborhood. A baseline of supporters that are outside of the immediate neighborhood will be measurable by the email addresses collected through this campaign. The visibility gained through the campaign has the potential to inspire other Hawaiian Island communities to replicate the project.

Additional grants will be sought from local and national foundations supporting the mission of this project, such as the Lowes’ Community Giving Program, Hawaii People’s Fund, Hawaii Community Foundation, & Urban Forestry Guild. Through these sources, funding for a salaried position of a Project Manager, whose role will be to establish a volunteer, community-based organization made up of neighborhood residents and stakeholders, will be sought as part of our succession strategy to transfer management duties of the park to the community.

The Department of Parks & Recreation currently allocates a portion of its operating budget towards ongoing maintenance of Kamali’i Park, which currently is spent on the constant repair of the irrigation system, sprinkler heads, and other damage due to undesirable activity by residentially challenged individuals currently using the park. This amount can potentially be reduced.

Part of Island Foodscaping's duties & responsibilities for maintaining the park will be to work with community partners & stakeholders to transfer the necessary baseline knowledge & skills to maintain an edible landscape, so that this may be taken over by the community organization once the Honolulu Food Forest is established.

Community engagement. No community-based project can flourish to its full potential without enthusiastic community involvement. Therefore, creating strategies to engage the community will be essential to the success of the project. The crowdfunding strategy can double as a community engagement strategy, and combined with monthly events such as *Homegrown harvest swaps*, *Designated Food Forest community harvest days*, *Classes & workshops*, *Edible plant giveaways*, *Popup markets*, *Skillshares*, and *Sustainability fairs* can displace the current undesirable activities with activities that are both desired and created by the community itself.

These types of events can be held both leading up to the installation of the Food Forest, and on an ongoing basis as an effective means to maintain community engagement and displacement of undesirable activities within the park. The Honolulu Police Department has pledged to work with the Honolulu Food Forest & 808 Urban to help build Community Policing strategies to keep the park safe, comfortable, and clean by leveraging proven strategies that have worked on other public parklands that have been successfully regenerated.

Cultural engagement. One of the main reasons for the success of 808 Urban's work is the extensive research that is conducted by their team of cultural advisors prior to the commencement of any project. In this way they are able to develop a community project that is relevant to place and time, and tell the story of a community space in a way that engages and connects communities.

This same strategy of cultural engagement will be employed in re-creating the Kamali'i public space. Not only will the mural reflect the past, present, and future of the cultural diversity represented in the downtown neighborhood, but the inclusion of culturally significant plant species will also be selected to reflect the diverse ethnic groups living in the area.

Environmental sustainability. Once culturally appropriate plants are added to the species list, a secondary filter of ecological niche is applied; that is, plants are further selected for their ability to flourish in the predominant climate and rainfall patterns of the neighborhood. In this way, irrigation needs can be reduced. Most irrigation will be in the project's early phases while new plantings are being established; after that, irrigation will simply be a backup for unseasonable dry spells.

Fertility needs can be mostly provided by the nitrogen-fixing species pre-existing on-site and form the canopy for the Honolulu Food Forest. Mulch and compost generated from park trimmings can be used on-site. Periodic and supplemental fertilization can also be provided by other neighborhood resources, if needed. For example, if excess mulch is available at the nearby Foster Botanical Gardens, it could be utilized at Kamali'i Park.

BUDGET NARRATIVE

CAD Planting Plan & Details

Planting design compatible with local environment, these documents will include details and notes for proper plant installation and soil improvement.

CAD Landscape, Lighting Plans & Details:

Design and lighting plan for layout and selection of appropriate lighting, placement of lines, and transformers to provide safe nighttime illumination.

Soil Analysis Measurement & Design:

Baseline soil testing and analysis, surveying and measurement of site, resource inventory, and site analysis.

CAD Drainage Plans, Section, and Details:

Study of site topography and plans showing proposed grading and drainage. Design will incorporate selection of products for passive rainwater harvest and stormwater management.

CAD Landscape and Irrigation Plans, Notes, and Details:

Design for efficient use of water, selection and layout of valves and fixtures, pipe sizing, and pressure calculation. Details and notes for proper installation, automatic scheduling of run times, and access for maintenance.

Operations and Community Engagement Plans:

Design includes community engagement & crowdfunding strategies, implementation, budget assessment, and maintenance, liability, management & succession planning. Operations Plan is intended specifically for the Kamali'i Park pilot-project, and also meant to serve as model for adaptation by future community projects.

Design community engagement plan to engage citizens, provide education on food security & sustainability, strengthen community, and empower Honolulu citizens through urban stewardship.

Re-work Irrigation:

Island Foodscaping & Design will tie into existing Kamali'i Park irrigation systems to modify as appropriate for the new planting areas. Water efficient drip irrigation system including weather-based control system to minimize inefficiencies by reducing over-watering.

Fruit Trees and Planting Materials:

Frankie's Nursery, a locally owned business, grows a variety of tropical and sub-tropical fruit trees on their farm in Waimanalo. The company has deep knowledge, extensive experience, and stringent controls, which ensure they provide the best cultivars available.

Hui Kū Maoli Ola is a Hawaiian native plant specialist dedicated to the perpetuation and preservation of Hawai'i's natural history and culture. The company offers an extensive collection of native Hawaiian plants, and will consult to help us select species appropriate to Kamali'i Park.

Mulkern Nursery offers a variety of tropical plants common to the island of O'ahu. This locally owned nursery in Waimanalo will offer edible and useful trees and shrubs.

Landscape Lighting:

Hawaii Irrigation Supply Company (HISCO) has supplied the landscaping industry with public works, irrigation, lighting, and landscape supply since 1975. They will provide expertise to help select the best landscape lighting products for the project.

Compost:

Hawaiian Earth Products recycles and reuses organic matter to create compost and soil amendment, which revitalize soil, promote stronger and healthier plant growth, enhance nutrient availability, and improve soil structure. They will deliver all compost needed directly to the site.

Horse Manure:

Waimanalo polo field will provide a nutrient-rich compost, which combines well with the 'Menehune Magic' soil amendment products, provided by Hawaiian Earth Products to create an optimal mix for growing edible species.

Mulch:

Wailupe Farms in Waimanalo will provide & deliver woodchip mulch harvested from their site. Mulch acts as a long-term soil amendment and ground cover, helping to conserve soil moisture, create optimal habitat for a healthy soil microbiology to thrive, and suppress weed growth.

Grant writing & consulting:

Lesley Harvey holds a Bachelor's Degree in International Business, Master's Degree in International Economics, and teaches Economics at Kapiolani Community College. She also runs a small business dedicated to securing funding for a wide variety of business activities, and will provide the following services towards that end for the project: prospective grant funding research, RFP analysis, Drafting letters of inquiry, grant proposal development, post-submission services, co-ordination of initial grantee duties, and ongoing fundraising consulting for period of grants secured.

Online video campaign:

ChopChop Media, local media company comprised of an Emmy-award winning documentary filmmakers, will work with us to craft video-based online, traditional & social media campaigns to crowdsource matching funds from the general public to fund Phase II of the project. The crowdsourced funding campaign doubles as an effective PR and promotional tool, as it tells the story of the project and invites viewers to demonstrate their support by making a small monetary contribution to the project.

Community Mural Development & Signage:

808 Urban has a successful track record in working with communities to revitalize neglected & degraded public spaces. Their unique process involves extensive research into the natural & cultural history of a place, and seeking community input & participation towards the revitalization of the target site to create public murals, which have catalyzed the revitalization of public spaces such as the Kuhio Mini-Park Beautification Project in Waikiki. We will engage 808 Urban to perform these same services for this project.

Signage Design:

Sierra Dew is an award-winning graphic designer born & raised on Maui who serves as Co-Director. She will be responsible for creating signage, which is essential to provide educational background on the Food Forest, describe harvest ground rules, identify edible species, honor local business contributions, mitigate liability, and add aesthetically to Kamali'i Park.

Website development + 1st year maintenance:

David Atcheson is a resident of the Downtown neighborhood, and a professional website designer who will provide website development & first year maintenance for the Honolulu Food Forest. The website will tell the story of the revitalization of Kamali'i Park, and be a key tool in the project's implementation and long-term outreach & coordination, serving as a resource to host the online social media & video campaign, advertise upcoming community work days, events & harvest days, and to offer volunteer opportunities.

Legal fees for liability and risk management and contract review:

Elizabeth Dunne is an environmental attorney practicing in Honolulu. She serves on the board of the Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter and is a founding member of the O'ahu Land Trust. Elizabeth will provide legal services to the Honolulu Food Forest project to: identify potential liability concerns and develop ways to remediate them, develop a liability / risk management policy, prepare a liability waiver for project / volunteer participants, review any contracts related to the project, and interface with the City's legal counsel to address liability concerns, possible indemnification issues, etc.

Liability insurance for 36 months:

As part of our overall liability management strategy, a suitable liability insurance policy will be purchased in order to mitigate potential liability. The total cost of this policy is currently under research and estimated to be under \$2,000.

Cost of obtaining 501(c)(3) status:

The Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design is a non-profit organization incorporated in the State of Hawaii as of January 2012. The organization has completed its application for recognition of its non-profit status under Section 501(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, and requires \$850 to cover the cost of the application fee.

Contact:

honolulufoodforest@gmail.com