# Triple Benefits of Traditional Agriculture



Sediment and nutrient pollution from degraded landscapes is one of the greatest threats to Hawai'i's coral reefs



90% of Hawai'i's food is imported



A'ole Pa'a ka 'Aina: Loss of cultural connection to the land

# **Solution: Traditional Agriculture** Nourishing the Land, Sea and Community



Restores *ahupua'a* (watersheds) and promotes coral reef health

- Removes sediments and nutrients from stream water, absorbs floodwaters and prevents harmful pollutants from reaching coral reefs

#### Hawai'i State Commitments

Governor Ige has committed to effectively manage 30% of Hawai'i's nearshore ocean waters by 2030 ("30 by 30")



CORAL REEF ALLIANCE

The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) is an international conservation organization dedicated to uniting communities to save coral reefs.



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- Provides greater food security and livelihoods for Hawai'i's People
- Enables the people of Hawai'i to produce food locally and be less reliant on imports
- Provides livelihoods through farming and associated markets

#### Hawai'i State Commitments

Governor Ige has committed to double local food production by 2020, provide loans for farmers, and make more land available for agriculture

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Supports local culture and traditions

- Brings people back to the land and traditional crops like taro

#### Hawai'i State Commitments

Governor Ige has committed to honor, respect, and promote Hawaiian culture and sustainability

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#### CORAL in Hawai`i

In Hawai'i, CORAL is working with partners to reduce land-based sources of pollution. One of our priority initiatives is to work with local stakeholders in West Maui to measure the efficacy of *lo'i* - traditional terrace gardens used to farm *kalo* (taro root) - at reducing nutrient and sediment pollution in streams.

# Understanding Traditional Agriculture Through Stakeholder Outreach

# **Becoming a Traditional Farmer**

Challenges	Pipeline	Potential Solutions
<ul> <li>A'ole Pa'a ka 'Aina (loss of cultural connection to the land)</li> <li>Lack of awareness about how to get involved</li> <li>Fewer young people interested in farming today than in the past</li> </ul>	<b>Introduction</b> Learn about <i>'aina</i> (land) based activities <b>Experience</b> Learn traditional practices by helping on a farm	<ul> <li>Establish a "network" to facilitate cooperation and support <i>'aina</i> based activities</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Scarcity and high cost of available land</li> <li>Lack of business experience and farming knowledge</li> <li>Lack of start-up capital</li> <li>Difficulties in acquiring permits and equipment</li> <li>Lack of support</li> </ul>	<b>Initiation</b> Make the personal choice to start a small scale farm <b>Growth</b> Establish a farm business	<ul> <li>Streamline permitting for land and water</li> <li>Create a database to connect farmers to landowners</li> <li>Develop a toolkit to support farmer needs which includes tools like business plans, ready-made lease agreements, and best management practices</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Market competition</li> <li>Access to market</li> <li>Profitability</li> <li>Access to startup capital</li> </ul>	A the survey a activities a)	<ul> <li>Develop value-added products, cooperatives and food hubs</li> <li>Promote incentives at the state level</li> </ul>
39% currently fa 90% are interested in *Lo? - traditional terrace g used to farm kalo (taro	starting a <i>lo'i</i>	
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pollution in streams.

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