HOʻŌLA ‘ĀINA YOUTH FOOD SOVEREIGNTY STATEMENT

Created by the Youth Food Sovereignty Congress over four days at MAʻO Organic Farms
July 25th-29th, 2018
The Hoʻōla ʻĀina Youth Food Sovereignty Congress (YFSC) brought together ten delegations over a five-day period from July 25 to July 29, 2018, at the Lōkahi campsite in Waiʻanae, Hawaiʻi. The purpose of this gathering was to launa (meet with), mālama ʻāina (care for the land), and practice deep listening, learning, and collaboration. Those five days challenged the ʻōpio (youth) and their mākua (adults) to think critically about their own work in food systems as well as the greater implications. This work took place through large group circles, individual reflection, facilitated conversations, panel discussions, mālama ʻāina, and talk story. The space nurtured during this gathering encouraged youth participants to share their stories and ultimately express their collective vision for their food, communities, education, and future in the following statement.

Dedicated to Kumu Kaʻeʻe Ah Loo
WE THE YOUTH ENVISION A FUTURE OF HOʻOLÅ ‘ĀINA

Where our policies and actions are centered around self sufficiency, sustainability, and public health.

Where we are educated in health and laʻau (traditional cultivars), and food is grown with aloha by our hands on our ʻāina (land that feeds), because food is medicine.

Where we will have aloha ʻāina-based curriculum perpetuated through all education systems that includes growing, preparing, and consuming local, sustainable, organic, and restorative food.

Where students of different school systems collaborate, organize and activate an educated and aware community to provide their own sources of food, derived from the many cultures that inhabit our islands.

Where communities have sovereignty over all land and water resources to grow food and educate youth to benefit our communities and future generations.

Because we the kanaka have the right and the kuleana (responsibility and privilege) to ʻAi pono (righteous food), healthy bodies, minds, souls, and ʻāina.

Because we the kanaka have the right and the kuleana to Make a difference that will bring back our independence.

Because we the kanaka have the right and the kuleana to Education that is not confined to a classroom.

Because we the kanaka have the right and the kuleana to Co-design our education.

Because we the kanaka have the right and the kuleana to A food system that uplifts all communities.

Because we the kanaka have the right and the kuleana to Conscious cultivation for the future.

Because we the lāhui (community) have the right and the kuleana to Govern our resources that will provide for ourselves, our children, and our children's children.

E Ola! (Life!)