SOFT
Student Farm
What we do

- Hands-on sustainable food systems
- Learn by doing
- UH Manoa focused
- Educational and functional
- The best job we can
- Outreach when feasible
- Noelani 1st grade garden
Formed in 2007–2008

Waimanalo based from 2008–2010

In 2010, we decided that:

1.) We wanted full time staff (1° goal)
2.) We wanted land on campus (1° goal)
3.) We wanted integrated coursework (2° goal)
So in 2011...

- We pulled out of Waimanalo
- Expanded our projects at Magoon
- Installed “billboards” on campus
- Began to write
  - vision plan, grants, curriculum, wild ideas!
What we have now

- Chickens, ducks, bees, veggies and agroforest orchard at Magoon
- Bananas at the Art Building
- Edible Landscape in Sustainability Courtyard
SOFT challenges

- Currently student run/volunteer
- Biologic systems are not static
- Managed systems need constant attention
- We are in the tropics, no breaks
- Difficult to express potential and gain support
Potential of SOFT

- Integrated coursework
- Frequent and regular sales on campus/to campus community (direct to Sodexo)
- Increased capacity for outreach and inclusion of non-agriculture majors
- Surplus to gather around

Food For Lane County
Funded in-progress projects

- Agroforest orchard/poultry facility
- 5-hive honey bee apiary and outdoor classroom
- Proper produce wash/rinse/pack station
- Campus food waste collection and composting

Evergreen State College  UC Davis
## Connecting Needs and Resources

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Magoon
10 acres

Hale Tuahine
SOFT
Seasonal veggies
Compost center?
unknown use
Mixed trees
Hale Tuahine Annex?
Aquaponics?
Extra greenhouse space
Our hard work is paying off

- We wanted land on campus
  - we now have some!

- We wanted integrated coursework
  - it’s sprouting!

- We wanted full time staff
  - we still don’t have that...yet, but we’re close!
Biggest Challenges

- Investment in the future of the program
- Looking beyond the present to imagine the potential
- Same story for all big “new” ideas
What about the staff?

- If we build it...they will hire someone to keep it going!
- or...we build it, and can make enough money to fund a position
- We cannot wait for anyone but ourselves to make institutionalization a reality
- Do what we can with what we have now
- Show those in power why they should support it
A few relevant quotes from the UHM 2011-2015 Strategic Plan

- Become a model for innovative strategies and new solutions in maintaining a sustainable campus physical plant and infrastructure.
  - Enhance facilities and infrastructure to support excellence in teaching and research appropriate for a world-class research university.
  - Provide incentives to link research, teaching and service that leads to an innovative campus environment that is sustainable, safe, healthy and community-centered.
  - Establish and publicize active goals for sustainable building, utility usage, land use, and waste management.
  - Create a Hawaiian sense of place on campus through improved landscaping, architectural design, signage, and the creation of gathering spaces.

Goal 1: A Transformative Teaching and Learning Environment

- Develop world-class teaching and learning in undergraduate and graduate programs that builds on the distinctive strengths and location of UHM.
  - Infuse curricula with experiential learning opportunities on campus and in the community.
  - Enrich student perspectives by expanding and creating trans-disciplinary opportunities and programs that are responsive to community needs and emerging areas of scholarship.
  - Promote stewardship and sustainability by infusing examples of Native Hawaiian cultures and values into our curricula.
  - Promote outstanding, innovative teaching through incentives to colleges, units, and departments.

Manoa can only achieve its strategic goals through wise utilization of existing resources, including internal reallocation, and purposeful creation of new revenue streams. As we embark on our ambitious

- Initiate new scholarly centers that respond to vital social, cultural and economic needs such as public policy, innovative technologies, environmental sustainability, and other trans-disciplinary areas of inquiry.

Build a diverse community locally encompassed within a global perspective.

- Expand opportunities for students to participate in local, national, and international internships, practica, mentoring, service, and experiential learning.
Thank you! SOFT@HAWAII.EDU