

CAR.Committee

From: faith@planetserver.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2020 11:21 AM
To: CAR.Committee
Subject: Sustainable Agriculture definition – 11/18/20 CAR Mtg
Attachments: SA Educational Handout.pdf

Aloha Climate Action and Resilience Committee,

Attached here please find the definition of Sustainable Agriculture produced by kalo farmer and retired State of Hawai'i Kauai District Aquatic Biologist Don Heacock. This educational print piece was created to use at county fairs, ag fairs and 4H fairs. There is no copyright on this piece and it is encouraged to be shared widely.

Mahalo, Faith Chase



HEALTHY HAWAI'I FARMING

Conservation, protection and/or restoration of ecological/biological integrity (i.e., biodiversity, spatial diversity, genetic diversity, structural diversity, these create stability and resilience in the agroecosystem).

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

ECONOMIC VIABILITY

Economic efficiency requires the use of "ecological economic accounting" which has no externalities; therefore it takes a holistic and ecological approach to economic accounting and by doing so protects the ecosystem's form and function, biodiversity, resilience, and assures that "environmental services" (clean water, clean air, recycling of organic wastes, healthy soils) are not compromised or negatively impacted by pollutants.

Social/cultural equity where everyone benefits from the products of the agroecosystem, and they are distributed among local producers and consumer, and benefit the broad community (magnifier effect).

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainable agriculture seeks in principle to "sustain" economic viability, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility. These three tenets are to be embraced as one functional unit. Decisions concerning sustainable agriculture should then enhance the environment and the farmer's economic situation and benefit the regional society. Holistic Management gives us a way to move forward on these three tenets. It gives us a way to design agriculture to truly mimic nature's ecological principles of sustainability. It gives us a way to make decisions that automatically take into account the society, the economics, and the environment before the decisions are made.

The term "sustainable agriculture" means an integrated system of plant and animal production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long-term—

- (A) satisfy human food and fiber needs;
- (B) enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which the agriculture economy depends;
- (C) make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and controls;
- (D) sustain the economic viability of farm operations; and
- (E) enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.

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Hawai'i Ahupua'a Agroecosystem is Sustainable Agriculture

Sustainability and sustainable agriculture are ESSENTIAL for mankind to survive/thrive with a meaningful and enjoyable quality of life. Sustainable agriculture does much more than benefit the environment and improve the quality and quantity of our soil and food, it promotes social equity and cultural stability.

The Hawaiian Ahupua'a agroecosystem is the best and only 'ainakumuwai (watershed) model of sustainable agriculture in Hawai'i that once fed over 500,000 Hawaiians with no imported inputs for over 550 years.

The Ahupua'a agroecosystem approach is so sustainable was because it is based upon sustainable values: Aloha, Aloha e Malama 'Āina, Ho'olokahi, Ho'olaulima, etc.

All natural resources are sacred to native Hawaiians, they are not seen as commodities to be bought and sold to the highest bidder; Hawaiian sustainable values are the complete opposite of the unsustainable values that drove sugar production.

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