



HAWAI'I
CENTER FOR
FOOD SAFETY

ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT 2015





DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I often wonder if our next generation were telling the story of the food movement in Hawai'i, how they would tell it. I think they would tell a story grounded in deep cultural history. A story of thousands of people across Hawai'i fighting for what is pono, for a healthy, safe, and biodiverse food system.

Their story would have a range of characters, farmers and lawyers, kūpuna and keiki, each with their own unique role to play. They would tell of hundreds, or maybe thousands, of victories along the way; from someone transitioning to buying local to the State implementing pesticide regulations for our keiki in schools.

I know that I speak for the entire HCFS team when I say we are honored to play a small part in this story. The work we have done over the past two years would not be possible without the people who have come before us, those who work alongside us, and the future generations we all wish to protect.

While the arc of this story is long and nowhere close to finished, let's celebrate the incredible progress we have made together.

Onward,

—ASHLEY LUKENS, PHD.

MISSION STATEMENT

CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY (CFS) is a national non-profit public interest and environmental advocacy organization working to protect human health and the environment by curbing the use of harmful food production technologies, and by promoting organic and other forms of sustainable agriculture. CFS uses legal actions, policy initiatives, scientific reports, books and other educational materials, market pressure, and grassroots campaigns to achieve our goals.



HAWAI'I CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY (HCFS) SERVES AS A TOOLKIT

for Hawai'i's food movement, offering legal, policy, scientific, communications, and grassroots organizing expertise for a variety of local campaigns and projects. Together, we are creating a healthier, safer, socially just food system with communities across Hawai'i.

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PESTICIDES IN PARADISE

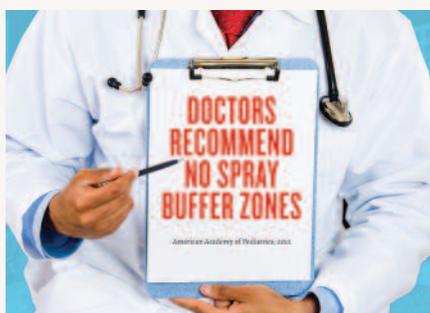
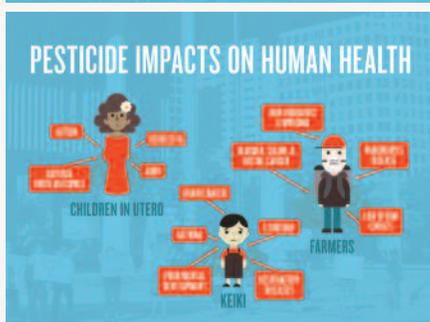


HCFS's groundbreaking report *Pesticides in Paradise: Hawai'i's Health & Environment at Risk* has become one of the most widely read reports ever published by Center for Food Safety.



To support its distribution, we designed a turn-key presentation of the report's findings, providing community members the opportunity to learn more about genetic engineering (GE) field trials, pesticides, and the need for greater regulation. In coordination with 20 grassroots organizations and partners across the state we:

- Presented the report to more than 1,000 people, walking audiences through the data and sharing opportunities to take action
- Distributed 2,000 print copies of the report and key findings in partnership with community members on Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu, and Hawai'i Island
- Launched a website with a toolkit of resources, including the full-length and abridged versions of the report, an executive summary, and key findings
- Designed creative educational materials adapted from the report, including an original animated video and three infographics
- Delivered presentations to pediatricians at four major Hawai'i hospitals, University of Hawai'i medical students, nurses, and healthcare professionals, connecting them with peer-reviewed literature about pesticide exposure

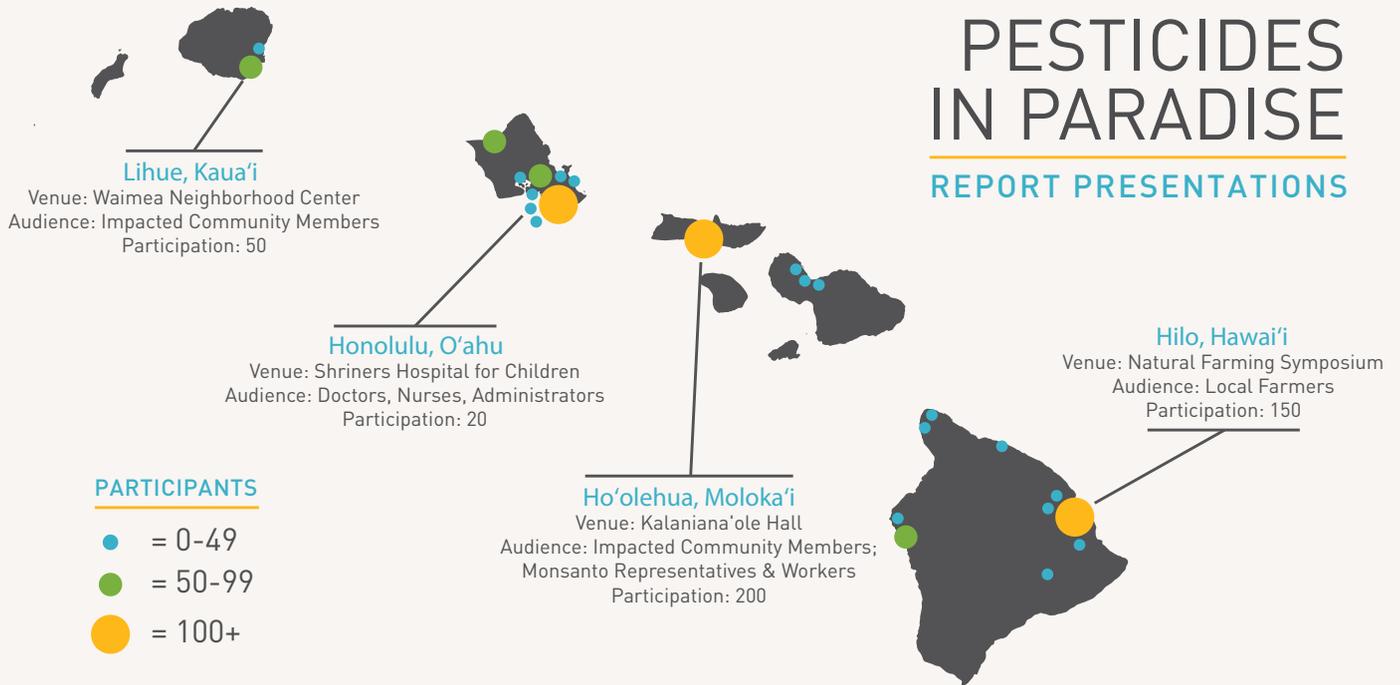


IN THE MEDIA

The report sustained local, national, and international media coverage in over 30 articles, featured in major outlets such as *The Guardian*, *Le Monde*, *Al Jazeera America*, *Common Dreams*, *HuffPost Hawai'i*, *Ecowatch*, and *Honolulu Civil Beat*.

PESTICIDES IN PARADISE

REPORT PRESENTATIONS



HCFS is grateful to all of the organizations and community members who helped us distribute the findings from *Pesticides in Paradise* to thousands of people across the islands. We look forward to building upon the success of this campaign.



Raising the Debate: Demystifying the Data

“The presentation was by far the best presentation I have ever attended on the issue of GMOs—no scare tactics, no personal attacks, just plain medical evidence.” —Donna Johnson, Roots of Aloha

Bringing Experts to the Table

“These educational tools have played a key role in my efforts to bring pesticide and food issues to the fore with Hawai'i health providers and early childhood professionals.”

—Lynn Wilson, PhD, Children's health advocate

Transforming Knowledge into Action

“*Pesticides in Paradise* has been an important resource for parents like me who live in close proximity to GE test fields. When we talk to our community about the effects of pesticides on human health, information from the report helps us identify what changes can be made with legislation to get the answers we need.”

—Colleen Chapman, North Shore O'ahu Healthy Agricultural Neighborhood Association

PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In order to strengthen and expand the food movement, it is critical to build stronger partnerships across different issue areas and organizations. In 2015-2016, we:

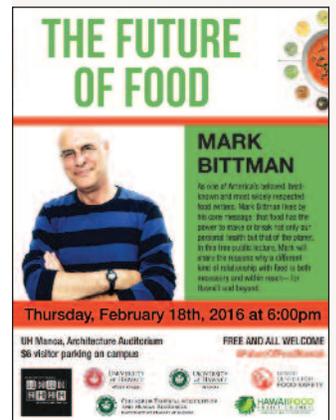
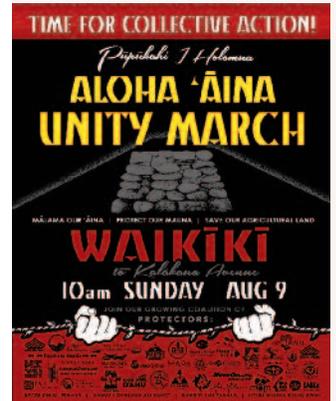
- Co-sponsored educational events in collaboration with existing and new partners working on issues related to conservation, Native Hawaiian rights, sustainability, organic farming, and social justice
- Awarded small grants and donations to partner organizations to advance our shared vision of creating a safer, more biodiverse food system
- Supported initiatives to restore and protect traditional farming and indigenous food practices by providing opportunities for organizers and staff to mālama 'āina and learn about indigenous food initiatives

MAHALO TO OUR PARTNERS

AiKea Movement
 Aloha 'Āina Project
 Babes Against Biotech
 Beach Road Farms
 Conservation International
 Hawai'i
 Down to Earth Hawai'i
 Earthjustice
 GMO Free Hawai'i Island
 GMO Free Kaua'i
 GMO Free Maui
 GMO Free O'ahu
 Hawai'i Alliance for
 Nonprofit Organizations
 Hawai'i Alliance for
 Progressive Action
 Hawai'i Farmers Union
 United
 Hawai'i Food Policy
 Council

Hawai'i Institute of Pacific
 Agriculture
 Hawai'i People's Fund
 Hawai'i SEED
 Honua Consulting
 Hui Aloha 'Āina Momona
 Kahumana Organic Farm
 Kanu Hawai'i
 Keawa Nui Farms
 Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation
 Kōkua Kalihi Valley
 Kupu
 MA'O Organic Farms
 Maui United
 MANA: Movement for
 Aloha No Ka 'Āina
 Moms on a Mission
 (MOM) Hui
 North Shore Community
 Land Trust

North Shore O.H.A.N.A.
 North Shore Outdoor
 Circle
 'Ohana 'O Kaua'i
 Permablitz Hawai'i
 Pesticide Action Network
 North America
 Pili Group
 Planned Parenthood
 of Hawai'i
 Pōhāhā I Ka Lani
 Seeds of Truth
 SHAKA Movement
 Sierra Club of Hawai'i
 Surfrider Foundation
 Sustainable Coastlines
 Hawai'i
 Sweet Cane Café
 Under My Umbrella
 University of Hawai'i



BUILDING POWER THROUGH COLLABORATION

HCFS's Building Power through Collaboration program is designed to add capacity, strategic planning, and collaboration opportunities to small organizations and individuals across Hawai'i's food movement. Through co-sponsored public events, collaborative trainings, and coordinated meetings, HCFS increased its engagement with allies this year, reaching thousands of people.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Over the past year, HCFS hosted numerous virtual webinars and in-person trainings to empower grassroots activists and community members to be more effective advocates for Hawai'i's food movement.

HCFS hosted two powerful "Movement Building for Ea" Workshops in partnership with Native Hawaiian organization Movement for Aloha no ka 'Āina (MANA). The innovative curriculum empowers community organizers by drawing upon the lessons, philosophies, and tactics of Hawai'i-based historical and political struggles. HCFS is continuing to work with MANA to offer these trainings across the Islands in 2016 to nearly 100 organizers.



STRATEGIC PLANNING

HCFS provides vital strategic planning and coordination support to the local food movement. By hosting networking meetings and engaging organizations and activists across the islands in an annual strategy conference, HCFS helps the movement identify and make progress towards shared goals.



Highlight: Hawai'i Annual Strategy Meeting

HCFS organized its second 5-day Annual Strategy Meeting for Hawai'i's food movement. The conference brought together 50 activists and leaders from over two dozen organizations to train, make connections and strengthen coordination of our advocacy efforts.



PARTICIPANT TESTIMONIALS

“We are very thankful to have aligned our hui and efforts with HCFS. We believe the health of our ‘āina and resources depend on solid relationships with the environmental and Hawaiian community.”

—Tiare Lawrence, The Aloha ‘Āina Project



“I’m grateful for all of the hard work, training, and planning opportunities provided by HCFS that allow us to do our best work within our communities.”

—Chandell Asuncion,
GMO Free Hawai‘i Island



“I am so grateful for HCFS and MANA coming together to educate leaders in our movement on specific techniques and advancements which honor Hawaiian culture. The Movement Building for Ea training has given me a place and a guidebook to moving forward on building solidarity in our community.”

—Movement Building for Ea participant

“I strongly feel this has been the most helpful activist training in Hawai‘i that I have taken. I highly recommend this training on all islands.” —Movement Building for Ea Participant

“We can better coordinate our initiatives because now we all have a better understanding of how they all fit into the ‘big picture’ of our movement.” —Pat Gegan, Zero Waste Kaua‘i

“It was amazing the diverse group of people at the meeting fighting for our food security. I was able to connect with farmers, lawyers and medical doctors all with the same passion whom I’ve never met before.”

—Joshua Noga, Sierra Club of Hawai‘i

POLICY, EDUCATION & ADVOCACY



HCFS serves as a unique toolkit for the food movement, empowering citizens to recognize policymaking and civic engagement as critical pathways for creating a better food future.

YOUR FOOD POLICY WATCHDOG

HCFS uses its legal and policy expertise to serve as a policy watchdog and reliable resource for the public. Key accomplishments in this area include:

- ◉ Tracking over 150 state bills this legislative session and sharing weekly updates with our partners and members
- ◉ Protecting county home rule by defeating Right to Farm legislation
- ◉ Promoting good government by filing public records request for correspondence between five state legislators and the agrichemical industry

IN THE MEDIA

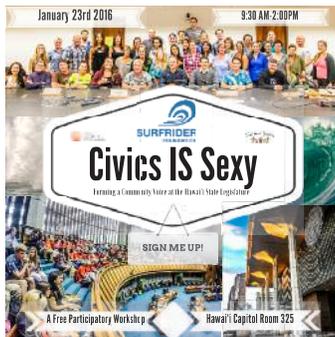
HCFS sustained coverage of our policy work in 30 articles published in local media outlets including *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*, *Hawai'i News Now*, *The Garden Island*, *Hawai'i Tribune Herald*, and *West Hawai'i Today*.

HCFS also served as an independent media source to increase public awareness about pesticide issues in Hawai'i by publishing videos of committee hearings, earning over 100,000 views.



HCFS helps citizens claim their democratic power by connecting people with the skills and opportunities they need to participate in the policy process. Through partnerships, social media, our network of members, and public outreach, we were able to mobilize thousands of constituents to take action this year.

IN THE MOVEMENT



“Though our mission in Surfrider Foundation O’ahu Chapter is distinctly different from HCFS, our core goals unite in a cause of a civically engaged public sector that demands a world where our leaders

fight for a collective good over the interests of a few.”

—Rafael Bergstrom, Surfrider Foundation, O’ahu Chapter

- ◉ Co-hosted *Civics IS Sexy*, a grassroots advocacy training in partnership with Surfrider Foundation
- ◉ Engaged over 5,000 members and citizens in action this year, connecting them with action alerts, petitions, talking points, and model testimony
- ◉ Sponsored airfare for two dozen neighbor island residents to travel to the Capitol to participate in hearings and citizen advocacy



AT THE CAPITOL

“Meeting with legislators in-person gives them a chance to see the faces of who they represent, and let them know that there are truly people paying attention.”

—Ann Evans, Moms on a Mission (MOM) Hui

- ◉ Helped pass landmark state-funded tax credit for organic farmers
- ◉ Provided 70 legislators with vetted scientific information about the human health and environmental impacts of pesticide exposure
- ◉ Hosted an educational screening of our animated video *Pesticides in Paradise* for legislators and their staff
- ◉ Dedicated significant legal staff time to review and draft bills and submit organizational testimony
- ◉ Organized two grassroots citizen advocacy days at the State Capitol





ACTION: Citizens Demand Governor Ige to Take Action on Pesticides

Building upon years of collective efforts to increase protections from pesticide exposure, HCFS collaborated with nine grassroots organizations to bring mothers, women, and children from impacted communities on Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui to the State Capitol to urge Governor Ige to take immediate executive action to strengthen the state's oversight and regulation of pesticides.

"We have looked to all our elected leaders far too long for the protection of our children from these chemical companies. This action brought together three generations of women—my granddaughters, my daughter and myself—all fighting for the protections our communities deserve. We will keep speaking out until the Governor fulfills his responsibility to protect our health and safety."

—Lorna Cummings Poe, Kaua'i Community Member

VICTORY: Defeating Right to Farm

For the second year in a row, HCFS worked hard to oppose and defeat so-called "Right to Farm" legislation. Backed by lobbyists and legislators aligned with the agrichemical industry, this bill would have stripped counties of their authority to regulate agriculture, while protecting the industry's right to spray pesticides and experiment with GE crops alongside schools, homes, and hospitals.

In addition to launching a public petition signed by hundreds of citizens, HCFS partnered with grassroots activists to educate and mobilize constituents to urge their legislators to oppose the bill.



PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNMENT

In August 2015, CFS legal team filed a public records request for all correspondence between the agrichemical industry and five state legislators. The request put forth a strong message to elected officials that the public will not tolerate corporate profits being placed over public interest.

This action sent shockwaves through the legislature, and earned local and national media coverage. The legislators have not fully complied with the request, so CFS appealed its case to the Office of Information Practices (OIP), the state office that resolves disagreements about access to government records.

LEGAL ACTIONS

CFS legal staff in partnership with Earthjustice have spent hundreds of hours working on three cases related to the regulation of GE crops and pesticides in Hawai'i. The legal team will continue to work on these cases *pro bono* in the coming year.

- ⦿ Defending Kaua'i County's Ordinance 960 on behalf of a coalition of community members impacted by pesticide drift. Ordinance 960 calls for the creation of no-spray buffer zones for pesticides around sensitive areas as well as mandatory pesticide disclosure
- ⦿ Serving as official legal representatives for Hawai'i County to defend county Ordinance 13-121, which establishes a county-wide ban on the future testing and cultivation of GE crops and seeds
- ⦿ Filing a motion to intervene in the lawsuit to defend Maui County's Moratorium on GE Crops on behalf of local mothers and farmers. The court denied our motion to intervene, and we have appealed the district court's denial of intervention, in order to preserve the right of the community to participate in litigation to defend their interests

All of the cases are scheduled to be heard by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in June 2016 in Honolulu.



WE ARE THE MOVEMENT



"We want to be sure that our grandchildren have an opportunity to farm on good soil and produce good food."
- Alika Atay



"To make sure that I leave a legacy, something to be proud of for our future generations. That's my kuleana to my children and to the children that are to come."
- Malia Chun

JOIN THE HAWAI'I TRUE FOOD NETWORK

Become an environmental and food system advocate in one of the largest membership organizations in Hawai'i. Monthly and annual membership perks include:

- ◉ Learning new skills through our webinar series
- ◉ Connecting with like-minded people and organizations
- ◉ Staying in-the-know about policy and litigation
- ◉ Exclusive invitations to cool food events and activities

You can become a member by visiting HCFS online at: bit.ly/HawaiiCFS

Thank you for supporting HCFS in this vital work.

DONORS: HCFS is grateful to all of its donors who have made this work possible

Atherton Family Foundation

Ceres Trust

Colad Charitable Trust

Common Counsel Foundation

Cornerstone Campaign

Frost Family Foundation

Hawai'i Community Foundation

Lymphoma Foundation of America

Marisla Foundation

Sacharuna Foundation

And over 200 individual donors



MOVING FORWARD

HCFS will continue to add necessary legal, research, policy, and community organizing capacities to support and advance this movement led by small, grassroots organizations.

BUILDING POWER

- ⦿ Increase opportunities for capacity-building by convening the annual strategy meeting, hosting workshops, and expanding our webinar series
- ⦿ Build bridges and increase collaboration with diverse advocacy and grassroots organizations

POLICY

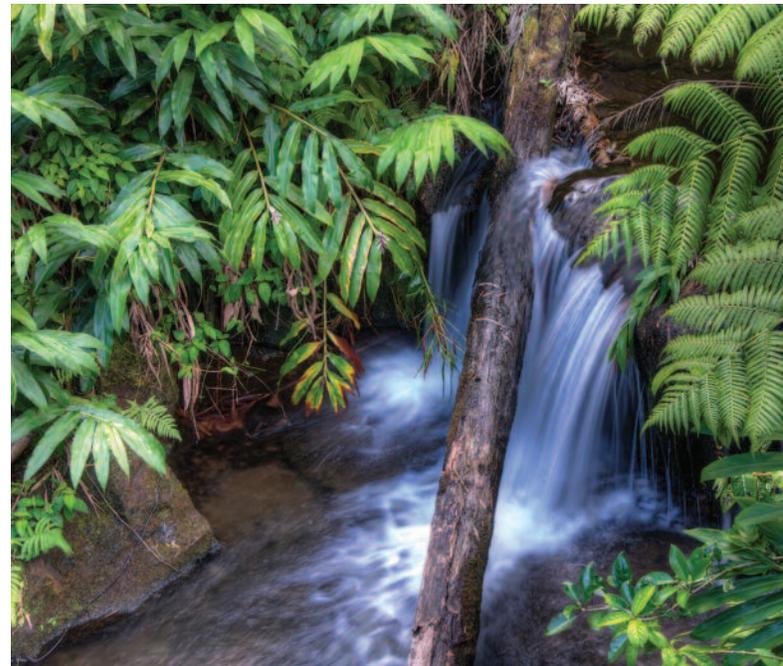
- ⦿ Diversify the coalition of allies advocating for no-spray buffer zones, pesticide disclosure, and other policies that promote a safer, healthier food system
- ⦿ Connect decision makers and the public with reliable information about GE crops and pesticides through the distribution of *Pesticides in Paradise*
- ⦿ Strengthen our capacity to serve as an independent source of news and commentary on key food and agriculture issues

LEGAL

- ⦿ Continue to support legal battles over GE crop and pesticide regulations in Hawai'i, and participate in the appeal of the invalidation of Kaua'i, Hawai'i, and Maui County ordinances
- ⦿ Provide consulting support for grassroots activists and partner organizations

PROMOTE ALTERNATIVES TO INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE

- ⦿ Expand the *We Are the Movement* video series to highlight the efforts of local farmers and communities to create a sustainable food future for Hawai'i
- ⦿ Collaborate with partners to promote pollinators and soil health through research, education, and network-building





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