OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association

Farming for the Working Class

Evaluation Report

May 20, 2016

OHA
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program Summary

Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association (WHHA) produced a pilot project in 2012-2013 entitled, *Farming for the Working Class*, where 14 new farmers in the Pu'ukapu Agricultural District went through hands-on farm training and built a 2,000 sq.ft. greenhouse on each of their properties. The project was successful ending with a waiting list of hopeful new farmers which led to a two-year program supported mainly by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA).

WHHA launched its program immediately following culmination of the pilot project and created another 21 homestead farmers who were able to "revive historically productive agricultural land while still employed at their usual jobs."

Purpose of the Evaluation

To assess the performance and results of Contract #2918 between the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association (WHHA) which requires Hawaiian homesteaders on agricultural leases to revive their once historically productive lands to increase the sustainability of Pu'ukapu, Kohala, Hawai'i.

Activities proposed by WHHA were to enable homestead participants to begin farming their agricultural land to increase economic self-sufficiency. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine to what extent this program was able to assist in successfully starting new farms and how it impacted OHAs' strategic priority - 'Āina (Land & Water).

FINDINGS

Expanding Pae 'Āina Sustainability. This program focused on existing parcels of land within an ahupua'a to develop and expand sustainability. The end result was this program increased the number of active farms in the area from 4 to 39. It increased pae 'āina sustainability and brought these farm lots, which were in default per DHHL *agriculture use* requirements, back into compliance.

The program is cleverly designed to use participants for the second year after they have established their farm to instruct the next group of new farmers which reduces cost. Although it is a requirement of each participant in the program, only about 50% of the participants returned the second year to assist with training.

WHHA has now successfully completed three years of training but is dependent upon securing more grants to expand pae 'āina sustainability in Waimea. DHHL has taken notice of their growing success and provided funding for one year to enable eight new farms.

More support was prevalent from the University of Hawaii - Hilo which proposed an undergraduate certificate in agriculture *only* for U.S. military veterans through a program that provided hands-on training to possibly start a farming business, while addressing difficulties many veterans face trying to transition back to civilian life after military service. It is estimated that at least 20% of these veterans are Hawaiian. It is uncertain if the program certification has been approved.

Funding. Prior to this grant, WHHA received a $25,000 OHA Trustee grant in 2012 prompting its return the following year to request a two-year grant. WHHA generated more interest than expected in its' first year when 43 families signed up and they could only serve 14. As a result, a wait list was created and continues to grow each year.

WHHA requested $388,820 from OHA and was able to secure $177,200 in other funding for the current two-year grant, but their request fell short by $126,000 because numerous grant requests were approved and funding was spread amongst the group. The result was WHHA had to reduce the number of participants accepted into the program.

Upon execution of the contract, the initial $35,000 payment was mailed to WHHA but not received. Months were lost before OHA was notified and the check reissued because the Hodsons assumed they had to be patient. As a result, they had to expend personal funds.

Although the majority of farmers did not take advantage of the micro-loans offered by CNHA to build their greenhouses, it highlighted an opportunity for the OHA Malama Loan program to collaborate with the OHA Grants division to identify which grantees might benefit from loan presentations tailored to their needs.

Contract Terms. The prior 1-year pilot program continued to October 2013 which pushed this 2-year grant back by four months with the promise by WHHA to escalate their activities to meet the schedule for the new grant beginning July 1, 2013. WHHA was late with reports due to insufficient staffing but managed to submit its' final report within 90 days after the program ended.

The contract is formatted using attachments that incorporate the voluminous Grantee's Proposal Application and the OHA Solicitation 14-06, which by reference to, are made a part of the contract. The contract would be more proficient if major points were extracted from the Proposal and Solicitation and combined into the body of the contract.

Strategic Priorities. Very seldom does one program provide so many auxiliary benefits that support almost the entire scope of OHA's 2010-2018 Strategic Plan. Of the six strategic priorities OHA has established, three priorities were met by the WHHA program; and of the 10 strategic results specified by OHA, five results were met by WHHA. This program successfully met pae'āina sustainability by restoring historic farmlands in Waimea for Hawaiians and by increasing the percentage of lands managed sustainably.

Although the work is strenuous, it has proven to be rewarding to all family members, from kupuna to the very young, physically working outdoors, enjoying each other's company while increasing the family income, improving family lifestyles, expanding one's knowledge, instilling healthy eating habits, and learning how to grow one's own food organically.

In at least one family, it was instrumental in keeping them together as both parents needed to work to support the family but had to work different shifts which caused their relationship to crumble and the children left unsupervised. Supplementing their income with farming allowed the family to regroup with Mom back at home and everyone working in harmony on the farm.

Sharing the Wealth. WHHA has been so successful with its greenhouse farming in Kamuela, Waimea, that it is offering their assistance to other homestead communities in Anahola, Kaua'i and on Maui and Moloka'i. At present, there are five families ready to begin the program and CNHA is willing to offer micro-loans for qualifying families.

Performance Measures Reporting. This two-year program produced 21 new farms and is related to a pilot program in the previous year which was partially funded by OHA Trustee Robert Lindsey. That first year produced 14 farms with the requirement those new farmers would serve as mentors to the next class of new farmers the following year.

Exhibit "A" provides performance measures reports which included statistics from the pilot program which obscured the actual numbers for this two-year program in which Year 1 produced 10 greenhouses and Year 2 produced 11 for a total of 21 families. In addition to written reports, photos were provided to OHA documenting their progress in constructing greenhouses, planting crops, harvesting and selling produce. WHHA can be researched on the web and videos can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUPmdL68UlE to provide more history on its organization and accomplishments. Exhibit "B" provides additional information.

Grantee Recommendations. The following are reflections and suggestions from the principals of WHHA that could provide more benefit to grant recipients:

Delays in funding meant delays in progress and scheduling. Simplifying the reporting process by reducing the number of fill-in reports, tables, and narrative forms would make it easier to stay in compliance and allow the grantee to devote more time to the program.

In this case, WHHA did not have the resources to initially hire an assistant and had to rely on volunteers and board members to complete paperwork for multiple grantors which did not always have the same reporting schedules as OHA. WHHA felt its' program was better suited to videotaping "before & after" scenes, from vacant land to greenhouse construction, planting, and harvesting. They agree written reports are necessary but did not agree with the volume of boiler plate narrative questions.

Produce tonnage was a difficult performance measurement WHHA selected to use, as a successful production year cannot be based solely on weight as lettuce does not weigh as much as kalo (taro) which presently is their heaviest crop. In addition, different crops bring in different revenue so while one farmer is making more money on his crop, it could be lighter in weight. In the end, it appeared WHHA was not successful in meeting their goal, which was not the case. Other measurements will need to be considered for future farming programs. Consideration could be given to packing their harvest in universal sized boxes and counting the number of boxes of produce sold.

A two-year grant cycle is damaging to small organizations needing monetary support. Given the minimal amount of grant funding available, and a wait of two more years if not selected, OHA should consider offering grant funding year round with a focus on organizations created by Hawaiians for Hawaiians.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. WHHA should consider including funds for technical support in its future budgets.
2. Grantees need to be advised they can negotiate the terms and conditions of their contract before execution by all parties.

INTRODUCTION

Purpose of the Evaluation

The purpose of this evaluation was to identify how the *Farming for the Working Class* program achieved OHAs' strategic priority - Pae ʻĀina Sustainability. This priority is measured by increasing the percentage of ahupuaʻa that are managed sustainably through the activities proposed by WHHA which were designed to maintain a connection to the past and enable homesteaders to restore farming to fallow homestead lands.

The evaluation will also assess the results of Contract #2918 between the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association (WHHA) which allowed homesteaders with agricultural leases to revive historically productive farmlands and preserve cultural resources in Puʻukapu, Waimea on Hawaiʻi Island while creating economic opportunities for their families.

Scope of the Evaluation

This summative evaluation covers Contract #2918 between OHA and WHHA from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015 and is concentrated on the Island of Hawaiʻi, in Waimea.

Methodology

Information was derived from in-depth quarterly progress reports, interviews with key personnel, and the OHA grant monitor. On-site visits enabled a greater perception of each farmers' investment of time and personal resources and the overall impact on the community.

OHA Strategic Priorities

The *Farming for the Working Class* program supports many aspects of the OHA Strategic Plan as it seeks to return Native Hawaiians back to farming vast agricultural lands once known as the "bread basket" of Waimea. Specifically, this program addressed the following Priorities and Results:

ʻĀina (Land & Water). Achieve Pae ʻĀina Sustainability by building an economic engine that enables the return of land management in Waimea to the farmers. Design programs based on a foundation immersed in Hawaiian culture to restore the lands through proper stewardship.

Hoʻokahua Waiwai (Economic Self-Sufficiency). Increase family income by promoting prosperous farming in the Hawaiian community thus creating sustainable expertise and consulting that generate high paying jobs. Build Stability in Housing to create opportunity for economic development to expand the land holdings for Hawaiians so they may come to start their own farms and businesses.

Goals

The goal of this ongoing program is to increase the percentage of land and water resources being managed to create economic value, preserve cultural and natural resources and historic properties, and provide cultural and social opportunities for Native Hawaiians in a sustainable and balanced manner.

To achieve pae ʻāina sustainability, OHA Solicitation 14-06 listed three components of sustainable resource management. They included management of: (1) economic resources; (2) cultural & historical resources; and (3) environmental resources. WHHA was able to include all three components in their Proposal as part of their goal.

HISTORY

Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)

In the past year, WHHA successfully obtained five grants totaling $198,000 from several agencies including OHA Trustee Robert Lindsey, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), Department of Labor & Industrial Relations (DLIR), County of Hawaii, and the First Nations Development Institute Native Agriculture Food Systems Initiative (NAFSI). This pilot program was still in effect when WHHA received a two-year grant from OHA in July 2013 for $262,820 to continue the program.

Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association (WHHA)

WHHA is a community-based socio-economic development organization that was founded in 1952 by Hawaiian homesteaders intent on prospering on their land by helping each other and by collaborating with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to protect their status as homesteaders on agricultural trust lands.

WHHA produced a pilot project in 2012-2013 entitled, Farming for the Working Class, where 14 new farmers in the Pu'ukapu Agricultural District went through hands-on farm training and built a 2,000 sq.ft. greenhouse on each of their properties. The WHHA pilot resulted in a successful collaborative effort funded by the State Department of Labor, Department of Agriculture, OHA and DHHL.

In July 2013, OHA awarded WHHA a two-year grant for $262,820 to continue with Farming for the Working Class to enable an additional 21 Hawaiian homesteaders to "revive historically productive agricultural land while still employed at their usual jobs."

One of its primary missions is to support the utilization of homestead agricultural lands by helping farmers and ranchers acquire whatever is needed to make their land productive.

Waimea Nui Regional Community Development Initiative

As evidence of its' ability to work well within the Waimea community, WHHA has undertaken other projects which have resulted in WHHA membership quadrupling to 326 members within the last 3 to 5 years. Their latest endeavor is the Waimea Nui Regional Community Development Initiative (CDI), an agricultural complex on approximately 114 Acres that supports the Farming for the Working Class program and is designed to meet the needs of a community.

The Waimea Nui Regional Community Development Initiative project will strive to create a self-sufficient community grounded in Hawaiian traditional values and will include:

- agricultural complex; farmer's co-op; certified kitchen
- 800-seat capacity community center and auditorium
- clubhouse; heated pool; chapel, park and walking paths
- columbarium and cemetery
- Kanu o ka 'Āina Charter School
- Punana Leo Hawaiian Language Pre-School
- health clinic
- golf course with amenities
- water treatment center
- baseball fields, gymnasium, and football stadium
- wastewater treatment facility
- equestrian center with a roping arena

Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association

First on their list is the agricultural complex which will contain a bioenergy plant with an anaerobic digester for green waste as a source for affordable fertilizer and electricity to power the facilities. It will also contain a post-harvest facility and a certified kitchen for the farmers to meet food safety standards at affordable prices.

Within CDI, there will be 246 farm lots averaging 5,000 sq.ft. and available for lease by any WHHA member living in Waimea. These leases will generate income for this community which was initially supported by a $3.5M grant from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Although this $45 million project was not funded by OHA, it is directly related to the Farming for the Working Class program and will become the permanent home for the Waimea Farmers' Market currently being held at the DHHL office in Kamuela.

According to WHHA, its membership has chosen to not wait for recognition or permission from the federal government to exercise their sovereignty. Years ago, they set in motion plans for a self-sufficient Hawaiian community and began working toward pae'āina sustainability by reviving fallow agricultural lands specifically reserved for native Hawaiians. The farmers in this program have planted commercial crops in their greenhouses and the traditional crops of 'uala (sweet potato), mai'a (banana), and kalo (taro) outside of their greenhouses. Some even planted wauke for the making of kapa (fabric) in their workshop sessions.

WHHA is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Hawaiian history and cultural practices and hosted a series of wahi pana presentations throughout Waimea offering workshops to learn how to make various Hawaiian instruments.

Wow Farm

The nucleus of WHHA are Michael and Tricia Hodson, the owners of Wow Farm, who started what is now a highly successful farm on their Waimea homestead where they began farming to supplement the family diet and address health issues. They have merged cultural knowledge with modern technology through greenhouse farming to address crop disease, reducing labor by 80%, and increasing crop yields by 30%, while maintaining productivity of the land using natural and organic practices.

Long standing relationships with buyers throughout the state have created a reputation that guarantees the delivery of quality produce from farms backed by the Hodson family. The Hodson family hosts hotel chefs and buyers as part of the WHHA training program to come and discuss with participants what produce is needed in their area and what the quality and quantity requirements are to meet those needs.

The Hodsons are able to attract and host farm supply companies to discuss pest management and soil types needed for their selected crops that eventually lead to vital connections for the farmers to sell their produce. The network of knowledge also comes from partnership with the University of Hawaii - Hilo developing a curriculum for new farmers to earn a certificate through the UHH-College of Tropical Agriculture.

WOW Farm is a member of Hawai'i Organic Farmers Association (HOFA), a non-profit organization whose membership is open to individuals, businesses, and agencies that support organic agriculture, and care about the food they eat and its impact on the environment. Their purpose is to certify organic farms, educate, research, and provide a unified voice for Hawaii's organic agricultural industry. The knowledge gained from this association is passed on to the participants in the *Farming for the Working Class* program.

Contract between OHA and WHHA

The Contract scope of services agreed to between OHA and WHHA, references the WHHA Proposal which states its program is "designed to meet the needs of the Hawaiian community by providing a tangible and accessible land base for cultural practitioners to practice, develop, and share their skills and knowledge". Also in the contract, but not specifically defined, is the reference to the OHA Grants Solicitation No. OHA-14-06. To fully monitor and understand the contract between OHA and WHHA, one must read all three documents totaling 142 pages.

The OHA Grants Solicitation required that proposals support one or more of the 13 suggested activities listed for achieving *pae 'āina* sustainability. The WHHA program supported at least four of those services by referencing sustainability of and development of new kīpuka (parcels of land) within an ahupua'a, promoting sustainable management of economic resources to maximize food production, and other services that may promote sustainable management of resources.

Budget

OHA and State appropriations are made on an annual basis and if there are no budget cuts, up to 50% of the contract may be available for payment in Year 1. Any amount earned by the Grantee in excess of 50% of the contract, may be held for payment in Year 2.

Description	Year 1 FY2014	Year 2 FY2015	Totals
Equipment	$19,000	$11,000	$30,000
Farm Supplies	19,060	19,060	38,120
Greenhouses	80,000	80,000	160,000
Insurance	2,000	2,000	4,000
Office Supplies	1,000	1,000	2,000
Permits	3,300	3,300	6,600
Publications/Print	250	250	500
Rental of space	10,800	10,800	21,600
Totals	**$135,410**	**$127,410**	**$262,820**

The contract was divided into annual amounts of $135,410 for Year 1 and $127,410 for Year 2 with an initial payment of $35,000 upon contract execution. Quarterly reimbursements needed to be accompanied by progress reports.

Legacy Lands

Program participants were introduced to the purpose of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act and the efforts of Prince Jonah Kuhio to have the U.S. Congress address the plight of Hawaiians and the loss of communal lands to private ownership by foreigners. It was shared with participants to help them understand why it is important to revive the agricultural homestead lands in Waimea and how it can be done using shared farming knowledge, new technology, and a new sense of purpose. What might have begun as farming for economics has evolved to encompass stewardship of these historic agricultural lands.

Agriculture has always been a part of Waimea since King Kamehameha reserved sections named Pukalani, Nohoʻaina, Alaʻohia, and Paulama to be fields of agriculture for his family and the people of Waimea. They are known as Puʻukapu ka ʻāina māhua (the thriving lands of Puʻukapu).

Ancient Hawaiians divided their year into two seasons: "Kau", the warmer summer months swept by reliable tradewinds (May to October) and "Hoʻoilo" the cooler wetter months when tradewinds dissipated (November to April). Both seasons last six months.

Hawaiians divided their year into 12 lunar months and noted nights of certain moon phases as better for planting or weeding or harvesting. Farming season in general ran from February or March when taro, sweet potato and other crops were planted up through June. The months were marked by the appearance of different stars and constellations in the eastern sky at sunset. The names of the months varied from district to district and island to island.

Long Term Commitment

This two-year program is a continuation of a pilot program which originally produced 14 homestead farms and was embraced by participants and the community, which resulted in a long term commitment to restore economic, cultural and historical resources within the ahupuaʻa of Waimea. A waitlist was created and is the basis of this two-year grant.

Participants are required to commit to two years of involvement, the first year learning for themselves and devoting two weekends or 3 evenings each month. The second year includes maintaining their farm and mentoring the next group of new farmers. In addition, each participant must have an additional family member or friend willing to commit to 40 hours a month and participate in the program should the primary fall to injury or illness. A cash investment of $2,000.00 is required from each participant to cover the cost of building their greenhouse and further solidify their commitment to the program.

At the beginning of each program, WHHA surveys the participants to gather baseline data on the types of fresh produce their family currently consumes and the estimated cost. At the end of the program, participants are asked basically the same questions to document changes, such as the amounts and types of produce generated, amounts consumed, sold and/or given away. They are asked to assess the program and if they returned to assist the next group of new farmers.

The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) gave a presentation in the first year, handed out loan applications, and offered loans up to $4,000 each to new farmers ending with one farmer needing financing.

The participants learned about start-up costs and how to avoid large debt when creating a new business. They were taught basic bookkeeping skills and how to estimate their minimum annual expenses for present and future years when creating budgets.

Program Activities

In Year 1, participants had to show their commitment to the program and agree to certain conditions, including investing their own money in building their greenhouse, and creating a plan. Within the first year, 10 new farmers accomplished the following:

Year 1

1. **Project Start-up Requirements** - Sign a commitment to the program; include one family support member willing to provide at least 40 hours per month.
2. **Decide what crops** - come with 3-4 crops of interest, growing requirements & market potential. Do a comparison and choose 1-2 crops to grow.
3. **Build Greenhouses** - Plot, prep site, transport building materials to lots; construct.
4. **Planting in Greenhouses** - Transfer seedlings into greenhouses. Ensure all irrigation and fertilization systems are working.
5. **Finalize Business Plan** - Re-evaluate business plan; utilize new knowledge gained; optimize return on investment; increase networking.

By the end of the second year, 11 new participating families had accomplished the following activities, increased their knowledge, and each family had brought 2 support people to learn farming with them.

Year 2

1. **Food Safety workshops**
2. **Assist new farmers**
3. **Evaluate farm practices** - maintain a log; seek help from U.H. extension program & others to improve crops.

4. **Refine Business Plan**
5. **Monthly meetings** - share experiences with hui members.
6. **Risk management workshop** - setting aside "rainy day funds" when low crop production.
7. **Value added products** - seek opportunities to add value to crops.
8. **USDA Resources** - learn about their farmer assistance programs; learn about USDA funds to build additional greenhouses.

Program Results

These activities were accomplished during the 1st and 2nd years of the program resulting in the following:

- In Year 1, all 10 greenhouses were fabricated within the 2nd quarter and completed by the 3rd quarter.
- All 10 farmers had planted their greenhouses.
- Seven farmers were harvesting in small quantities; four were selling.
- By the end of the first year, one farmer had already made over $2,000 which reimbursed his initial entry fee into the program.
- Another farmer was able to grow and sell an average of 1,000 lbs. of cucumbers each week for almost three months.
- The greenhouses have proven to be so efficient that six farmers have applied for financing to build additional greenhouses on their homestead land.
- 21 additional farm lots are no longer uncultivated and are now in compliance with DHHL agricultural requirements they be actively farmed.
- Homestead farmers were shown the value of native plantings to benefit health and restore cultural activities; they are now being planted outside of their greenhouses.
- Stronger unity within families evolved from the youngest to the oldest. Health and attitudes improved from working together outdoors while generating supplemental income adding to enjoyment of life.
- Organic farming, solar power, and water reduction are being practiced.
- Learning how to market their products and manage their business finances.
- Understanding the history behind agricultural homestead lands and how to restore sustainability to fallow lands that were once vibrant farmlands in Waimea.

WHHA implemented year end surveys that asked participants the weight amounts and types of crops produced and the estimated value of how much of that was personally consumed and/or given away. They were also asked who their primary buyers were and to provide a copy of their annual general excise tax report for WHHA to learn how much income their farm generated. The surveys were also an opportunity to provide feedback on training activities and any suggestions for the program.

Family members involved in the farm operation were asked to assess the WHHA program so improvements could be made for the next group of farmers. WHHA records the number of participants returning to assist with the new group of farmers which is part of their agreement but not always followed.

At the end of each year, WHHA program coordinators conducted site visits to each of the participant farms to evaluate the health of the farm and greenhouse system. Production levels and regularity, pest control issues, and the overall health of crops, as well as successes and difficulties, were all noted in final reports to WHHA grantors.

Most of the progress was documented through photos and videography showing actual construction of greenhouses on once vacant land now being tilled, planted and harvested.

Although performance measures were in place to monitor accomplishments, only a small sampling of participant data was provided but it did show the types of crops being cultivated, the amount of pounds being harvested, what outlets are buying their produce, and personal triumphs.

It is important to note that out of the 21 participating families, one is not actively farming and one is in the process of transitioning from Oahu to Waimea, but regardless, the waitlist continues to grow and the farmers continue to experiment with different crops and work toward increasing their farm income.

The ability to provide technical assistance to all of the farmers is a problem today that will need to be addressed as more farms are added each year. With 35 farms functioning, it is not unusual for Mike Hodson to receive at least six calls a day for technical support while training new farmers and tending to the Hodsons' own extensive Wow Farm with 45 greenhouses.

In 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) stated that the Waimea Hawaiian Homesteader's Association program was Number 1, Best in the Nation. Regardless, they were not able to offer funding for the program. Farming for the Working Class is now in its 4th Year and was able to obtain a $93,600 one-year grant from DHHL in addition to other funding, to train eight new farmers.

Pae ʻĀina Sustainability

OHAs' strategic priority under ʻĀina (Land & Water) involves maintaining a connection to the past and a viable land base on which Native Hawaiians will participate in and benefit from responsible stewardship of its land and water. OHA seeks to increase, within eight years, the percentage of ahupuaʻa (contiguous land running from mountain to sea), that is managed sustainably to create economic value, preserve cultural and historic properties, and protect environmental resources.

WHHA meets this goal by recognizing the need to restore once fallow lands to productive farms capable of providing produce to meet the needs of the population within their community, but also state-wide. In the course of fulfilling that goal, WHHA works to include Hawaiian culture as an essential part of its teachings to acknowledge growing seasons, once a common rule of thumb, when planting crops and harvesting food from the sea.

The *Farming for the Working Class* program focused on existing parcels of land within an ahupuaʻa to develop and expand sustainability. Families that obtain agriculturally zoned DHHL leases are required to farm these trust lands or be in default. At the time this program was created, there were 150 farm lots in the Waimea homestead area but only four, or 3%, were being farmed. The remainder were not in compliance. By 2015, the program had produced 35 additional working farms and by the end of 2016, eight new farms will be added, bringing the total in compliance to 47, or 31%.

Not only does this program increase pae ʻāina sustainability, it has brought farm lots, which were once in default, back into compliance with DHHL agricultural land requirements. It has increased not only the health of those Hawaiians farming the lands, it has empowered them with knowledge and the ability to increase their income leading to more opportunities in life.

Within three years, WHHA was able to increase sevenfold, the number of productive farms on Waimea homestead lands and that number was only limited by the amount of funding it was able to secure. With an average of 12 new farms a year, it could take another 10 years to restore this entire tract of DHHL homestead lands.

OHA chose to invest almost $263,000 in the WHHA program that created 21 new farms. WHHA proposed it would produce at least 75,000 pounds of produce and record how many pounds were consumed by the farming families by the end of the two-year grant.

A sampling of statistics, which included income earned, was conducted for the first year but was not available for the second year as many crops were still in the growing stage. However, it was estimated at least 60,000 pounds were produced and about 1,800 pounds were consumed by the families. Meeting their weight performance measurement proved to be difficult as kalo weighs significantly more than a head of lettuce and although kalo can generate more income per pound, lettuce is higher in demand for the restaurants and hotels being served.

The end result shows the program was highly successful and each participant was able to build their own greenhouse with an automated watering system that reduces labor and allows farmers to continue working their full-time jobs.

Lessons Learned

Towards the end of the first year, WHHA made one of its greatest adjustments. Inclement weather was a factor that hampered their progress during their 2012 inaugural year, creating numerous problems starting with the actual construction of the greenhouses to protect their crops from severe wind and rain, common to this area.

Their solution to the weather problem was to create a paid, set crew to build out the greenhouses instead of trying to schedule construction around the work schedules of their participants. This way, they were able to take advantage of clear weather and lessen their downtime during bad weather conditions. This change did not increase overall costs for the program.

Grantee Comments

The following observations and suggestions are from Mike Hodson to hopefully better serve beneficiaries of the Trust managed by OHA:

The *Farming for the Working Class* Program provides an opportunity for "doers" who have the ambition and fortitude to learn and propel themselves toward self-sufficiency.

OHA can do more to improve conditions for Native Hawaiians by increasing grants and offering them year round to meet differing time lines established by potential grantees.

Final agreement by both parties on contract terms is standard procedure before execution, but WHHA did not realize it had the ability to negotiate any of the terms, such as the payment schedule and felt it had to accept the contract "as is" in order to receive the grant.

FINDINGS

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Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders' Association

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Upon execution of the contract, the initial $35,000 payment was mailed to WHHA but not received. Months were lost before OHA was notified and the check reissued because the Hodsons assumed they had to be patient. As a result, they had to expend personal funds.

Although the majority of farmers did not take advantage of the micro-loans offered by CNHA to build their greenhouses, it highlighted an opportunity for the OHA Malama Loan program to collaborate with the OHA Grants division to identify which grantees might benefit from loan presentations tailored to their needs.

Contract Terms. The prior 1-year pilot program continued to October 2013 which pushed this 2-year grant back by four months with the promise by WHHA to escalate their activities to meet the schedule for the new grant beginning July 1, 2013. WHHA was late with reports due to insufficient staffing but managed to submit its' final report within 90 days after the program ended.

The contract is formatted using attachments that incorporate the voluminous Grantee's Proposal Application and the OHA Solicitation 14-06, which by reference to, are made a part of the contract. The contract would be more proficient if major points were extracted from the Proposal and Solicitation and combined into the body of the contract.

Strategic Priorities. Very seldom does one program provide so many auxiliary benefits that support almost the entire scope of OHA's 2010-2018 Strategic Plan. Of the six strategic priorities OHA has established, three priorities were met by the WHHA program; and of the 10 strategic results specified by OHA, five results were met by WHHA. This program successfully met pae'āina sustainability by restoring historic farmlands in Waimea for Hawaiians and by increasing the percentage of lands managed sustainably.

Although the work is strenuous, it has proven to be rewarding to all family members, from kupuna to the very young, physically working outdoors, enjoying each other's company while increasing the family income, improving family lifestyles, expanding one's knowledge, instilling healthy eating habits, and learning how to grow one's own food organically.

In at least one family, it was instrumental in keeping them together as both parents needed to work to support the family but had to work different shifts which caused their relationship to crumble and the children left unsupervised. Supplementing their income with farming allowed the family to regroup with Mom back at home and everyone working in harmony on the farm.

Sharing the Wealth. WHHA has been so successful with its greenhouse farming in Kamuela, Waimea, that it is offering their assistance to other homestead communities in Anahola, Kaua'i and on Maui and Moloka'i. At present, there are five families ready to begin the program and CNHA is willing to offer micro-loans for qualifying families.

Performance Measures Reporting. This two-year program produced 21 new farms and is related to a pilot program in the previous year which was partially funded by OHA Trustee Robert Lindsey. That first year produced 14 farms with the requirement those new farmers would serve as mentors to the next class of new farmers the following year.

Exhibit "A" provides performance measures reports which included statistics from the pilot program which obscured the actual numbers for this two-year program in which Year 1 produced 10 greenhouses and Year 2 produced 11 for 21 families. In addition to written reports, photos were provided to OHA documenting their progress in constructing greenhouses, planting crops, harvesting and selling produce. WHHA can be researched on the web and videos can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUPmdL68UlE to provide more history on its organization and accomplishments. Exhibit "B" provides additional information.

Grantee Recommendations. The following are reflections and suggestions from the principals of WHHA that could provide more benefit to grant recipients:

Delays in funding meant delays in progress and scheduling. Simplifying the reporting process by reducing the number of fill-in reports, tables, and narrative forms would make it easier to stay in compliance and allow the grantee to devote more time to the program.

In this case, WHHA did not have the resources to initially hire an assistant and had to rely on volunteers and board members to complete paperwork for multiple grantors which did not always have the same reporting schedules as OHA. WHHA felt its' program was better suited to videotaping "before & after" scenes, from vacant land to greenhouse construction, planting, and harvesting. They agree written reports are necessary but did not agree with the volume of boiler plate narrative questions.

Produce tonnage was a difficult performance measurement WHHA selected to use, as a successful production year cannot be based solely on weight as lettuce does not weigh as much as kalo (taro) which presently is their heaviest crop. In addition, different crops bring in different revenue so while one farmer is making more money on his crop, it could be lighter in weight. In the end, it appeared WHHA was not successful in meeting their goal, which was not the case. Other measurements will need to be considered for future farming programs. Consideration could be given to packing their harvest in universal sized boxes and counting the number of boxes of produce sold.

A two-year grant cycle is damaging to small organizations needing monetary support. Given the minimal amount of grant funding available, and a wait of two more years if not selected, OHA should consider offering grant funding year round with a focus on organizations created by Hawaiians for Hawaiians.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. WHHA should consider including funds for technical support in its future budgets.

2. Grantees need to be advised they can negotiate the terms and conditions of their contract before execution by all parties.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 of 2

YEAR 1 - Figures include the WHHA pilot program from FY2013 which is not part of this contract.

OHA Contract Number: #2918
Grantee Name: Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders Asso.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES REPORT FORM

REPORT: [ ] 1st [ ] 2nd [ ] 3rd [x] 4th [x] Final

Below, the 'Target' and 'Final' column add the data from the first year's cohort, who had the continued mentoring, with the results from the OHA funded 2nd cohort, which can be seen as the Q4 data.

FY14	Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final
Number of Hawaiian families participating	24	14	24	24	24	24
Number of individuals farming	48	28	34	34	48	50
Number of greenhouses built	24	10	10	10	10	24
Amount of crops produced (lbs) for both cohorts (first two quarters are mainly year 1 participants ongoing production)	75,000	8,000 lbs/mo	8,000 lbs/mo	10,000 lbs/mo	14,500 lbs/mo	~110,000 annually
Number of families consuming fresh produce from their own DHHL Ag land	24	14	14	18	21	21
Amount of crops consumed by families (avg lbs/mo)	2,000	1,000	1,200	1,250	1,800	1,800

Additional Reporting Requirements - Qualitative Information	Report Due
List of participating families *Michael & Patricia Hodson* *May Ross* *Oliver "Sonny & Sharon Shimaoka* *Antonette & Harlan Reed* *Robin Jensen* *Cathy Nishida* *Shirley & Lamar Derego* *Fred & Kehau Kealoha* *Ramona Noa* *Herbert Leong* *Sharon Keliiholokai* *Corine & Matt Weller* *Kanoe & Keala Soares* *Woodrow Young* *Daniel Kahuanui* *Garret Peters* *Joseph Kealoha* *Wanda White* *Scott Mahoney*	Q1 - Q4

Appendix: 2 of 2

YEAR 2 - Figures include the WHHA pilot program from FY2013. which is not part of this contract.

OHA Contracc Number: #2918
Grantee Name: Waimea Hawaiian Homesteaders Asso.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES REPORT FORM

REPORT: [ ] 1st [ ] 2nd [ ] 3rd [x] 4th [x] Final

Below, the 'Target' and 'Final' column add the data from the first year's cohort, who had the continued mentoring, with the results from the OHA funded 2nd cohort, which can be seen as the Q4 data.

FY14	Target	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Final
Number of Hawaiian families participating	24	21	21	21	21	21 + 14 (all 3 yrs)
Number of individuals farming	48	20	32	48	52	81 (all 3 yrs)
Number of greenhouses built	21	10	10	10	10	21+14 (all 3 yrs)
Amount of crops produced (lbs) for both cohorts (first two quarters are mainly year 1 participants ongoing production)	75,000	5,000 lbs/mo	5,000 lbs/mo	5,000 lbs/mo	5,000 lbs/mo	60,000 annually
Number of families consuming fresh produce from their own DHHL Ag land	24	10	12	18	20	35 (all 3 yrs)
Amount of crops consumed by families (avg lbs/mo)	2,000	1,000	1,200	1,250	1,800	1,800

Additional Reporting Requirements - Qualitative Information	Report Due
List of participating families	
3rd Year	
Ben Lindsey	
Naui Murphy	
Charisse Ala	
Russel Crabb	
Dan Imanual	
Kenneth Apo	
Pat Asing	
Lani Olsen-Chong	Final
Monica Hurly	
Alika Lincoln	
Gensis Bell	
2nd Year	
Woodrow Young	
Daniel Kahuanui	
Garret Peters	
Joseph Kealoha	
Wanda White	