

‘Āina Momona

‘Āina Momona is a Native Hawaiian nonprofit dedicated to achieving environmental health and sustainability through restoring social justice and de-occupying Hawaiian lands.



We are run according to the vision of our executive director Walter Ritte, a po‘e aloha ‘āina and pillar of social activism in Hawai‘i for over 40 years.

Uncle Walter and the ‘Āina Momona team are committed to the protection of Native Hawaiian rights and the preservation of natural and cultural resources.

Primary Program Areas:

Wai- Fresh Water

We believe that the just allocation of water resources is essential to the promotion of customary practices, food sovereignty, and social justice.

‘Ai- Food and Agriculture

One of our primary goals is to train a new generation of kalo farmers and fishpond operators, so our people can live off of the land once more.



‘Āina- Land and Environmental Health

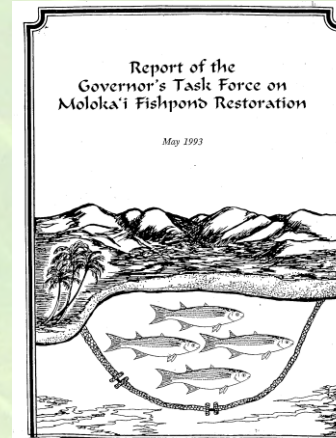
‘Āina Momona strives to preserve, enhance and protect ‘āina throughout the Hawaiian Islands, working directly with communities to mālama the land. We recognize that by bringing greater resilience to our communities we can restore greater health to our ‘āina.

Ea- Social Justice

‘Āina Momona recognizes the immense need to restore ea in the lungs of our āina and our people. We are committed to support the fight for ea as we advocate for social justice and move towards the restoration of our occupied nation.

Cultural, Historic, and Community Recommendations for Fishponds*

- The State fund a Molokai Fishpond Restoration and Revitalization Plan
- The State form a Fishpond Commission, for the following purposes:



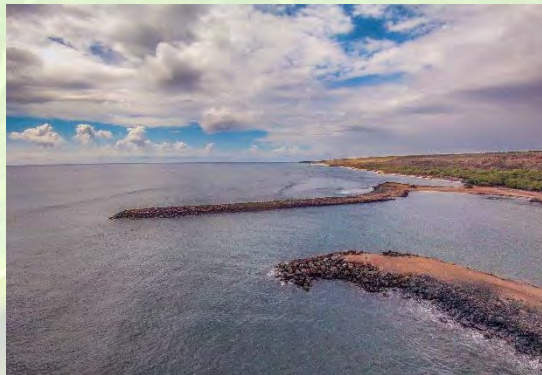
- Provide administrative service and coordination of fishpond rebuilding
- Spearhead the implementation of recommendations to streamline the permit process.
- Set and maintain guidelines for fishpond restoration and use, including the development of acceptable methods for silt and mangrove removal that are cost efficient
- Determine appropriate machinery and methods for fishpond restoration
- Plan, program, budget, and raise funds for fishponds
- The State assist the Fishpond Commission to physically rebuild all of the State-owned native Hawaiian fishponds at the rate of two fishponds per year for the next five years.

- The State Department of Transportation, together with Maui County Dept. of Public Works support restoration projects by all means possible such as collect and provide a stockpile of rocks for fishpond restoration projects.
- OHA provide funding for the restoration of Hawaiian fishponds, as well as a training program to assist interested parties in learning basic aquaculture techniques. Training should include the development of business plans and acquisition of start-up funds.
- The State and OHA help fund a fish hatchery to provide for fishponds in the state
- State provide tax incentives, loans, grants and other support infrastructure for fishpond operators.
- Activities inappropriate to fishponds must be identified and prohibited such as:
Jet skis, wind surfing and large-scale tourism.
- Cultural, educational, and scientific programs are encouraged
- State should consider research and training for fishpond management practices.

**Excerpt from the May, 1993 Report of the Governor's Task Force on Molokai Fishpond Restoration.*

‘Āina Momona and Loko Ia

‘Āina Momona believes that a key part of achieving sustainability and restoring social justice in Hawai‘i lies in the revitalization of our ingenious loko i‘a traditions. It is one of our main goals to educate a new generation of knowledgeable fishpond operators that can then take a lead ensuring the people of Hawaii have ethical food that is sustainably produced and culturally informed. Though there are numerous fishponds across the state with the potential to feed our people in a healthy and sustainable manner, there are few state initiatives to support groups that wish to do so. It is part of our mission to change this trend and get more efforts focused on fishpond restoration, which will be a vital need as the effects of the climate crisis continue.



Our kūpuna taught us to love the land because she loved us first. We all have the kuleana to make her an “‘āina momona,” a bountiful land, once more. Join us in our efforts to mālama.

Contact Us



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