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Learning event at Puanui gardens in North Kohala

Experience agricultural sustainability as the Hawaiians practiced it for centuries on The Kohala Center's learning event to the Puanui Project in North Kohala from 8 am to 1 pm Saturday, August 22.

The Puanui Project works to understand the agricultural field system of leeward Kohala as cultivated by the Hawaiians and to apply that wisdom to furthering current agricultural sustainability. Its experimental fields, created for a National Science Foundation-funded research project, produce *uala* (sweet potato), *kalo* (taro), *kō* (sugarcane), and other plants that supported the Kohala population centuries ago.

On this excursion learn about Puanui, where *ma ka hana ka 'ike* (in working one learns) by working in the fields as Hawaiians did for hundreds of years.

Event leader is Aurora Kagawa, research assistant for the Puanui Project under the direction of Stanford University ecologist and project leader Dr. Peter Vitousek.

Participants must be in good health, able to walk up a hill, and ride in a 4WD van. Be prepared for either windy, cold and wet or sunny and dusty conditions.

A picnic lunch is included. Space is limited; for reservations, visit www.kohalacenter.org and click on "Programs & Events" and "Current Events" or contact The Kohala Center at info@kohalacenter.org or 808-887-6411. Cost is \$25 for The Kohala Center's Circle of Friends; \$75 for nonmembers, which includes the event and Circle of Friends membership. To learn more about the Circle of Friends, visit www.kohalacenter.org, click on "Join Us" and "Become a Member."

The Kohala Center designed its learning events, "Cool Farms, Hot Lunches and More Food for Thought" as a way for participants to connect with one another, with cultural and scientific experts, and with Hawai'i Island's natural, cultural, and spiritual landscapes. The final 2009 learning event is "Salt-making in the Ahupua'a of Ka'upulehu" on October 24.