HUI O HO`OHONUA
`Ewa, `Oahu, Hawai`i

MISSION
To end the perpetuation of historical trauma to `Ewa’s land, water and people through reciprocal learning, working side by side with the `Ewa community and serving its kapuna (elders) and current residents. Mālama Pu`uloa is HOH808’s defining project, which focuses on the environmental restoration of Pu`uloa. The project uses community stewardship to revive and conserve its streams, wetlands, shores and loko i`a (traditional Hawaiian fishponds) that once sustainably fed thousands of people.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS
- Groundwater contamination
- Degradation of waterways and fisheries
- Pesticides
- Toxins (mercury, PCBs, lead, etc.)
- Chemical vapor
- Contamination of the island’s primary aquifer by a large military jet fuel storage facility

NATIVE HAWAIIANS PLACE GREAT IMPORTANCE on mālama `aina (actively caring for the environment). The culture evolved as a product of Hawai`i’s unique resources, which Native Hawaiians utilized for agricultural, medici- nal, religious, and other cultural purposes.

Over the past 200 years, Native Hawaiians have had little say over the management of natural resources they depend on, including nearshore fisheries. The health of these resources has declined, along with the health of the people. Largely, the harm began in 1893, when the U.S. provided military
aid to a group of American businessmen who sought to permanently secure their corporate agricultural and mercantile interests in Hawai‘i. With support from the U.S. Navy, those businessmen succeeded in the forcible overthrow of the independent and sovereign Hawaiian Kingdom. Within decades of the overthrow, newly formed industrial agricultural corporations farmed over 200,000 acres of land in Hawai‘i, which had significant environmental consequences. Plantation agriculture, military installations, development and other land use changes contributed to the decline of Hawai‘i’s resources. Sugar and pineapple plantations in Hawai‘i used approximately 10–15 restricted-use chemical pesticides, causing contamination of groundwater and impacted fisheries.

The state of Hawai‘i has over 90 water bodies that are considered “impaired” under state and federal standards.¹ In the Hawai‘i community, many rivers, streams, wetlands and nearshore areas that support the resources on which communities depend are contaminated and depleted. Its aquatic ecosystems are contaminated with mercury, PCBs, dioxins, pesticides, microplastics, lead and other metals, sediments, fecal coliform and other bacterial and viral contaminants. Many community members are unaware of their risk exposure and are not provided meaningful education about ways to reduce potential health impacts. In Hawai‘i, many members of Native Hawaiian and low-income communities as well as communities of color, including Filipinos and Micronesians, regularly harvest and consume fish, crabs and other marine resources to meet nutritional and economic needs. In general, communities of color, low-income communities, and Indigenous peoples in Hawai‘i depend on healthy aquatic ecosystems and marine resources to a greater extent and in different ways than the general population.

The depletion of aquatic environments and resources threatens these groups’ subsistence, economic, cultural, traditional and religious practices, and also impacts future generations and the transfer of knowledge from one generation to the next. This includes ecological knowledge, customs and traditions surrounding harvest and the preparation and consumption of marine resources.

### GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Expanding public education campaign and decreasing exposure to toxicity from seafood harvested in Pu‘uloa through the development of community outreach strategies
- Continuing efforts to empower communities around Pu‘uloa to engage in restoration and remediation and build public-private partnerships to increase the capacity for positive change
- Developing sustainable funding streams and initiating fundraising campaigns for key organizational activities


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MISSION
To strengthen the leadership of farmworker women and girls so that together, they become the bridge that reaches the social, economic and political changes that ensure their human rights. The organization is dedicated to leadership development, outreach and education and technical assistance in issues directly affecting California farmworker communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS
- Climate resiliency
- Climate vulnerability
- Wildfires
- Extreme heat
- Air quality
- Pesticides

Despite their contributions to the $200 billion agricultural industry, farmworkers remain a low-wage and primarily immigrant population without access to labor, health and social protections. Their disproportionate risk to environmental occupational hazards, coupled with existing social and economic factors perpetuate inequities and their social exclusion. Farmworkers in Ventura County, California, have been repeatedly battered by climate change-related impacts including wildfires and extreme heat. In December 2017, farmwork-
Farmworkers in Ventura County, CA

- 32 years median age
- 96% born in Mexico
- 53% speak only Spanish
- 61% undocumented

An estimated 20,000 of these farmworkers are Mixtecs, immigrants from an Indigenous group from Oaxaca, Mexico. Mixtecs, many of whom speak only their native language of Mixteco, are often relegated to the most labor-intensive and lowest paid agricultural jobs.

- 41,600 farmworkers are employed throughout the county’s $2-billion agricultural industry,
- $22,000 average annual salary earned.

In 2015, more than 7,000 female farmworkers worked in Ventura County. This same year, female farmworkers faced sexual harassment at a rate 6 times that of men and earned $10,000 less annually than their male counterparts, according to the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy.

Farmworkers in Oxnard were greatly impacted by smoke from the Thomas Fire, the largest fire in the state’s history at that time. As public health officials told people to stay inside, many farm supervisors made workers work faster to save strawberries from smoke and ash, failing to provide them with protective masks. In summer 2020, during California’s worst wildfire season in modern history when over 4.2 million acres burned across the state, Ventura County farmworkers were required to work through the smoke, ash, heat and ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Continual summer exposure to particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5) from wildfire smoke is especially concerning considering the association between this exposure and increased cardiovascular and respiratory morbidity and mortality. While California now has leading wildfire work safety laws, many local frontline groups who advocated for these laws are still filling the gaps as state officials rarely travel to rural areas to enforce regulations and few resources are set aside for this oversight.

The same problems affect the enforcement of California’s leading heat laws. Ventura County’s diverse geography, rapid urbanization, and growing agricultural and industrial sectors have resulted in the largest increase in heat (+2.6°F) between 1895 and 2018 of any county in the contiguous United States. Ventura County’s expected increase in extreme heat days in the coming years presents a massive threat to farmworkers, who die from heat-related causes at 20 times the rate of all other occupations. Some of the additional protective clothing worn to protect against the sun or pesticides can even further increase the impacts of these temperatures. With the expected increase in high heat days, pesticide use is also expected to increase as higher application rates are required due to chemical volatilization and pest population changes. Heat stress conditions may also increase farmworkers’ physiological susceptibility to pesticide poisoning. A 2017 California Department of Pesticide Regulation report found that 323 farmworkers were sickened by agricultural pesticides that year, a worrying 139% increase from 2016.
Additional environmental and social inequities impact farmworker health. The Healthy Places Index, for example, shows that census tracts where a large percentage of farmworkers live in South and East Oxnard have some of the highest particulate matter diesel emissions in the state. These areas also have some of the worst mental health, infant birth weights and asthma rates. Access to goods and services like health care, supermarkets and transportation are also extremely low.

**GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

- Implementing the Farmworker-led Response to Emergencies through Simple Audio-based Systems (FRESAS) project to create a linguistically and culturally accessible emergency public health response system for Ventura County farmworkers to address institutional inequities that impact downstream disease, injury and mortality rates
  - Increasing the number of subscribers to this system
  - Developing audios and videos about alert systems in different languages to reach a wider range of community members

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ORGANIZACIÓN EN CALIFORNIA DE LÍDERES CAMPESINAS
Oxnard, California

MISSION
Fortalecer el liderazgo de mujeres y niñas trabajadoras agrícolas para que juntas se conviertan en el puente que llegue a los cambios sociales, económicos y políticos que garanticen sus derechos humanos. La organización se dedica al desarrollo de liderazgo, divulgación y educación y asistencia técnica en temas que afectan directamente a las comunidades de trabajadores agrícolas de California.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS

- Resiliencia climática
- Vulnerabilidad climática
- Incendios forestales
- Calor extremo
- Calidad de aire
- Pesticides

A PESAR DE SUS CONTRIBUCIONES a la industria agrícola de $200 mil millones, los trabajadores agrícolas siguen siendo una población de bajos salarios y principalmente inmigrante sin acceso a protecciones laborales, de salud y sociales. Su riesgo desproporcionado a los riesgos ambientales ocupacionales, junto con los factores sociales y económicos existentes, prolongan las desigualdades y su exclusión social. Los trabajadores agrícolas en el condado de Ventura, California, han sido repetidamente abatidos por impactos relacionados con el cambio climático, incluyendo incendios forestales y calor extremo. En diciem-
bre de 2017, los trabajadores agrícolas de Oxnard fueron azotados por el humo del incendio Thomas, el incendio más grande en la historia del estado hasta ese momento. Como funcionarios de salud pública les dijeron a las personas que se quedaran adentro, muchos supervisores de granjas hicieron que los trabajadores trabajaran más rápido para salvar las fresas del humo y la ceniza sin proporcionar máscaras de protección. En el verano de 2020, durante la peor temporada de incendios forestales de California en la historia moderna, cuando se quemaron más de 4.2 millones de acres en todo el estado, los trabajadores agrícolas del condado de Ventura tuvieron que trabajar a través del humo, la ceniza, el calor y la pandemia de COVID-19 en curso.

La exposición continua a partículas de menos de 2.5 micras de diámetro (PM 2.5) del humo de incendios forestales durante el verano es especialmente preocupante considerando la asociación establecida entre los aumentos agudos de morbilidad y mortalidad cardiovascular y respiratoria.1 Mientras California ahora tiene leyes líderes de seguridad en el trabajo durante incendios forestales, muchos grupos de primera línea todavía están llenando las brechas, ya que los funcionarios estatales rara vez viajan a las zonas rurales para hacer cumplir las regulaciones y se reservan pocos recursos para esta supervisión.

Los mismos problemas afectan la ejecución de las principales leyes de calor de California. La diversa geografía del condado de Ventura, la rápida urbanización y los crecientes sectores agrícolas e industriales han resultado en el mayor aumento de calor (+2.6°F) entre 1895 y 2018 que cualquier otro condado en los Estados Unidos continentales. El aumento esperado de días de calor extremo en el Condado de Ventura en los próximos años presenta una amenaza masiva para los trabajadores agrícolas que mueren por causas relacionadas con el calor 20 veces más que las demás ocupaciones.2 Algunas de las prendas de protección adicionales que se usan para proteger contra el sol o los pesticidas pueden aumentar aún más los impactos de estas temperaturas. Con el aumento esperado de los días de altas temperaturas, también se espera que aumente el uso de pesticidas a medida que se requieran mayores tasas de aplicación debido a la volatilización química y los cambios en la población de plagas. Las condiciones de estrés por calor también pueden aumentar la susceptibilidad fisiológica de los trabajadores agrícolas al envenenamiento por pesticidas. El informe
publicado por el Departamento de Regulación de Pesticidas de California en 2017 encontró que 323 trabajadores agrícolas se enfermaron por pesticidas agrícolas en 2017, un preocupante aumento del 139% comparado al 2016. Las desigualdades ambientales y sociales adicionales agravan la salud de los trabajadores agrícolas. El Índice de Lugares Saludables, por ejemplo, muestra que las zonas censales donde vive un gran porcentaje de trabajadores agrícolas en el sur y el este de Oxnard tienen algunas de las emisiones de diésel de materia particulada más altas del estado. Estas áreas también tienen algunas de las peores tasas de salud mental, peso al nacer y asma. 1 acceso a bienes y servicios como el cuidado de la salud, supermercados y transporte público también es extremadamente bajo.

### ACTIVIDADES DE PROGRAMA DE SUBSIDIO

- Implementando el proyectos de the Farmworker-led Response to Emergencies through Simple Audio-based Systems (FRESAS) para crear un Sistema de respuesta de salud pública de emergencia que sea lingüística y culturalmente accesible para los trabajadores agrícolas del condado de Ventura para abordar las desigualdades institucionales que afectan enfermedades, lesiones y mortalidad
  - Aumentar el número de suscriptores a este sistema
  - Desarrollando audios y videos de sistemas de alerta en diferentes idiomas para llegar una gama más amplia de miembros de la comunidad

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La información y las imágenes proporcionadas en este perfil fueron proporcionadas por el concesionario.

Este proyecto cuenta con el respaldo del acuerdo de cooperación U38OT000294 entre los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades y la Asociación Estadounidense de Salud Pública. El contenido de este documento es responsabilidad exclusiva del Consejo Nacional de Asociación Ambiental y no representa necesariamente los puntos de vista oficiales de los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades o la Asociación Estadounidense de Salud Pública.
MISSION
To provide quality affordable housing for all in communities free of environmental injustice..

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS
- Trash and medical waste incinerators
- City landfill
- Open-air coal export terminal
- Chemical plants
- Illegal dumping

SOUTH BALTIMORE SERVES AS A DUMPING GROUND for the city and region — single use-plastics and other mixed waste are burned at a 35-year-old trash incinerator located in frontline environmental justice communities. In 2009, city and state leaders sought to expand Baltimore’s role as a regional waste destination by inviting the development of the nation’s largest trash burning incinerator, formerly known as the Baltimore Refuse Energy Systems Company, or BRESCO, incinerator. The incinerator sits less than a mile from schools — again in South Baltimore and the ZIP code 21226 — with the highest levels of toxic air emissions in the nation. In addition to a municipal trash incinerator, Curtis Bay and adjacent South Baltimore communities also host the nation’s largest medical waste incinerator, the city’s landfill, an open-air coal export terminal, chemical plants and a slew of other polluting developments.
The South Baltimore communities of Wagner’s Point, Fairfield and Hawkins Point were all displaced between the 1980s and 1990s to accommodate chemical and waste businesses long after the devastating health impacts took their toll on generations of residents. The concentration of pollution in South Baltimore has compounding effects: poverty that comes from disinvestment, poor housing quality and lack of adequate health care.

Trash that is not burned at the BRESCO incinerator and pollutes the air is often illegally dumped on vacant land or in alleyways and waterways. Despite a variety of efforts, the Baltimore City Department of Public Works has failed to successfully address illegal dumping. An estimated 10,000 tons of trash are illegally dumped in Baltimore every year, often at the city’s estimated 44,000 vacant buildings and lots. The level of rental housing evictions is a huge contributor to this issue — Baltimore has the second highest eviction rate in the country, just behind Detroit. The worst illegal dumping areas are in Black communities and low-income communities with the highest concentration of vacant properties and evictions.

GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Creating key elements required for a just transition to zero waste in Baltimore, including a city plan centered on equity and a strong public pressure campaign to remove obstacles to eliminating zero waste
  - Building a community-led zero waste coalition capable of leading implementation efforts and holding strong to environmental, labor and community commitments
  - Implementing a composting facility in the city
    - Engaging residents, students, workers and city representatives in creating and designating land for composting infrastructure
    - Engaging local anchor institutions (universities and small businesses) to pledge their food tonnage to secure a proposal from the operator and investors of the intended composting infrastructure


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The Advancing Environmental Justice through Technical Assistance Mini-Grants Program is hosted by the National Environmental Health Partnership Council with support from CDC National Center for Environmental Health and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. In Year 3, five organizations, including Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan, are supported through $10,000 mini-grants and technical assistance.

Credit: Photo by Olivia Hodges, courtesy of Unsplash.

**MISSION**

To prioritize children’s health and well-being by eliminating harmful housing conditions, beginning in Grand Rapids’ hardest hit neighborhoods.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS**

- Lead poisoning
- Substandard housing
- Asthma
- Children’s health
- Chemical vapor
- Lack of enforcement

SUBSTANDARD HOUSING HURTS CHILDREN. The 49507 ZIP code in Grand Rapids has the most lead-poisoned children in the state of Michigan. This ZIP code contains many high-minority, low-income census tracts, making this not only an urgent children’s health issue, but an environmental injustice. Lead poisoning is higher among children with low socioeconomic status,¹ who are already at increased risk of poor health outcomes due to the chronic stress of poverty, unsafe neighborhoods and racial injustices. This community has also been exposed to toxic chemical vapor intrusion from a former dry-cleaning business that required Environmental Protection Agency intervention.²
In full partnership with parents, the programs at the Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan address harmful housing conditions that negatively impact families, especially children. At a grassroots level, the organization uses a leadership development/community organizing model to mobilize parents and community leaders in support of systemic changes that promote healthier housing for children. This group, known as Parents for Healthy Homes, advocates for expanded enforcement of the county’s housing regulation and local code ordinances for proactive rental lead inspections.

Due to the Flint water crisis and the fact that the 49507 ZIP code has the most lead-poisoned children in the state, the Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan and activist parents have been able to create a significant amount of awareness of Grand Rapids and the 49507 ZIP code as lead hot-spots both in the community and with elected officials. The organization has a direct service home visiting program which has provided case management, education and resources for more than 5,000 low-income families to eliminate harmful housing conditions in the greater Grand Rapids community since 2006. Healthy Homes Coalition of West Michigan has also been a leader in Grand Rapids to provide educational workshops on lead and other housing hazards at schools, community centers and with neighborhood associations to increase environmental health safety.

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**GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

- Expanding program services related to healthy housing to further reach Grand Rapids families and continuing to establish more community partnerships and expand representation in the community
  - Building an electronic learning module about lead hazards in the home
  - Strengthening communication efforts, including online presence and donor engagement strategies

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MISSION
To improve the quality of life within the West Atlanta Watershed by protecting, preserving and restoring the community’s natural resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CONCERNS
- Illegal dumping
- Inadequate sewage systems
- Watershed contamination
- Accessibility of greenspaces
- Lead

THE WEST ATLANTA WATERSHED ALLIANCE (WAWA) was founded in response to illegal dumping and a planned sewer project that could have proven detrimental to the health and well-being of the West Atlanta community. The sewer project would have routed sewage through a community park where children and families gathered daily. After an elected official shared the proposed project and its potential impact with the community, its members mobilized to fight against the project and other environmental injustices.

When the dumping of tires and other illegally dumped waste became a major issue, the community once again mobilized to make calls and send written correspondence to the city, state and the Environmental Protection Agency to address the issue. Initially, the City of Atlanta denied that there was a problem, but the power of data collected by the
community—photographic documentation and GPS locations of waste—compelled them to invest thousands of dollars in tire clean-up. The city also publicly acknowledged that a community investigation prompted their clean-up efforts. Georgia’s Environmental Protection Division also initiated an enforcement action against one of the entities responsible for illegally dumping the construction waste and debris along Proctor Creek in northwest Atlanta. Additionally, the community has had to fight for upgraded and adequate sewage systems and equity in green infrastructure, as well as the cleanup of lead-based paint in the soil surrounding community homes.

Many decision makers dismiss the community and make decisions without regard or respect for them, the community’s history, or the impact of their decisions with the belief that the community will neither understand nor care. Another challenge is the lack of a cohesive action plan to address environmental injustices. There are so many issues that plague the West Atlanta community that environmental justice is not often a priority. WAWA has worked closely with community members to highlight the intersectionality of the most critical issues they face daily, such as health and economic concerns, and environmental injustices. As WAWA makes these connections, offers training and education and sets conditions to empower the community to take action, more community members step into their power and changes take place.

**GRANT PROGRAM ACTIVITIES**

- Developing an organizational communications strategy through storytelling and social media
- Growing engagement with donors
- Launching a community input survey to assist with organizational improvement regarding programmatic impact and to help influence goals, objectives, and strategies for strategic planning

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