

Creating a Food Sovereign Maui: Indigenous Land Management and Agricultural Practices



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The following is an excerpt from a longer piece. For the full text, please scan the QR code.

Abstract

This thesis analyzes individual and community land management strategies and their effects on food accessibility and food sovereignty in Maui County, Hawaii. Through interviews with Indigenous and local Hawaiians, it strives to highlight their voices while raising awareness of the effects of colonization on food accessibility. Sugar plantations and colonial priorities diverted water resources and reduced access to land, therefore permanently altering the ahupua'a system. Ongoing agricultural colonialism continues to affect food accessibility and sovereignty in Hawaii. The research finds that community engagement and access to land and water can help strengthen Native Hawaiian culture, language, and food systems and that these three dynamics are interrelated. Establishing community farms with Indigenous land management techniques increases food accessibility in Hawaii. Revitalization of Native Hawaiian culture and the traditional ahupua'a system can benefit social relationships, environmental resiliency, and physical and cultural health. This research has important implications for food systems in post-colonial landscapes and emphasizes the importance of bottom-up activism for creating sustainable and resilient ecosystems and communities.