

Hawai'i Public Seed Initiative Mini-Grant Reporting Guidelines The Kohala Center – 2015

Please answer the following questions as carefully and accurately as possible. This will assist us in preparing our end of year report to the funders of the HPSI. You must use this format to prepare your final grant report.

This report will be due on or before **December 1, 2014.**

seedproject@kohalacenter.org

1. Your Name (Printed please)

Kasha Ho'okili Ho, Community Food Systems Coordinator, Kōkua Kalihi Valley

2. The name of your project and Island on which it took place.

Seed Sovereignty Workshop and Seed Dryer Prototype, Oahu

3. Which goals and outcomes outlined in your project proposal have been met and which (if any) are still in process?

Seed Sovereignty Workshop:

On October 24, 2015 we hosted our public Seed Sovereignty Workshop at Ho'oulu 'Āina nature preserve.

Through our volunteer networks and social media publicity we gathered 15 workshop participants for a 5-hour experiential learning activity. Our young seed saving expert Jessica Higgins led the workshop with assistance from Kasha Ho. Leading up to the public seed workshop, we organized one seed saving workshop for 6 Ho'oulu 'Āina staff and another workshop for 12 Ho'oulu 'Āina volunteers to develop and practice the curriculum while sharing skills and knowledge with our community. All attendees of the workshop received an educational packet of seed saving information, and a specially-designed seed saving kit. We also shared a seed-themed 'āina meal including kabocha black bean stew with roasted pumpkin seeds, 'olena rice, and Ho'oulu 'Āina salad with flowers and fresh beans.



Seed Dryer Prototype:



Volunteer energy expert Dean Tanikawa has spent each Thursday morning for the past several months at Ho‘oulu ‘Āina designing and testing several iterations of the seed dryer prototype. His report of the progress and current designs is attached. An extensive and extended rainy season that has spanned the entire fall and winter seasons in the back of Kalihi

Valley has provided us an opportunity to extend the design and testing phase of the seed dryer prototype before constructing the final versions for environmental testing and public dissemination. We expect to construct and test the final versions in early 2016 when we hope to have a chance to test the boxes when we have several consecutive days without rain.

4. How many community members have been involved in the project and what were their roles?

Seed Sovereignty Workshop:

15 attendees of Oct 24 Seed

Sovereignty Workshop

12 attendees of First Wednesday

Community Volunteer Seed Saving Workshop

6 Ho‘oulu ‘Āina attendees of staff seed saving workshop



Seed Dryer Prototype:

Dean Tanikawa – electrical engineer and seed dryer designer

Dennis Peltret – volunteer engineer and renewable energy consultant

Russell Freitas – community construction expert

5. How many regular volunteers have worked in this program?

Seed Sovereignty Workshop:

15 attendees of Oct 24 Seed Sovereignty Workshop

12 attendees of First Wednesday Community Volunteer Seed Saving Workshop

Seed Dryer Prototype:

Dean Tanikawa – electrical engineer and seed dryer designer

Dennis Peltret – volunteer engineer and renewable energy consultant

Russell Freitas – community construction expert

6. Please describe the results of your project.

a. What was produced?

Seed Sovereignty Workshop:

We conducted a pre- and post-workshop evaluation as part of our efforts to track community interest, skills, knowledge, and refine our seed saving workshop for future iterations. Participants in the Seed Sovereignty workshop rated their seed saving knowledge/skill level on average 1.3 on a range of 0-5 before participating in the workshop, and after the workshop the overall average ranking was 3.

Our evaluation focused on qualitative questions, eliciting responses ranging from practical skills:

“Got some good information on seed storage. Found out what F1 was. Got some good information on seed preparation/harvesting.”

“Rouging was very interesting and got me thinking about my own process of elimination to get the strongest plants”

to deep reflection:

“People need to get back to their roots and re-learn what our kupuna knew. Knowing how to grow your own food and save seed will be important in the near future.”

“Seed saving feels important for the survival of everything I love. I feel like it is important for the survival of everything that I come from... I’d like to learn my role in spreading this knowledge. I am thankful for today.”





“I wish I learned about all this while growing up, this is the kind of education we need to learn instead of a lot of the unnecessary distractions in our educational system.”

“It made me think about the number of plant varieties that diminished because of modern agriculture and marketing.”

“I never really thought about seed saving, always viewed a plant/fruit/veggie as something we grew to consume. But can now I look at it as a way to grow to consume and grow to sustain.”

“Seed Saving means saving that ancestral knowledge and sharing it with our future generations... I was able to reconnect with the seeds as its something that I felt I left behind. It reminded me that no matter where I am I can have connection to my ancestors through the seeds themselves. I felt encouraged to start growing again and honoring my ancestors by doing so.”

“Seeds lack cognition, yet have such clear purpose. I envy that.”

We have compiled this feedback and allowed it to our post-workshop debrief and planning sessions. We are incorporating and further refining our workshop to provide additional beginner-level seed saving workshops in 2016. We hope to train enough of a base of people in our community with basic seed saving skills to gear up to provide advanced seed-saving workshops starting in late 2016.

Seed Dryer Prototype:

See attached Seed Dryer Prototype progress report and design blueprints

b. Were any events held in conjunction with this project to promote it? If so please give a short description, attach photos or any media generated.

On April 29, 2015 we hosted a community Seed Sovereignty dinner discussion to gauge community interest and needs regarding seed saving. At this dinner we collected names and contact information for attendees who were interested in a hands-on seed saving workshop.

On August 8, 2015 we participated in the Waimea Seed Saving Workshop hosted by Hawaii Public Seed Initiative, HawaiiSEED, and Slow Food Oahu. At this workshop Jessica Higgins did a short presentation about our seed saving methodology and invited participants to our workshop. We also participated in the Nov. 7, 2015 Seed Exchange in Waimea.

Every Thursday Jessica Higgins hosts a group of volunteers at Ho‘oulu ‘Āina for our Growing Farmers workday. These regular workdays served as a recruiting opportunity for those interested in learning more in-depth about seed saving.



Every Third Saturday of the month Ho‘oulu ‘Āina hosts an open Community Workday in which we receive anywhere from 60-250 volunteers. These workdays provided another opportunity to connect with and invite community members interested in seed saving to attend our workshop.

Attached:

Seed Sovereignty Workshop flyer – distributed in Kalihi Valley and on social media

Photos of Seed Sovereignty Workshop

Photos of Community Volunteer Seed Saving Workshop

Photos of Ho‘oulu ‘Āina Staff Seed Saving Workshop

c. If a crop was grown please answer the most appropriate questions below.

N/A

- 1) How much seed was produced?
- 2) How much food or product was produced?
- 3) How many plants were put into production for this project?
- 4) What seed variety(s) were used for this project?
- 5) What was the source(s) of the seed obtained?
- 6) Was the seed used in the project open pollinated or hybrid?

- 7) What farming methods were used?
- a) Organic? – always Organic
 - b) Other (please describe).

7. If your project was a community event, workshop or seed exchange please describe the events including;



- a. Title and Date and location of event.
Seed Sovereignty Workshop | October 24, 2015 | Ho‘oulu ‘Āina, Kalihi Valley
- b. Approximately how many people attended this event?
15 workshop participants, 2 staff
- c. Where other activities associated with this event?
(Workshops/presentations/demonstrations etc.)

September 2, 2015 Community Volunteer Seed Saving Workshop, 12 participants
August 19, 2015 Ho‘oulu ‘Āina Staff Seed Saving Workshop, 6 participants

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8. How do you think this project affected or influenced your community?

Our workshop participants’ feedback in our written evaluations as well as our verbal evaluation during our “Mahalo Circle” clearly articulated the personal and collective value of learning from and about seeds. People felt reconnected to their responsibility to perpetuate ecological diversity for future generations through seed saving, and they felt profoundly grateful for the knowledge that has been passed down through generations to us.

We asked each participant to name a circle of people around them that they would share the information and inspiration they left our workshop with, so we hope this humble workshop has ripple effects out into our community and archipelago.

When our Seed Dryer Box prototype is finalized and blueprints are shared with our community and beyond we hope to improve our ability to affordably save and share healthy, viable seed to reduce our dependence on corporate controlled imported seeds.



9. How has the Hawai‘i Public Seed Initiative assisted the development of your program in this funding period? Suggestions for improvement of services?

The Hawaii Public Seed Initiative has been incredibly helpful with cross-promotion of our efforts, aiding us to spread the word about our workshop and seed dryer prototype. Lyn Howe has been an incredible inspiration and generously helped us to collect resources to share with our workshop participants for further learning. Her invitation to Jessica to co-present at the Waimea Seed Saving Workshop was invaluable as we prepared her to lead our

own workshop at Ho‘oulu ‘Āina. Mahalo nui loa for all that you do for the seed saving movement you are shepherding in Hawaii.

10. What were the greatest challenges you encountered in conducting this project?

The constant rain we have experienced in the latter part of this year has been the biggest challenge to testing our Seed Dryer Prototype, it has put us behind several months as we have not had 3 consecutive days without rain in as many months. We also encountered unforeseen internal administrative delays with contracting our construction expert, Russell Freitas. Promotion and effectively reaching portions of our community with whom we don't already have contact is a constant challenge for us. We were able to gather a nice range of people including several with whom we do not have regular contact for the Seed Saving workshop, but we are always seeking to improve our reach and communication.

11. What do you think this projects greatest success was?

Our projects' greatest successes have been two-fold: increasing the confidence and leadership of our own staff/volunteers, while providing useful knowledge, skills, and tools for our community to work towards seed sovereignty. Our young leader, Jessica Higgins, was really able to shine through this role as lead teacher for seed saving – she expressed how important this opportunity has been in shaping her ability to effectively teach and share her passion with others while buoying her confidence as a leader.

Similarly, our volunteer Dean Tanikawa has been able to find a role that has allowed his personal passion and expertise to shine in a way that feels meaningful to him and is providing a useful service to our community.



12. Will you continue this project in 2015 and if so what are the greatest needs for your program in this next year?

We will be incorporating lessons learned from these workshops and iterating more community seed saving workshops in 2016. We hope to have enough people trained in seed saving basics to offer an advanced seed saving workshop in late 2016.

We will be continuing to test and refine the Seed Dryer Box in 2016 and hope to have publically available blueprints by early 2016.

Our next needs for our program could include assistance with tips for organizing an effective community seed exchange, and help with curriculum development for an advanced seed saving workshop.

13. Additional comments?

Mahalo nui loa for all that you are doing to shepherd our seed saving movement in Hawaii.

14. Please supply any photos, videos or newspaper stories that pertain to this project.
See attached.

15. Your signature below indicates that HPSI & The Kohala Center have permission to use this information and any media for program purposes.

Please sign and date this form;

Signature of Preparer:



Date Submitted: 12/1/15

Thank you for your thoughtful answers, please address this report to;

Lyn Howe at The Kohala Center, seedproject@kohalacenter.org.

Please keep a copy of this for your records. You may send this electronically or by mail. The Kohala Center, P.O. Box 437462, Kamuela, Hawai'i 96743;

The fax number is 808 885-6707.

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