



Mālama i ka 'āina

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Mālama means you have to love the land and by loving the land, the land will always give back to you. It will never grumble with you, but it will share with you. That's what *mālama* is all about: caring for the land."

- Rupert Rowe,
Po‘o, Kāneiolouma

The Team



Keala
FOUNDATION

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Webpage

StoryForAll.org/land-stories-farming-and-kauai-culture/

Email

info@storyforall.org



Aloha 'āina

Land Stories: Farming and Kaua'i Culture

An oral history project by
Story For All

Why tell Land Stories?

Kōloa, in southern Kauaʻi, is known for its rich cultural history. Native Hawaiians tended to this land for centuries, creating complex water systems and a farm culture where everyone had the ability to contribute to and benefit from the land.

Then in 1835 came the sugar plantations, creating new types of jobs and changing the culture and landscape of the Hawaiian islands, starting with Hawaiʻi's first sugar plantation and mill in Kōloa. Since then, landowners, local government, billionaires and others have taken the lead in land management and care. Now, the land, the people who care for it, and the practices and policies protecting the land are all at risk.

These risks include invasive species, erosion, food and housing scarcity, climate change and deteriorating infrastructure. There is also a direct correlation between land use and water management issues and the increasing wildfires in Hawaiʻi, including the devastating Maui fire in August, 2023.

This oral history project seeks to address these challenges through interviews with a diverse group of islanders who have cared for Kōloa's sacred and contested lands.



Sally Rizzo and son
at Old Kōloa
Regenerative Farm

|| **This regenerative model that is new to Kauaʻi is just farming in a way that leaves it better for the next generation. So I'm doing all this work - it's going to help me, but really what it's gonna do is leave the land farmable for my son."**

• Sally Rizzo, farmer

TAKE ACTION

1. Make the effort to recycle and reduce waste
2. Start a home garden using regenerative farming practices
3. Support local farmers and buy local produce
4. Learn more at storyforall.org/land-stories-farming-and-kauai-culture/

"Get in the dirt.

Learn how things grow. Understand there's nothing better than eating something that you produced, that you planted from seed. When you know where your food comes from, you know where you've grown it, and you provide a meal - I think that's the most important part. If we could all eat locally and have all fresh local produce, like how it used to be before, then life is good."

• Canen Hookano, Land Manager,
Knudsen Family Trust



Keith Smith, former plantation manager and author of *Plantation Kids*