

## HFC Committee

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HFC-74

**From:** Maui Tree Works <hogan@mauitreeworks.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 22, 2020 10:44 AM  
**To:** HFC Committee  
**Subject:** La'akea Test.pdf  
**Attachments:** La'akea Test.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Hogan Kania, I'm a farmer and arborist with Maui Tree Works based out of Paia. I have been a career farmer on island since 2011 and have been working with La'akea since 2018.

The site at La'akea is old sugar cane land riddled with remnant plastic, hard ground, and nonexistent topsoil; under a hot sun and inconsistent rain. Soil regeneration is paramount in the ambition to re-create a dynamic ecosystem.

At La'akea my focus has been on a section of land slightly larger than an acre positioned between a large water tank and Doris Todd school. An area we call 'The Orchard'.

As an arborist we produce copious amounts of wood chip mulch. Wood chips from local tree jobs provide cover for this land in need of rehabilitation. This cover locks in moisture. Water in the soil allows soil biology to return and life in the soil unlocks nutrients for plants to grow.

The plants we are choosing to grow reflect cultural significance as well as resilience in our location. Coconut palms and Milo trees are being established as a windbreak to protect crops such as Breadfruit, Avocado, Mango, Papaya, Squash and Taro.

Prior to COVID-19 we were working with a group of students from Montessori school on a monthly basis. From planting to harvesting students worked together and received experience working outside in the agricultural endeavor.

After a year's worth of progress in the orchard plants were settling in. More than 20 coconut palms were showing their first true fronds and piles of wood chips were staged to be moved into new planting areas and just as we were beginning to make strides with the soil building process, our efforts turned from nitrogen and carbon... to phosphorus. The Paia Fire of December 2019 traversed directly through the center of the orchard area. Turning a years worth of work into macro nutrient phosphorus, while rendering the irrigation into a melted mess.

Today, the orchard has bounced back with the irrigation repaired and coconut palms replanted, new fruit trees are in the ground and tucked in with fresh mulch.

Moving forward we will install a comprehensive irrigation system allowing us to continue to expand the orchard. We look forward to sharing more food with our community while being an example of regenerative agriculture.

Growing a relationship between people and place has been our greatest harvest. Knowing that a healthy environment is an effective means of producing healthy people. This transformative process of working with this storied land has proven to be a great metaphor for all members of our community. With the right energy something neglected and unproductive becomes inspiring and an asset for generations to come.

Mahalo Nui,

Hogan Kania