

Hālau 'Ōhi'a 2021 Iākea 'Alua

Aloha nui e ko uka me ko kai,

Today, those who care for natural resources in Hawai'i recognize that effectiveness of and personal satisfaction from resource management can be enhanced by integrating multiple knowledge systems into all aspects of the management process. I formed Hālau 'Ōhi'a in 2016 with the goal of both fostering a working knowledge of Native Hawaiian perspectives on resources and resource management, as well as enhancing relationships among members of the resources community – managers and staff, community members, researchers and the resources themselves. The strength of this program has been in growing these connections, and supporting the continued growth of a partnership across agencies, organizations and communities, and our precious resources.

Through this letter, I am personally inviting you, a steward of landscapes and seascapes, to participate in a unique *online* professional and personal development experience. Specifically, I am opening Hālau 'Ōhi'a to the world community for an opportunity to learn Hawai'i lifeways to enhance how we engage with our human community and our more-than-human community. The 5 modules, starting with the first Papa Hua training level, will build on learning cultural skills, and, more importantly, how to apply those skills to our professional and personal lives.

This program specifically, and Hālau 'Ōhi'a generally, is for anyone interested in 'āina-based (place-based) stewardship, including staff from federal, state, private, public, non-profit organizations, as well as members of community organizations and communities involved in environmental science and research, natural and cultural resource management, or for anyone who shares a commitment to aloha 'āina and mālama 'āina. Participants from all areas of stewardship, including administration and office staff, interns, field technicians, researchers, law enforcement, educators, students, managers, are encouraged to participate, and are warmly welcomed.

The entire Hālau 'Ōhi'a Iākea 'Alua – Papa Hua (Module 1 Training Level) will be set up on our online course platform. If you follow our schedule, you can complete Papa Hua in 13 weeks worth of training (May 16, 2021 – August 14, 2021). In addition to the main online course, I will offer Hālau 'Ōhi'a Iākea LIVE zoom meetings every 1-3 weeks. You are invited into my secure Zoom classroom to practice & review any of the content. This is when we get into community and engage at a more intimate level. If your schedule/time zone does not allow you to attend, we record the LIVE and upload it to your course page for you to view at your convenience.

We realize that this program represents a commitment of time and money, but I hope that for interested professionals, supervisors will support employees interested in attending this experience as a professional development opportunity that would increase their ability to relate to local communities.

Additional details of Hālau 'Ōhi'a and the training sessions can be found on the attached informational packet, and there will be orientations offered to learn more about the program.

Looking forward to creating this global experience with you.

I hoa kā'ana kuahiwi kualono,
Kekuhi Keali'ikanaka'oleohailani, Founder & Trainer of Hālau 'Ōhi'a