

Hina'i:

Hawai'i Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community Based Economic Development (HACBED) is a statewide, intermediary, and federally tax exempt nonprofit organization that was established in 1992 to "achieve economic, social, and environmental justice in Hawai'i through community-based economic development." HACBED has helped to strengthen the strategic readiness of communities and the capacity of community-based economic development organizations in communities across the state to expand economic choices, increase wealth, create hope, and promote self-empowerment and self-efficiency for individuals, families, and communities on all islands to act on their preferred version for the future.

In Hawai'i, a number of grass-roots community organizations, local farmers, academic institutions, policymakers, and concerned citizens have started to consolidate and build initiatives that work to bring greater control, governance and accountability of the entire food system back under the purview of the communities that it seeks to serve, especially those most vulnerable to food insecurity and the lack of access to local, healthy food. In particular, a strong regional and local grassroots initiative has catalyzed in the moku (traditional land divisions) communities of Wai'anae, Ewa and Waialua, which have a large population of native Hawaiian and low-to-moderate income individuals, families and communities that have suffered great social and economic distress as a result of colonization and the collapse of industrial agriculture (sugar and pineapple).

As a statewide community-based economic development (CBED) intermediary, HACBED will build off of its community-based economic development and weaving experience to work with a network of partners to implement the project Hina'i: Hawai'i Center for Sustainable Food & Agriculture as a means to develop a network that will support local and regional Communities of Practice to achieve community engagement and strengthening of the economic and food system through the indigenization and reconnection of place-based agricultural production and youth engagement – eduprise.

Hina'i refers to the traditional woven baskets or containers that held food but it also serves as our approach and strategy in which we are weaving and restoring the ancestral abundance of a communally-based food and agricultural system that convenes diverse community practitioners to learn and share cultural 'ike (knowledge) and lived experiences of food production from within our ahupua'a, moku, mokupuni and pae 'aina to:

- (1) convene partners in a regional Hina'i Network (HN) to support place-based iterations of existing agricultural eduprise models;
- (2) implement and expand local agricultural eduprisers and related practices to determine best practices on a local and regional level that will further iterate alternative eduprise models and existing curricula; and
- (3) build the capacity of local as well as regional Communities of Practice (COP) to sustain the place-based eduprise iterations and refine the regional HN to sustain a broader indigenized space for eduprise activity support that will begin with increased community engagement and lead to increased food security and experiential and place-based education opportunities to ultimately restore ancestral abundance and pathways for self-governance.