



*report of  
collective energy & capacity building with the*

# **KS 'Ewa 'Āina Network**

**2020**



# Kamehameha Schools 'Ewa Region



**Legend**

- KS 'Ewa Region
- 'Ewa Moku
- Ahupua'a

0 1 2 Kilometers  
0 1 2 Miles

POHOPAPA HAWAII  
KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Base Map: 2011 USGS Orthoimagery Aerial Photograph with Hillshade



click for  
interactive  
Google map



# 12 ORGANIZATIONS

## *Participation since 2018*

- Ulu A'e Learning Center
- 'Ewa Limu Project
- Hanakēhau Farms
- Kuhialoko
- Hui o Ho'ohonua
- Ho'ōla Hou lā Kalauao
- Kalaeloa Legacy Heritage Center

## *Participation since 2020*

- Kuhiawaho
- Camp Pālehua
- Mālama Learning Center
- Hoakalei Cultural Foundation
- E Ala Pa'aiau

*\*Invitations sent, but without confirmation*

- Moanalua Garden Foundation
- Nā Kūpuna a me nā Kāko'o o Hālawā

In 2018, with KS 'Ewa Region leadership, KUA convened seven aloha 'āina organizations. Collective solutions naturally arose throughout our conversation about workday challenges at our gathering in Kalaeloa. Solutions were:

- to bring awareness to the broader community,
- develop an organized way to approach schools & show what they have to offer,
- and how might the Hui tell a shared story.

In 2020 we latched on the to idea of *story*. Mo'olelo became our theme for the year, as in order to tell a shared story, we must first ground ourselves in mo'olelo of place, the mo'olelo of our organizations and the mo'olelo of tomorrow (our goals & visions).







# GOAL

## Partnerships

### *Working Goal Statements:*

- our programs are integrated in schools
- we foster equitable working relationships with governmental agencies & beyond

## PARTNERSHIPS

How can we do collective outreach and foster student and teacher relationships?

How do we strategically access & promote 'Ewa Moku work to DOE & beyond (UH, City, State)?

How do we make 'āina work be a part of biology classes and school budgets?

Ulu A're Learning Center is a resource for place-based mo'olelo. Let's keep looking within as well to the waiwai within this network.



# GOAL

## Financial Security

Hui expressed the need to support selves and staff, or the possibility of staff. Many hui members work other full time jobs-- how can their mālama work become their careers? They need help with grant writing but also want to diversify income through their services. This begs the question of charging for services, monetizing their value while upholding cultural integrity.

### *Working Goal Statements:*

- our staff/families can support selves
- our services are valued



FINANCIAL  
SECURITY



# GOAL

## Advocacy

### ADVOCACY

Development, encroachment, runoff, shoreline hardening, homelessness, crime site access, water access are just some of some of the context challenges hui work in. Together we have the power to influence systematic change. How do we stand together, mobilize, move policy as a network. Let's spread awareness, create a kāhea system, do things like participate in cultural surveys, call for a tax to revitalize sacred sites.

### *Working Goal Statements:*

- our voices & 'āina are heard
- we effect policy on the path to our visions of 'Ewa



# GOAL

## Synthesis

*Mālama ‘āina does not stand alone and can not be done alone. Community building around workdays and programs count for a lot, but to ensure future generations taste and touch our visions, while we better our current contexts and systems (ADVOCACY), we need to sustain ourselves (FINANCIAL SECURITY), and help others recognize ‘āina as our best resource, our best teacher, our foundations to well-being (PARTNERSHIP).*

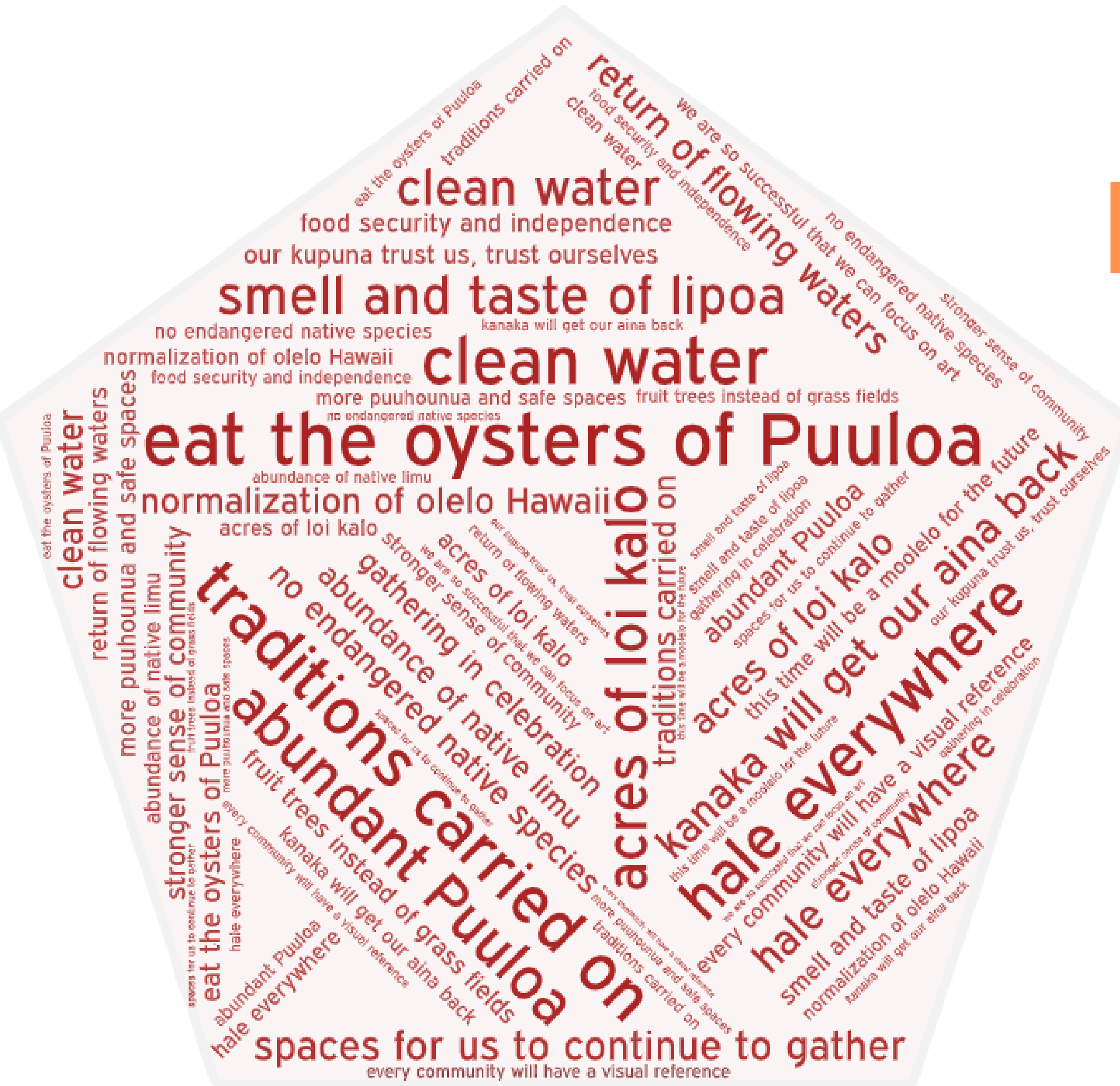


# VISION

## Story of 'Ewa

*that our great grandchildren  
will live in*

In closing of our 2/23/20 gathering, each person in the circle contributed a line to a collective story of a future for our mo'opuna. It is a story to fill the senses, the 'ōpū & na'au. It is a story of a distant future returning to a past, yet moving us forward together. Our words bring us closer to fruition. Our continuing to gather will reveal this vision.





# SECTIONS

photos by Kim Moa



*Workdays*



*Convenings*



*Network Health*



*Each member of this network actively stewards 'āina within the 'Ewa Moku and engages community in their hana*

## WORKDAYS:

*They are connected through their aloha 'āina & their extension of this care to the community through workdays.*



connect community to  
'āina as a foundation for  
learning and civic  
engagement



strengthen a sense of  
place through aloha  
'āina



help support  
community stewardship  
of natural, cultural &  
food resources



builds cultural  
stewardship practices and  
knowledge that promote  
lifelong learning



shares 'āina based  
knowledge through  
mo'olelo



# SOME WORKDAY HIGHLIGHTS

Organization Name	Workday Date	# of Participants	Brief Bullet Point Description
Kalaeloa Legacy Heritage Center	8/31/2019	16	removed invasives, cleared weeds, maintained native plantings (dryland forest restoration)
Ho'ola Hou ia Kalauao	9/6/19	26	cut & hauled mangrove (hale build)
Loko Pa'aiau	9/28/2019	92	cleared weeds, built an access path (fishpond restoration)
Kuhiawaho	1/4/20	60	cleared land, opened new patches, planted huli & natives (lo'i reconstruction)
Hui o Ho'ohonua	1/9/2020	250	removed invasive mangrove (fishpond restoration), learned mo'olelo, navigation, place names and how to practice kilo observations.
Kuhialoko	1/26/2020	50	removed invasive algae, fish & vegetation (loko restoration)
Ulu A'e Learning Center	2/14/2020	78	removed rubbish, cleared weeds, maintained plantings (wahi pana restoration)
Malama Learning Center	2/15/2020	35	native outplantings (forest restoration)
'Ewa Limu Project	2/27/2020	8	cleaned limu, scrubbed & reset growing tanks (limu restoration)
Hanakehau	2/28/2020	24	cleared weeds, planted natives, native plant propagation (restoration of surrounding lo'i site)
Camp Palehua	2/29/2020	70	kanu native plants & teach la'au lapa'au (forest restoration)
Hoakalei Cultural Foundation	3/7/2020	20	removed invasive pickleweed (wetland restoration)



Removed invasives,  
maintained native plantings  
*Kalaeloā Heritage Center*



## *‘Ewa Limu Project*

Limu education, shoreline walks,  
provides limu for limu planting or  
special events/classes, consulted  
with limu researchers



# *Ulu A'e Learning Center*



Planted natives & removed 'ōpala from Pu'u o Kapolei, taught mo'olelo





Native outplantings  
*Mālama Learning Center*

*Camp Pālehua*

Hui Pū Hapahā Service Day  
& Lā'au Lapa'au Workshop



ale O Kualaka'i





maintained shoreline, removed  
invasive mangrove & 'ōpala,  
cleared fishpond & stream  
access, propagated native plants

*Hui o Ho'ohonua*





# *Ho'ōla Hou Iā Kalanāo*



Hale build (gathered wood, built two walls)



# *Loko I'a Pa'aiau*

Invasive weed removal



*Kubialoko*  
Invasive weed, algae & fish  
removal, native  
outplantings



# Hoakalei Cultural Foundation

Clearing pickleweed at Kula Alialia to  
prepare for nesting manu





# COLLECTIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

## Our Data Mo'olelo

**2,504**

**mea kanu planted**



**6,686**

**volunteers engaged**

*data from July 2019 - May 2020 (despite COVID 19 halting community workdays since March 2020)*

# CELEBRATING EACH OTHER



**500**

native plants  
propagated

## hana highlights

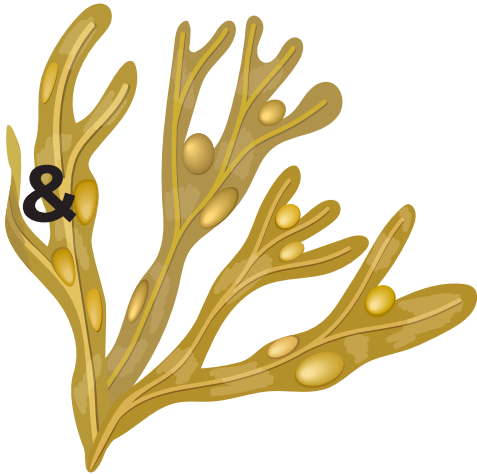


**400**

yards of shoreline  
maintained

**50**

lbs. limu grown &  
distributed



**12,450+**

pounds of invasive species  
removed

**10**

bags of 'ōpala  
removed

**4**

roll away dumpsters  
of 'ōpala removed



**4**

acres cleared of  
invasives

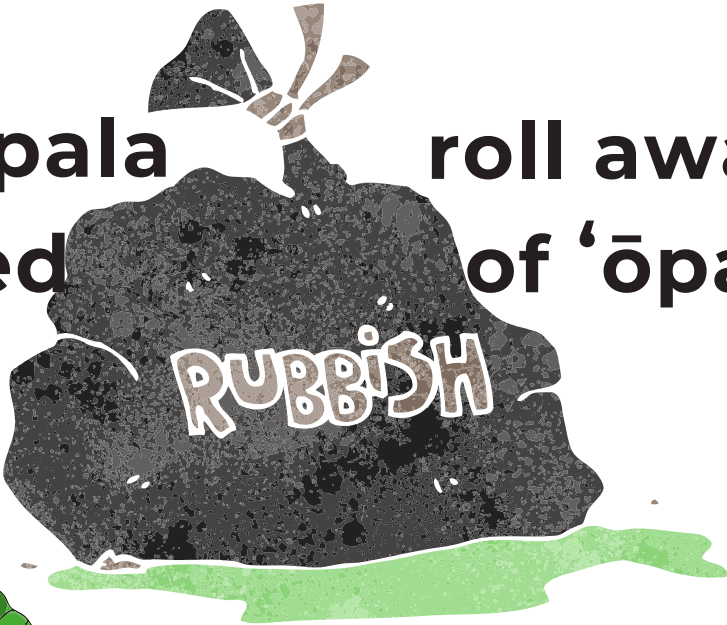


**500**

lbs. of kalo kalo  
harvested

**8**

new lo'i patches  
reconstructed



**1,000**

sq. ft. of hugelkultur built



**400**

portions of  
local mea'ai  
fed to  
volunteers



**0**

incidence of  
dehydration



*In 2020 seven new organizations were invited to join this growing network. Five orgs joined and two did not respond or confirm. With this nearly doubling in growth, we revisited the 2018 conversation and assessed collective energy.*

*The week our second gathering of 2020 was scheduled, the first case of COVID19 hit Hawai'i along with the announcement that Coronavirus was now a global pandemic.*

*Community workdays, the common thread of all the hui came to a halting stop.*

*We feel that for real relationship and network building, the value of alo i ke alo, gathering face to face is essential, We shifted gears and as we transitioned to Zoom and the "virtual meeting" realm we did our best to respond to some of the needs we heard around building capacity that would hopefully extend some ease to workday challenges. Capacity determines the "hiki nō" factor for resources like: supplies, tools/equipment, staff, knowledge, volunteers, partnerships, storytelling. Connection, relationship, support and collaboration impact capacity and can take place during collective capacity building.*



# CONVENINGS

7 opportunities, 11 hours total

*physical gathering*

"Ka Laulā o 'Ewa"  
@ UHWO Nāulu  
Center

(5 hours)

click for  
links to  
recordings

*check-in*

COVID19  
conference call

*mini virtual workshops*

- 1) Raising Resources & Grant Hacks
- 2) Kilo & Evaluation Storytelling
- 3) Mo'olelo & Partnerships
- 4) Collective Goals
- 5) Ko'ihonua: A process for honoring your 'āina origins

(1 hour each)

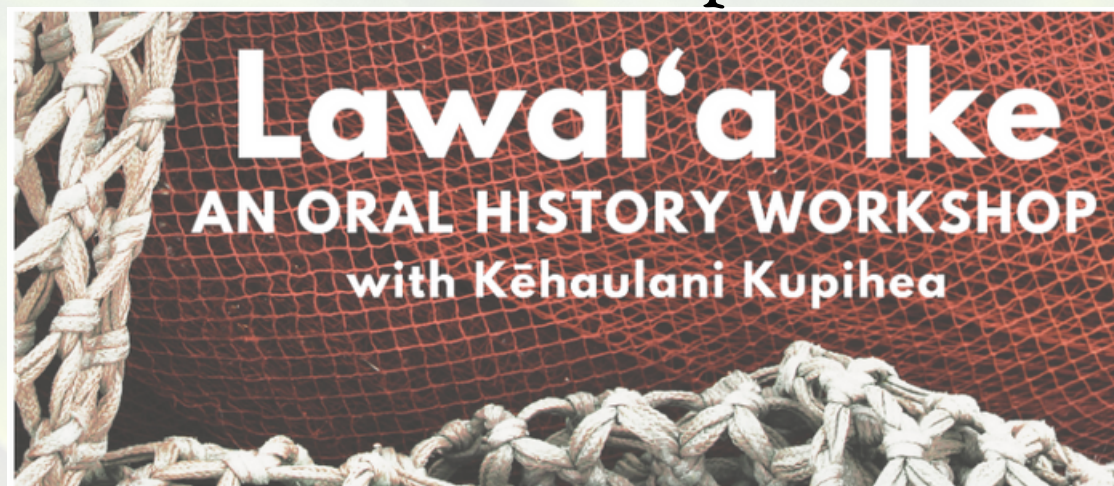


## KUA also extended invitations:

*Oral history workshop with  
Kēhaulani Kupihea*

*Cultural Resource Management  
Training Series with Nohopapa &  
Huliauapa'a*

*Hō'ike Honua series with KUA  
network members partnering with  
Mauiakama 'ōlelo Hawai'i program*



### ***Mo'olelo is our ancestral medicine that transcends through space and time***

This workshop was born out of conversations with members of the Limu Hui and KUA staff as we sought ways to strengthen pilina with 'ohana, each other and our storied people and places during a time when we are being asked to shelter in place with loved ones. We hope this conversation and others like it will inspire generations of mākuā, 'ōpio, and keiki to celebrate the ancestral abundance in their own 'ohana.

During our time with Kēhaulani, we will learn about some of the techniques she has developed in interviewing kupuna, including how to prepare and gather research materials to help guide conversations, and how to really listen and engage with family members as we collect these mo'olelo.

**Friday, April 24 • 10:30-11:30 am**

[Click here to RSVP](#)

and request the recording & materials from this workshop!

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/95781212481>

Or join by phone (669)-900-6833

Meeting ID: 957 8121 2481



If you have any questions please email [kim@kuahawaii.org](mailto:kim@kuahawaii.org) or your network coordinator. Mahalo, e nā kupuna!

## **He Huewai Ukuhi 'Ike: A Gourd for Gathering and Distributing Knowledge**

In partnership with Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo

**May 20th  
Ethnohistoric Research**

**May 27th  
Historical Maps**

**June 3rd  
Mahele Research**

**June 10th  
Community Ethnography**



### **i Moloka'i ana kākou me 'Anake Vani**

This series is a collaboration between KUA and UH system 'ōlelo Hawai'i classes. Every summer, Mauiakama takes 3rd and 4th year 'ōlelo Hawai'i students to immerse in the language and huli ka lima i lalo with kupa o ka 'āina. This year, as COVID-19 has written itself into our mo'olelo, and affects our ability to be physically with each other, students and community will ho'olauna virtually to ho'okama'āina with wahi pana, develop pilina and more importantly develop ways to ho'ho'i some aloha to our places even as we #stayhome.

We will holoholo with Auntie Vani mā to talk everything limu. Growing, eating, and techniques to mālama! Come prepared to laugh! Above picture is from the [Limu Hui's](#) 2015 Gathering in Moloka'i.

Check out [#Limustories](#), a social media campaign to increase awareness and overall love of any limu related stories, if you have some to share, use the hashtag to tie into the collection!

To get into the spirit we encourage folks to wear pāpale or pale lā (sun blockers). Moloka'i gets hot too, so e inu wai kekahi!



Ke 'olu'olu e ho'opihapiha i ke ana mana'o  
Please fill out the RSVP  
We want to keep the Zoom safe.  
A link will be sent to those who fill it out.

**Pō'aluā: 26 Mei 2020  
10- noon**

[Click here to RSVP](#)



If you have any nīnau, email [niegel@kuahawaii.org](mailto:niegel@kuahawaii.org) or your network coordinator



Supported by the No'eau Grant with the purpose to further Hawaiian language use in the homes. Mahalo nui Kumu Kapā, Kumu Kāhele, Kumu Kaleikoa, a me Kumu Alii Photos credit to Kim Moa (top and limu) and Sarah Yamanaka (left).



# Ka Laulā o 'Ewa



*the breadth of 'Ewa*

## COME SHARE IN A DAY OF MO'OLELO

LEARN & EXCHANGE IN STORIES SPANNING 'EWA AND TIME,  
LUNCH & LAUNA WITH FELLOW 'ĀLOHA 'ĀINA

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2020**

**10:30AM-3:30PM**

**NĀULU CENTER, UHWO**

*We'll be in the home of the "Ke Ala Hele 'Uholā o Honouliuli"  
mural; with mahalo to Kupihea & Kēhaulani Kupihea*

E HO'OLAULĀ KĀKOU I KA MANA'O

## Working Agenda

### Ka Laulā o 'Ewa

**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2020**

**NĀULU CENTER, UHWO**

**10:30a**

Launa, introductions: *share something joyful at your place this week*

**11:15a**

Kupihea & Kēhaulani share mo'olelo of "*Ke Ala Hele Uholā o Honouliuli*"

**12:30p**

**LUNCH**

**1:00p**

Continued talk story, questions & exchange with Kēhaulani & Kupihea

**2:00p**

Circle back to collective achievements since 2018 & collaborative ideas

Schedule next gathering dates

Close in mo'olelo activity

**3:30p**

**a hui hou! take leftovers if get!**



# 2/23/20 Attendees



Nāulu Learning Center (host): Tiana Henderson | Special guests: Kupihea & Kā'ei Kupihea  
Camp Pālehua: Kawika & Paoakalani Shook | Mālama Learning Center: Pauline Sato, Hannah Azovz  
Hoakalei Cultural Foundation: Ku'uwainani Eaton, Kau'ionālani Serrao | 'Ewa Limu Project: Wally Ito, Pam & Dennis Fujii | Hanakēhau Farms: Camille Kalama, Kalehuakea Kelling, Kyler Nakashima, Rick Asunsion, Macie Tawata | Hui o Ho'ohonua: Sandy Ward, Anuschka Faucci | Kalaeloa Legacy Heritage Center: Dwight Victor | Kuhiawaho: Samantha Ka'ōpua-Fitzgerald, La'akea Ai | Ulu A'e Learning Center: Kamaka Cardines | Kuhialoko: Ali'i Miner, Dasha Luana Kawakami, Kaleimano, Ka'aeamoku, Kalei Paty-Miner, Iokepa Paty-Miner, Harley Broyles | Kamehameha Schools: Nālani Kealaiki, Ileana Ruelas, Rocehelle O'Day, Māhealani Matsuzaki | KUA & 'ohana (kāko'o): Miwa Tamanaha, Kamuela Enos, Nakili & Noa Enos-Tamanaha, Niegel & Aukahi Rozet, Kevin Chang and Alex Connelly



*"When our food bases are covered, only then can art thrive"*

KUPIHEA

### MO'OLELO & 'ĀINA

Mo'olelo provide us the keys to mālama 'āina. Names and historical events inform us of best management practices and cue us in to reciprocal relationships, how to listen, respond and receive.

### MO'OLELO & RELATIONSHIP

Mo'olelo leads us to deep understanding & insight. Mo'olelo is the continuity between generations. Our mo'olelo of today are succession tools and lay the foundations of our caretakers of tomorrow.

### MO'OLELO TOOLS

As Kupihea showed us, art can be in incredible tool to share mo'olelo. Art is a reflection of 'āina as it is dependent on the abundance of our land/sea and health of the people. The impact we create through workdays is also a storytelling tool.



'Ohana Kupihea (Kēhaulani & Kupihea) were asked to lead our mo'olelo session. Kēhaulani because she researched for the 'Ewa 'Āina Inventory that was foundational to this network, along with her husband, artist Kupihea who painted the Ke Ala Hele 'Uholā mural that resides at UHWO Nāulu Center. Unfortunately Kēhau was sick this day but we were lucky to learn from Kupihea.



# Shared Challenges : Shared Solutions

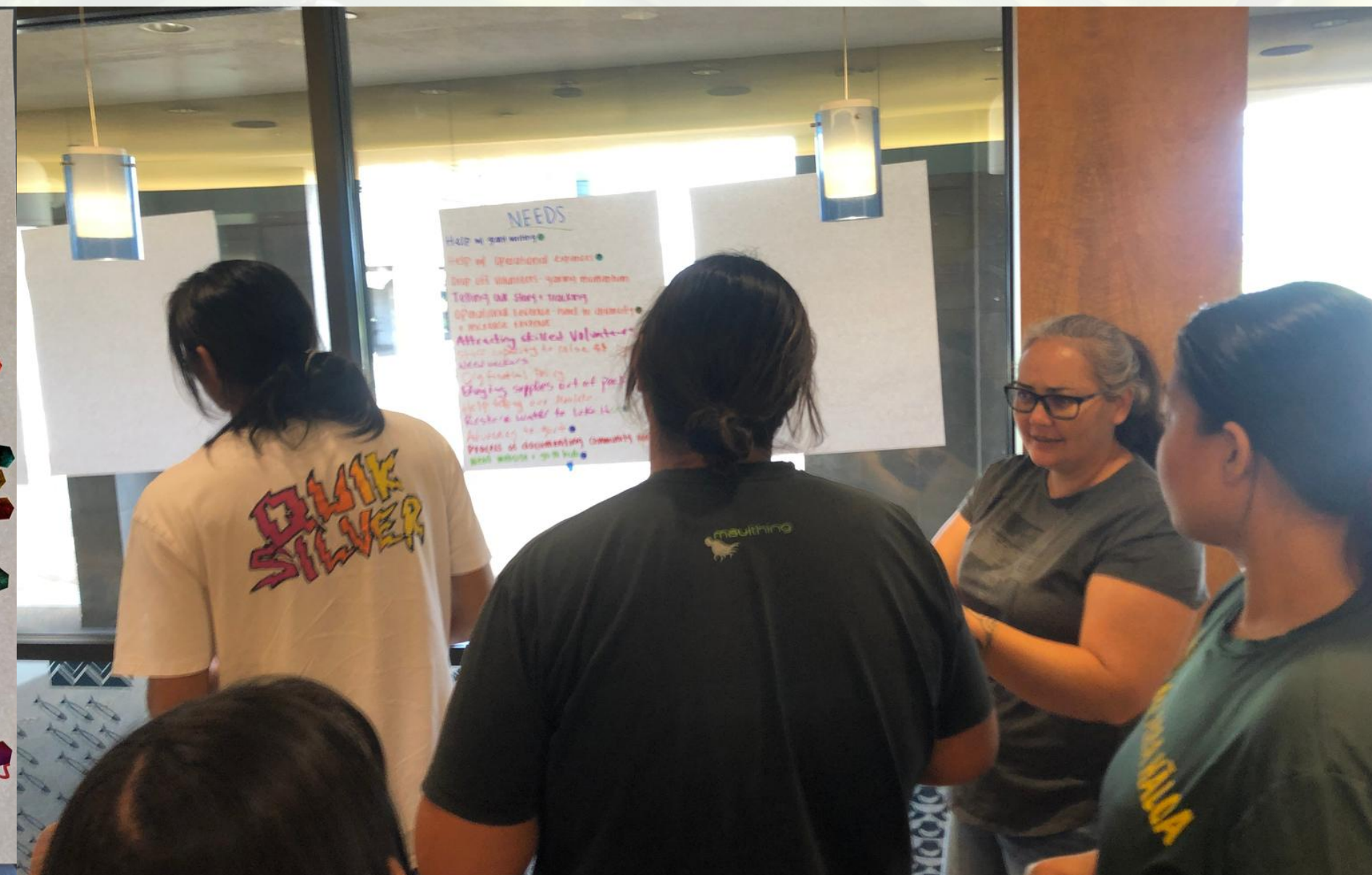
Hui members added to the lists from 2018 then "dot voted", placing stickers near the item(s) that was most relevant to them and/or that they wanted to work on together.

**CONTEXT:**

- \*Problems attracting folks
- Expectation to be self sustaining
- Had to learn over years of doing this work
- Being on own
- Having to take off of job
- Lack of access to site
- Political issues
- No security + safe storage
- Serious crime + drug activity
- Homelessness
- City not doing its job
- Idea of weekend stewards vs farmers who live on the farm
- Doc does not have a community outreach person

**NEEDS:**

- Help w/ grant writing
- Help w/ Operational expenses
- Drop off volunteers- gaining momentum
- Telling our story + Tracking
- Operational revenue - need to diversify + increase revenue
- Attracting skilled Volunteers
- Staff capacity to raise \$\$\$, support weed wackers
- Org financial Policy
- Buying supplies out of pocket
- Help telling our Moolalo.
- Restore water to Loko iā
- Advocacy to gov+
- Process of documenting community workdays
- Need website + go-to hub





## Focus Areas

How does hui work together strategically to access & promote 'Ewa Moku work to DOE and beyond (UH, City, State)?	10
Succession Plan- passing on to next generation	7
How do we charge for services? How do we monetize the value of our service while upholding cultural identity?	6
Help with grant writing	6
Staff capacity to raise \$\$, support selves	6
No security or safe storage	5
Make 'āina work be a part of biology classes + school budget	5
Ulu A'e as a resource for place based mo'olelo	5

This energy check helped to assess ripeness and priorities, focus areas that folks want to work on and address together. Of the 53 issues and questions listed, these were the top eight (all the items that received 5 or more stickers. The theme of partnerships is highlighted in blue, while the green indicates a common theme of financial security.



# Raising Resources & Grants Hacks

4/21/20, 9 member attendees

*In this mini workshop/talk story session, everyone shared a grant they applied for or a related story. Miwa shared fresh perspectives and mindsets for grant writing and raising resources—things she wish she knew when she first started out. She reminded folks to have compassion for themselves, the need for champions in the philanthropy world, the reality of competing for funding but how can we be bold and creative and work together. Her budgeting metaphor is a potluck—start with a mindset of abundance, it is a story of the meal you want to share! Have your core language written out and copy/paste is your friend! Miwa also talked about grantwriting as a discipline with principles of preparation, pule, persistence and more. Folks on the call expressed enthusiasm to potentially apply for grants together.*

## **Facilitator:**

As previous Executive Director of Kāhea Environmental Alliance and Co-founder/Co-Director of KUA, Miwa has raised millions of dollars for communities throughout Hawai'i and likely matched it in kind with her many gifts of process design, facilitation, strategizing, team building, planning and more. Miwa is a trained economist and has shaped environmental policy around the world from Tanzania, Mexico, California and continues to do here at home in Hawai'i nei.

## 1. How likely are you to use what you heard in this session?

Very likely (8) 80%

Somewhat likely (2) 20%

Not Sure (0) 0%

Not very likely (0) 0%

Very Unlikely (0) 0%



# Kilo & Evaluation Storytelling

4/29/20, 5 member attendees

*As part of our intros, everyone shared how they used evaluation. Off the bat Debbie told folks to not downplay their methodologies— even talk story is a legitimate form of evaluation, no less rigorous or no less valid. She encouraged the engagement of participants in the evaluations. Instead of trying to measure everything you do, center in on the one thing that tells your story. Start with your questions...*

## **Facilitator:**

Debbie is vice-president of Groundswell Services, Inc., dedicated to strengthening equity-building movements. She provides consultation in evaluation and community-based research, specializing in network facilitation and evaluation. Debbie received her M.S. in International Economic Development from Eastern University in 2002 and is currently working toward her Ph.D. in Research Methods and Statistics at the University of Denver. She has more than a decade of experience as an evaluation practitioner, specializing in culturally responsive, participatory evaluation methods as well as evaluation of collaborative networks. Prior to returning to academia, she spent almost two decades working with multicultural community groups on three continents to pursue environmental, economic, and educational goals.

## **KILO**

Systematic, honest observation, forecast, examine, watch closely, spy, observe regularly, giving ourselves data we need - enables us to be innovative, try new strategies, and be secure in what we're doing.

## **EVALUATION**

Type of Research to determine if something's working, and helps make improvements. Quality and how things can be improved.

## **SHARED EVALUATION**

Does the hui want to share similar questions, and gather/share some of that info/data with each other tighten individual program project? What questions fit, and are appropriate for the community?



# Evaluation Polls

## Poll 1: Pre-Poll

[Edit](#)

Poll closed

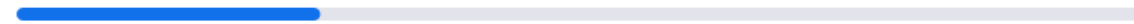
11 voted

**1. How enthusiastic are you about integrating evaluation in your hui?**

Not at all (0) 0%



Small kine (3) 27%



Not sure (0) 0%



Kinda enthusiastic (2) 18%



Very enthusiastic (6) 55%



## Poll 2: Post-Poll

[Edit](#)

Poll closed

11 voted

**1. How enthusiastic are you about integrating evaluation in your hui**

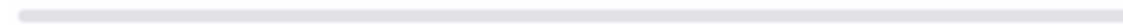
Not at all (0) 0%



Small kine (0) 0%



Not sure (0) 0%



Kinda enthusiastic (3) 27%



Very enthusiastic (8) 73%

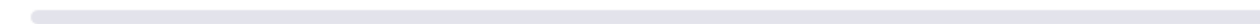


**2. How likely are you to use something you heard today?**

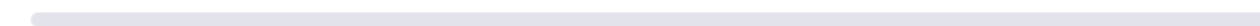
Very likely (11) 100%



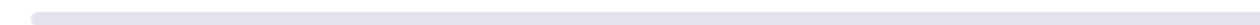
Somewhat likely (0) 0%



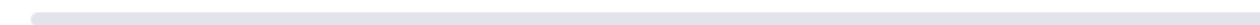
Not sure (0) 0%



Not very likely (0) 0%



Not at all (0) 0%





# Mo'olelo & Partnerships

5/6/20, 4 member attendees

Ulu A'e as mo'olelo resource came up in our network focus areas from our 2/23 gathering as did partnerships, and we know that Ulu A'e is partnership hub, especially with the DOE. We asked Miki'ala to share a little of both topics from her experience. Attendees also went around and share a partnership that they would like to cultivate.

**who to contact in the schools: School Administrative Services Assistant (SASA) & Parent Community Network Coordinator (PCNC)**

*"Pana = heart beat, pulse, throb, beat in music. If we work the land - and we don't tell stories of place - then we are missing the pana/the pulses. There is a pana to each site. Do our keiki feel that pana? What are we doing to help them feel that pana - so that they understand. If we as a hui - do certain things they will catch it (rituals, reinforcing, we can have across sites)- if we always greet them with 'ōlelo no'eau, kilo, habit, ask them about moon, they will know the importance."*

## **Facilitator:**

Miki'ala M. Lidstone is the chief staff person of Ulu A'e. Her experiences as a high school teacher and as a kumu hula in the rapidly growing community of Kapolei have lead her to develop programs and curriculum that help participants develop a sense of place and belonging. She believes strongly in place-based education and believes that all keiki and youth should have endless opportunities to grow their relationship to 'āina. Miki'ala also spearheads efforts to steward and bring awareness to Pu'uokapolei.



# Collective Goals

5/14/20, 6 member attendees

*This topic would have been the core of our second in person gathering is COVID 19 did not prevent us from having a face to face meeting. With the shift and pause of COVID, we decided to pause too and ask folks what they thought of the hui and if they would even want to move forward as a network...can we call ourselves a network? Folks affirmed the value and permission to move forward as a network. Naming the network as a good next step as everyone felt unsure as to how to refer to the group. We also opened a space for everyone to share a goal they had for the network. This conversation built from our 2/23 gathering to include Advocacy, as this topic rose to the top.*



# Ko'ihonua 5/26/20

5/14/20, 5 member attendees

*With Kumu Kekuhi's permission, alaka'i from Hālau 'Ōhi'a, shared with us their their beginning processes for creating a group ko'ihonua to honor 'āina origins and offer reciprocity to place. During the workshop a list of placenames and mana'o was generated. This workshop will hopefully give us even more opportunity to speak & amplify place names through a collective oli.*

*The intention was to learn together (also a space for folks to extend their 'ike), practice a process and begin create something meaningful together that we can actively use. Facilitators agreed to help us move on when we're ready, however it would be a community led process. This was a follow-up to*

*the "Ka Laulā o 'Ewa mo'olelo gathering where we passed out the templates for a Ko'ihonua.*  
**Facilitators:**

Aimee Sato is from Wailua, Kaua'i and now calls Kahalu'u, O'ahu, her home. She just completed her MS degree in Botany at UH Mānoa with a focus on biocultural restoration of dry forests in Hawai'i. She has been a haumāna of Hālau 'Ōhi'a a stewardship training program since 2016, and her role from 2018 has been to kāko'o (support, assist, and to uphold) Hālau 'Ōhi'a.

Natalie Kurashima was born and raised in Waipi'o, 'Ewa, O'ahu and currently reside in Haleki'i, South Kona on Hawai'i Island. She is the Integrated Resources Manager at Kamehameha Schools, with a kuleana to support community-based stewardship of natural and cultural resources across the pae 'āina of Hawai'i. She works with various communities on projects in traditional agriculture, marine management, cultural site restoration, 'āina-based research, and forest stewardship. She has been a haumāna of Hālau 'Ōhi'a a stewardship training program since 2016.



# Summary of key learnings

- fresh perspectives in grant writing
- affirmation & ideas for evaluating programs & services
- place names and encouragement to integrate even more
- mo'olelo of Pu'u o Kapolei
- mo'olelo of Honouliuli
- connecting art as a tool for mo'olelo, art as an indicator of thriving food bases
- who to contact in the DOE for best way to partner
- tips for helping to instill habits & memory within the keiki
- starting a process for creating a mele/oli Ko'ihonua
- permission to call ourselves a network and move forward in this direction
- Zoom as a good tool to keep up momentum
- Direction and ideas to move forward



# Convening Reflection

We found that Zoom convenings are way to maintain momentum and more frequent connectivity within the network. We recognize "Zoom fatigue" however and limit each virtual session to 1 hour. A single hour was a difficult limitation to cover topics but we hope that weaving them together as a series can help to absorb information in bite sized snippets that build from each other. Much of the value of the mini virtual workshops was in the introduction prompts & learning how each person approached the topic.

A huge void was missing our mahi'ai in the Zoom rooms. We shaped the series around needs and did our best to begin to address what we heard. We wanted to provide some continuity and resource during the COVID quarantine. All workshops were completely optional. We do not know if it was a topic issue, timing issue, opportunity cost, or access issue. Likely they were in the field however it would be good of us to follow-up via phone calls and find ways we can connect during COVID circumstances and beyond. Completely understandable and no judgement but presence was missed.

*mini virtual workshop recordings were sent to the entire e-mail list*



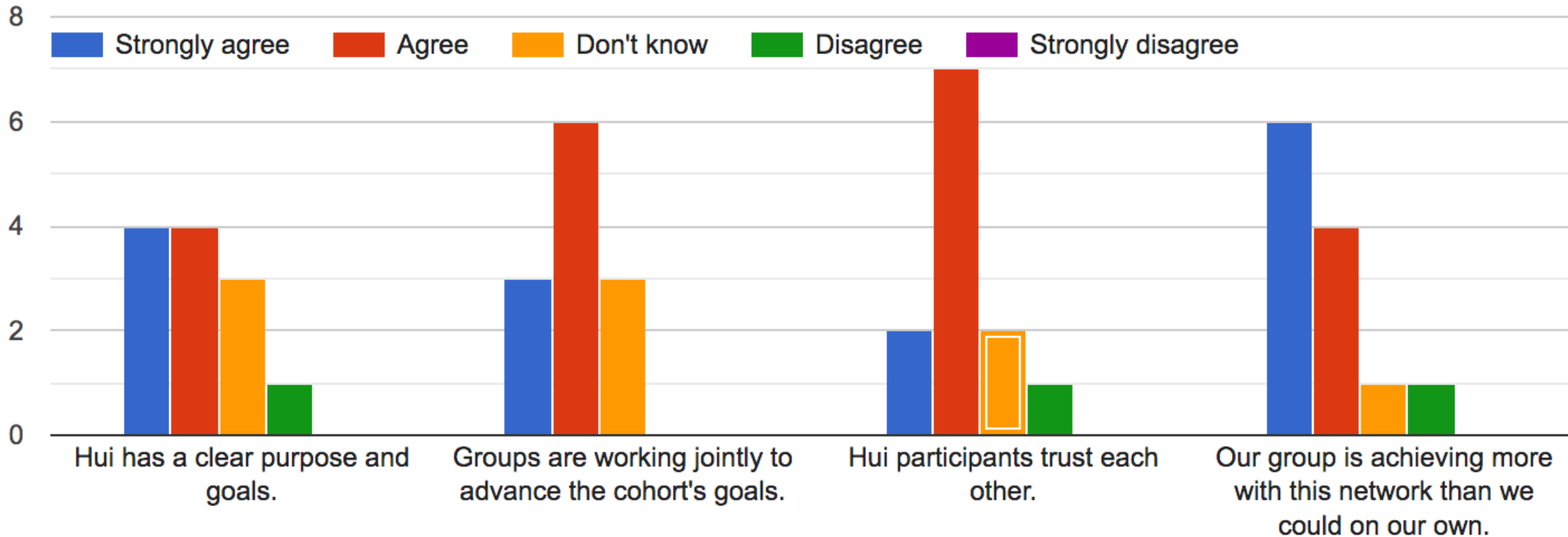
*This next section show the results of the pilina section of a survey sent out in mid-May. It collects a set of Network Health measures that KUA uses annually with all of the networks we house along with a Social Network Analysis. The value of the data grows with time. This year's results makes it a baseline and will be used to measure network maturity in years to come. These are all conversation pieces and opportunities for group meaning-making.*

*Our relationships are immeasurable however these are social science & evaluative tools that will help us as to understand where we are so we can meet people where they are at and learn in what areas we should focus are energies.*



# Network Health Baseline (NHB)

NHB graph 1/3





## discussion: graph 1/3

Hui has a clear purpose: 67% of participants are in agreement; 25% doesn't know and 8% disagrees

Up to this point we have been building up to this--our goals have only been described thematically over two conversations and e-mail. People might sense this intuitively, as aloha 'āina is the driver.

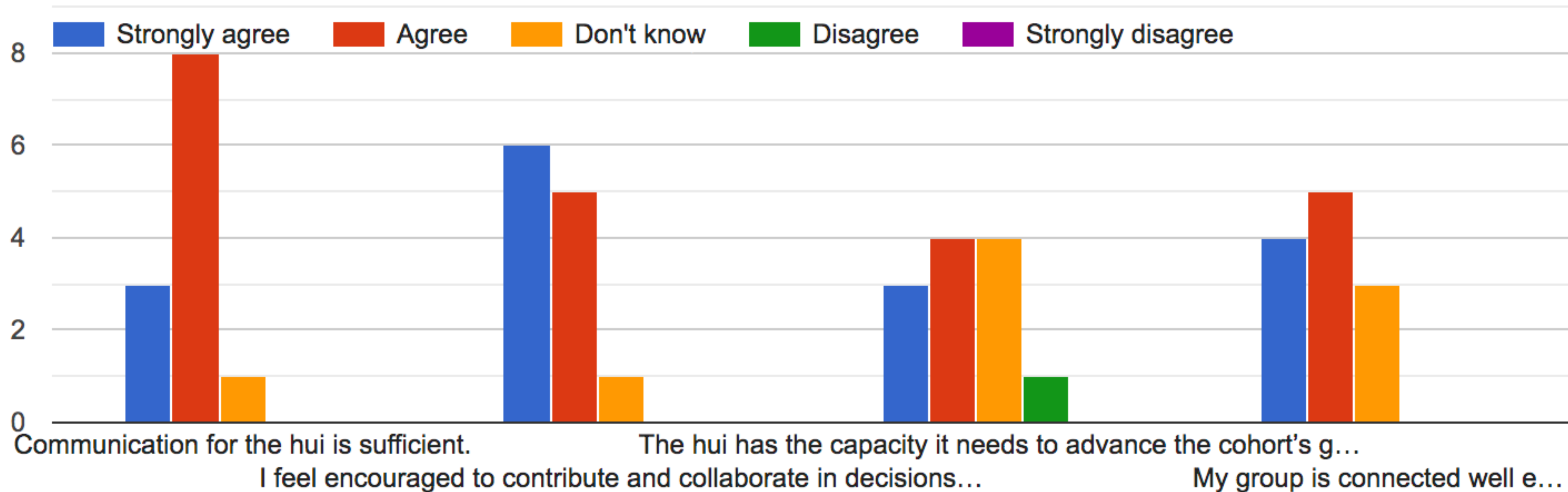
Groups are working jointly to advance the cohort [network's] goals: 75% of participants are in agreement; 25% don't know.

Hui participants trust each other: 75% of participants are in general agreement. 17% said they do not know; 8% said they disagree. Trust is a very personal subject, that is as delicate as it is prized. We have to be open to dynamics and disagreement that will undoubtedly occur but intentionally & genuinely nurture the trust that we can work through anything together in time.

Our group is achieving more with this network than we could on our own: 83% of participants are in agreement; 8% doesn't know and 8% is in disagreement.. This is positive affirmation of the power of a network, that being connected strengthened each of us & positively impacts our individual hana.



## NHB graph 2/3





## discussion: graph 2/3

Communication for the hui is sufficient: 92% of participants are in agreement with the strong majority in general agreement (67%) and 25% in strong agreement. 8% is in disagreement.

I feel encouraged to contribute and collaborate in decisions: 92% of participants are in agreement. It is nearly split down the middle of 50% in strong agreement and 42% in general agreement. 8% is in disagreement.

The hui has the capacity it needs to advance the cohort's [network's] goals:

Of all the questions, this one generated the most "don't know" at 33% which is close to other statements around goals. 58% were in agreement while 8% was in disagreement.

My group is connected well enough to other groups that we can reach out to them for help in between gatherings: 75% of participants were in agreement while 25% said they did not know.



## discussion: graphs 1&2

The network health baseline graphs tell us to holomua while providing guidance in areas we should focus our energies. It affirms that this network is valuable. It acknowledges that we are infant stages and have plenty room to grow together. An initial insight into how we can grow together and shift from "disagreement", "not knowing" and "general agreement" into "strong agreement" is:

### COMMUNICATION

Although participants agreed that communication was sufficient, reciprocal communication can help to provide clarity in other areas with a little more uncertainty. Now that we received affirmations to becoming a network, we have permission to move forward with goals. Before this it would have felt premature or that we may be pushing too hard top-down but perhaps this is our assumption and others prefers goals upfront. Also, we can directly ask about what kind of capacity members feel is needed for a vibrant network and how we can assist in comfort levels for seamless communication between members. A contact list will be sent out to encourage intra-communication.

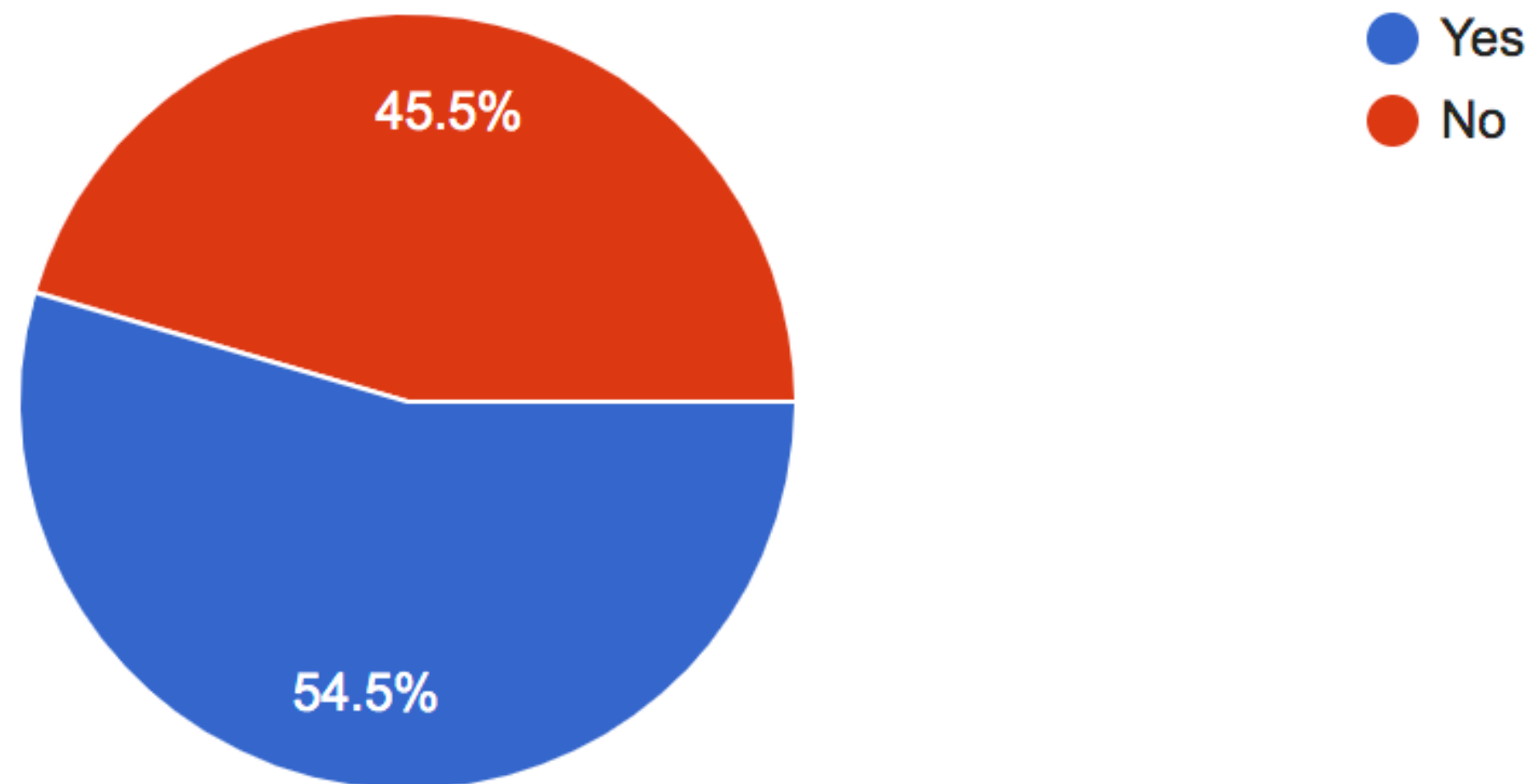


# Network Health Baseline

## NHB graph 3/3

Are you or your group using any new or improved tools, best practices, and/or strategies; new solutions to challenges; or made changes to policy, programs, processes, or activities that you attribute directly to your connection to this 'Ewa Network?

11 responses





## discussion: graph 3/3

Outside of connections, this pie chart hits on touches on effectiveness of the network. 54.5% of participants said they are *using new or improved tools, best practices and/or strategies; new solutions to challenges; or made changes to policy, programs, processes, or activities that they attribute directly to your connection to this 'Ewa network*. The other 45.5% said "No".

This split is not surprising as the questions ask for big shifts in an organization VS simply learning something new. The core focus of these early network years *is connection*. Connecting via opportunities to build capacity and grow together is a strategy, however attributing change comes with time. Also, we aren't necessarily trying to change any orgs practices or internal policies, however, connectivity helps us mobilize when a policy opportunity for example is ripe..

**"Excited to be connected to other hui in the Ewa moku. Prior to this - I was trying to figure out how to get connected. This opportunity brought all of us together. Mahalo!"**

**"We have incorporated more 'Ewa mo'olelo into our daily routines and student groups."**

**"Kilo tracking, Mo'olelo (story telling), Native out-planting practices, Activity facilitation"**

**"Money helped buy pipes for 'auwai and makawai that never had before. Would normally use stones but the crayfish dig and mess with water levels. Pipes helped to make lo'i work more efficient and reliable."**

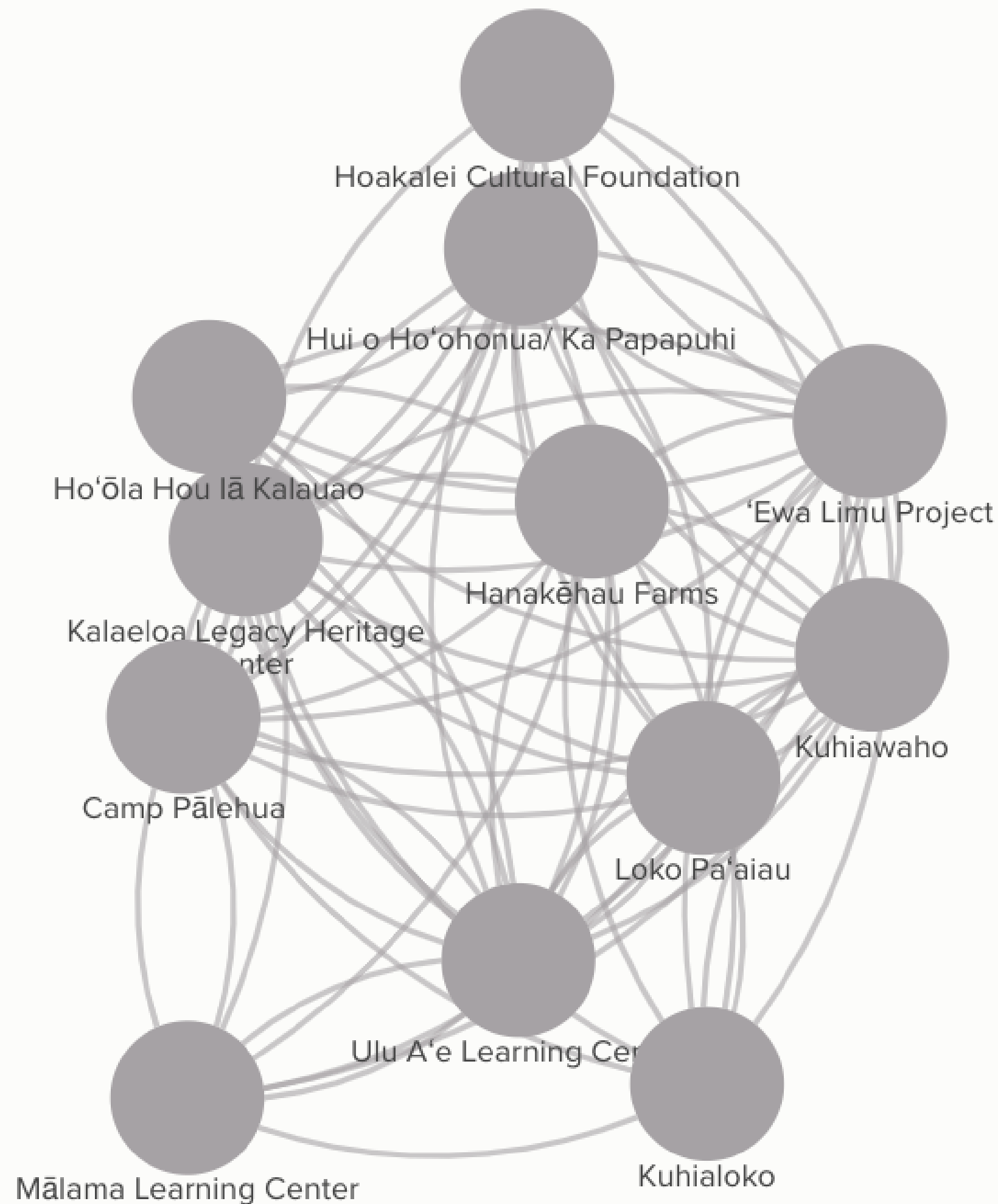


# Social Network Analysis (SNA)

*The following Network Health section covers a Social Network Analysis baseline for 'Ewa. Most of our network hana and relationships follows our na' au, our intuition and feelings. This is what makes pilina so unique and special. However, if our core work is building connection, how do we measure the intangible? How do we know the impact and evaluate our work? Supplemental to the stories, SNAs are a quantitative tool to display snapshots and change over time.*

*Within the mid-May survey, a checklist grid was presented with each network group listed and 5 indications of connectedness. Participants were asked to select all that applied. The information was then entered into the Kumu SNA program to create a map for each of the 5 indicators as well as an overall/combined map.*





*My group knew this group prior to this network*

This map is the most basic measure of connectivity. This indicates new connections that can be attributed to intentional gathering. Here we see Hanakēhau as a hub..

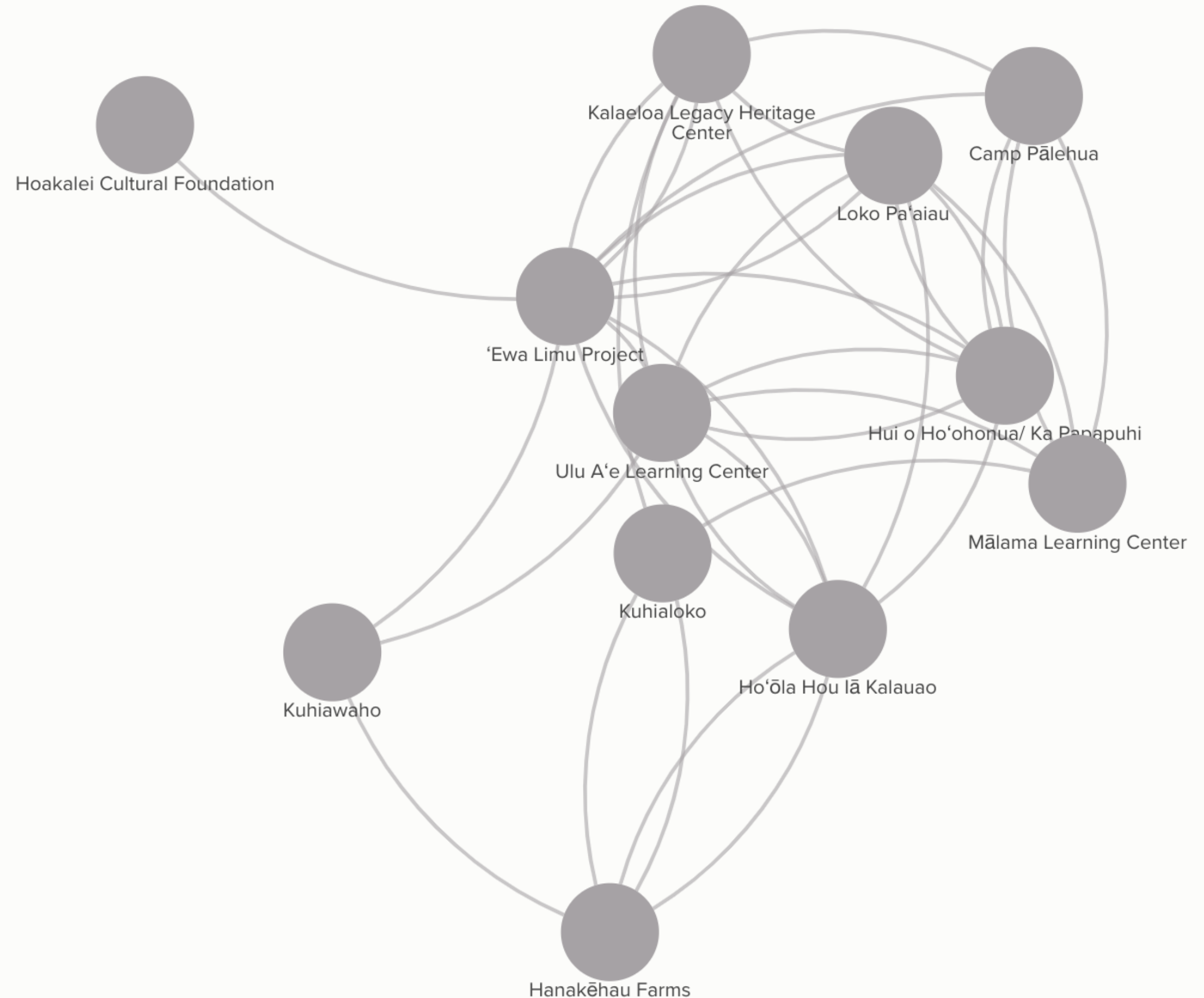
SNA map  
1/6



*My group has visited this group's restoration site prior to this network.*

Visiting each others workdays or coordinating workdays with each other is a natural step to learn more about each other through these kīpuka of 'Ewa. This map shows a great opportunity for everyone to visit Hoakalei's site for the first time, however for Kula Alialia visits have to be planned around the bird nesting seasons.

SNA map  
2/6

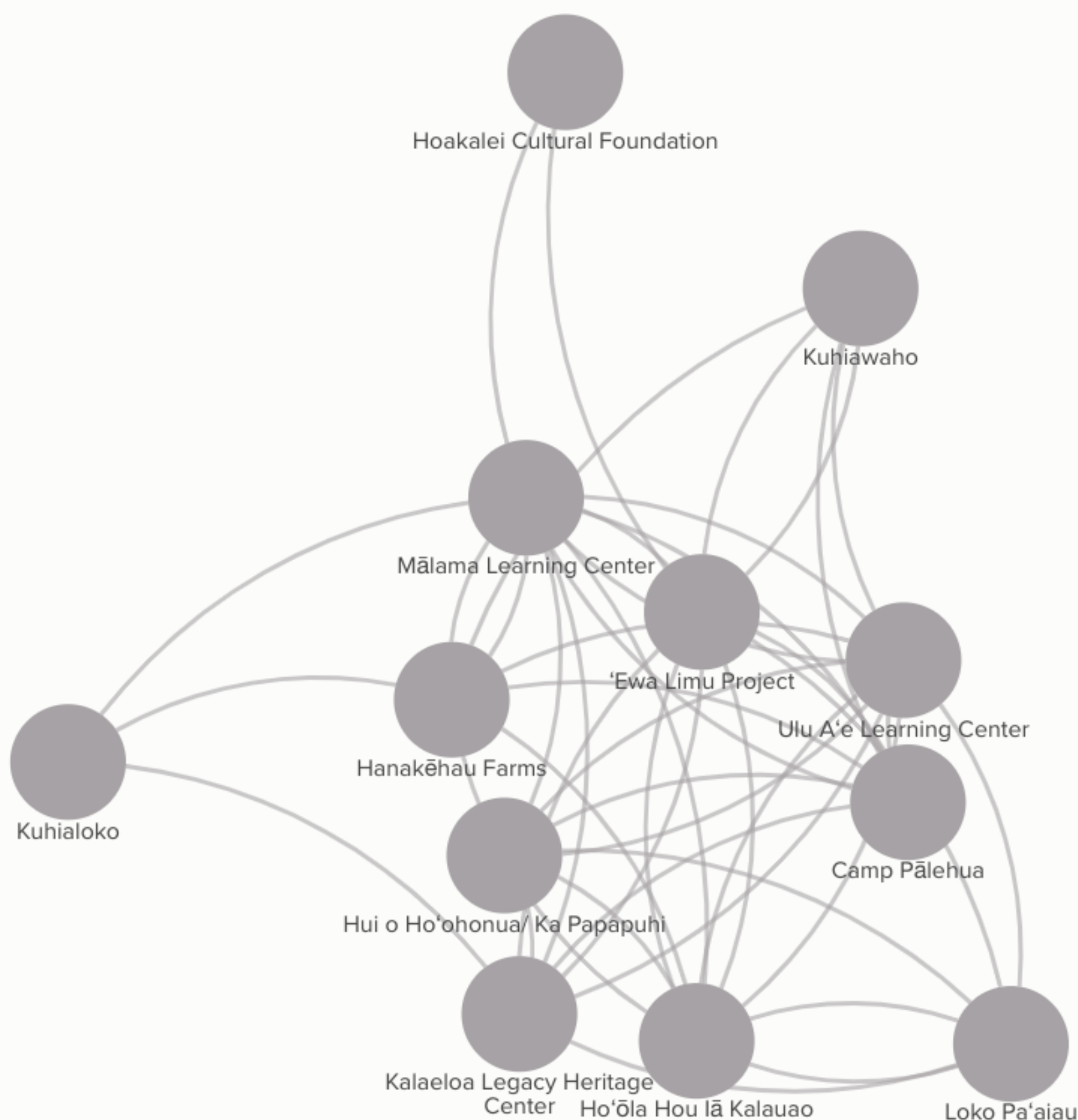




*My group has worked on a project with this group prior to this network...*

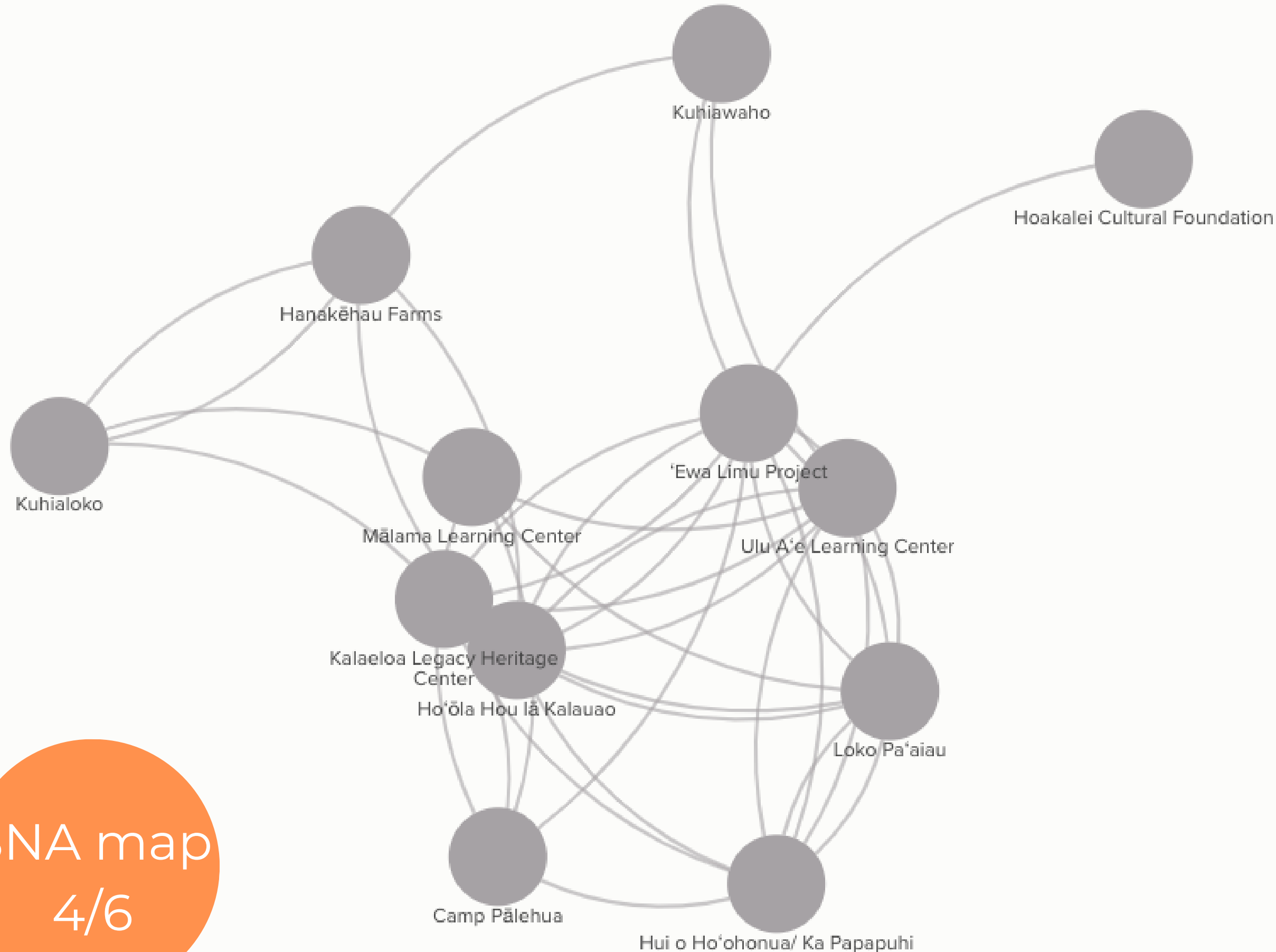
Everyone in the network is connected to others who have worked with each other. How can we facilitate closing triangles & cultivate a collaborative flow? A kāhea system has been brought up for folks to feel free to ask for help and others to support when and if they can.

SNA map  
3/6





*People from this group and my group share information...*

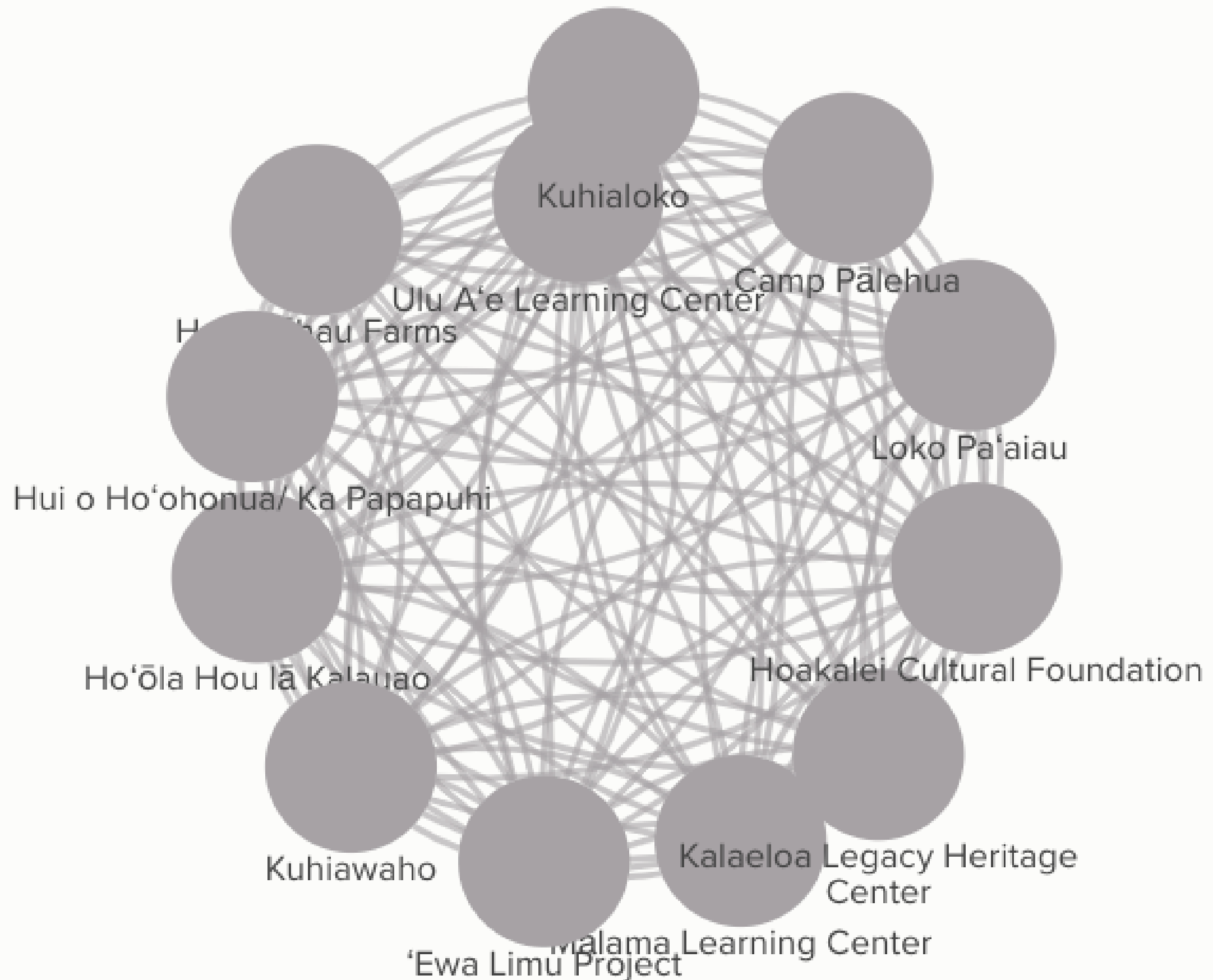


Of the connection points, this was the most sparsely populated map although it closely resembles the map depicting site visits. Perhaps visiting one's site is connected to the flow of information?



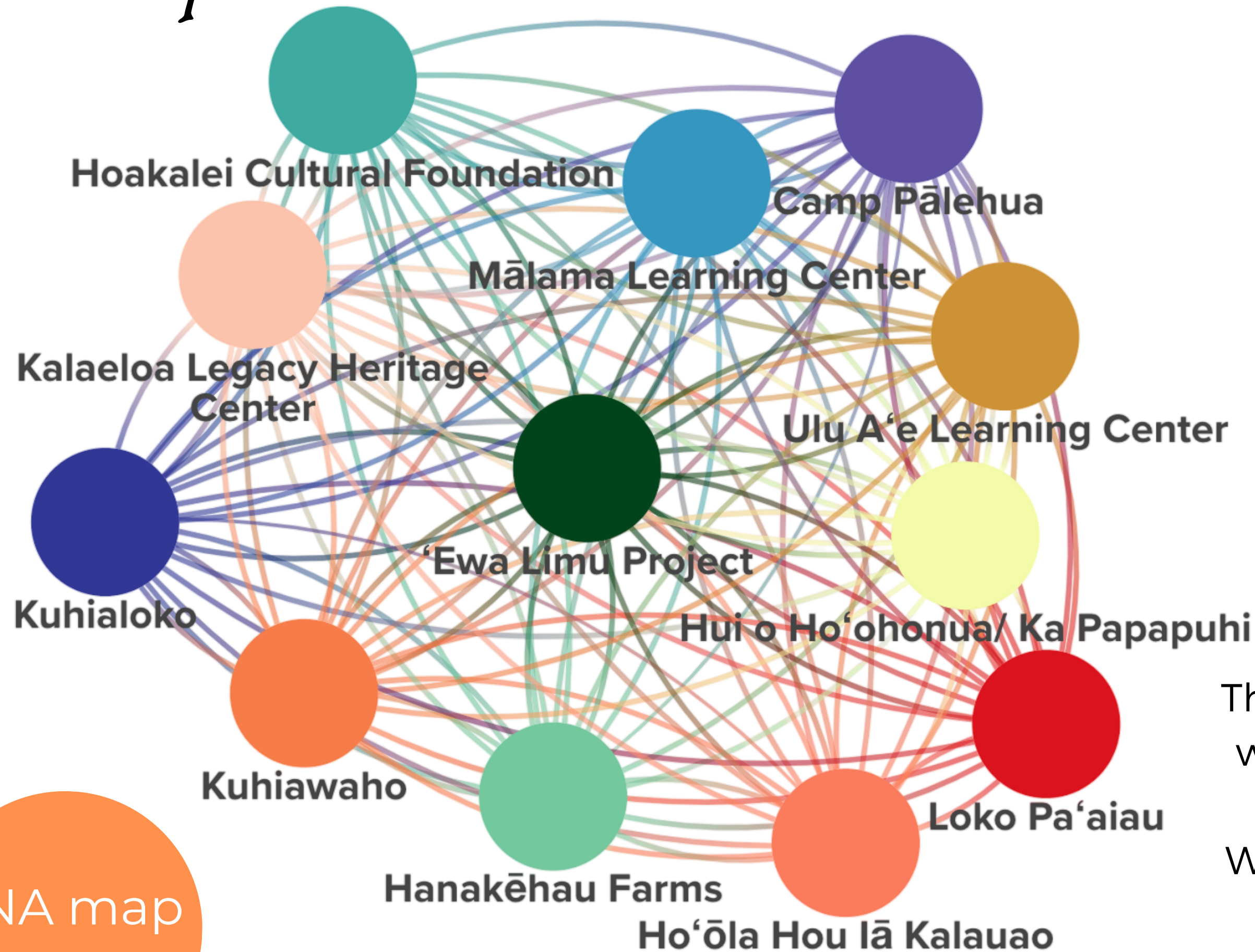
*My group would like to connect with this group to learn, share information, and /or collaborate on a project in the future...*

Here, nearly every participant selected every group to signify a desire to be more deeply connected through sharing and collaborating. This tells us that there is a readiness and network weaving facilitation may be welcomed.





# *Five questions combined*



All hui within the network are connected whether by past encounters and working relationships or the desire to connect and collaborate in the future.

This is a snapshot to guide network weaving, and visually demonstrate how relationships shift over time. With that said, the network is off to a healthy start that it organically created on it's own ..



# Recommendations

2020-2021

- Revise/bless working goals language
- Learn feedback and suggestions from members based on this report
- Naming process for the network
- Design a logo and make dri-fit work shirts or some sort of uniting lole or gear or each person in Network
- Coordinate Advocacy/Civic Engagement Workshop series
- Organize a workday(s) at fellow member's sites
- Create a mele/oli Ko'ihonua together, a shared ritual
- Refine & beef up network lines of communication, consistency & cadence
- Ongoing Zooms for connection points & further capacity building led by network members
- Group process to collect 2-3 standardized measures
- Reapproach/find another way to reach out to Moanalua Garden Foundation & Hālawā



# Recommendations

## 2021-2022

- Build data gathering capacity & resources, help to make an intentional part of the practice
- Explore a group grant
- Explore more ways to build/strengthen partnerships with the DOE & other agencies
- Consider shared equipment (purchased by KS or a grant that can be lent to members of the network)
- Coordinated resource sharing (e.g. with wood for hale building)
- Explore a shared storage unit, budget, liability and processes around safe storage for groups that don't have safe, protected and adequate storage for equipment



# Recommendations

## 2022-2023

- Carryover and continuity of 2020-22 recommendations
- Continue to listen and respond to network needs and opportunities that arise + opportunities we can create
- Consider hiring a kāko'o resource to support grant writing and other admin capacity for the Network
- Consider hiring a full-time coordinator for the Network



The image features a map of the Hawaiian Islands centered on a background of stylized, light gray topographic contour lines. The word "mahalo" is written in a bold, red, sans-serif font across the middle of the map. A smaller, black outline of the Hawaiian Islands is positioned below the word.

**mahalo**

*for any questions, please contact [alex@kuahawaii.org](mailto:alex@kuahawaii.org)*