

# MĀLAMA I NĀ AHUPUA‘A (MINA)

Service-learning program and sustainability initiative  
Fall 2023

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**Mālama:** To take care of, tend, attend, care for, preserve, protect, beware, save, maintain; to keep or observe, as a taboo; to conduct, as a service; to serve, honor, as God; care, preservation, support, fidelity, loyalty; custodian, caretaker, keeper

**Ahupua‘a:** Land division, usually extending from the uplands to the sea, so called because the boundary was marked by a shrine (ahu) of stones surmounted by an image of a pig (pua‘a), or because a pig or other tribute was laid on the altar as ho‘okupu (tax, gift, offering) to a chief

**Mina:** To prize greatly, value greatly, especially of something in danger of being lost

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## KULEANA

Welina aloha mai, welcome to Mālama I Nā Ahupua‘a (MINA). We are so grateful for your interest and engagement. We look forward to learning and serving alongside you this semester.

Hawai‘i’s sacred sites, agricultural sites, environment and natural resources are in grave danger due to communities’ everyday use and apathy, large-scale mismanagement, and development projects motivated by economic gain and political self-advancement. The rate at which the environment is being destroyed makes it urgent to educate the residents of Hawai‘i to take responsibility and action to conserve and improve what is left. We must create avenues to build relationships with our natural resources, and learn about and embody practices of political and food sovereignty.

Mālama I Nā Ahupua‘a is a service-learning program that addresses these issues physically and proactively. Formerly known as Adopt an Ahupua‘a, MINA was created through a collaboration between UH Mānoa and Kapi‘olani Community College by Dr. Marion Kelly, Dr. Nelda Quincel, Dr. Ulla Hasager, and Kūpuna Rick Uweloā Ribuca in 1997. We aim to develop a sense and responsibility of place by creating a fund of knowledge and practical experience, based in Kānaka Maoli and indigenous ways of knowing and living.

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## GETTING STARTED

1. **PARTICIPATION:** MINA is open to students, staff, and faculty from higher institutions in Hawai‘i and beyond as well as to non-students.
2. **INSTRUCTOR APPROVAL:** Students involved for credit must make sure that their instructor on record approves MINA as a service-learning activity for the class. MINA has a surprisingly broad interdisciplinary scope.
3. **INTRODUCTION:** Email us at [csssl@hawaii.edu](mailto:csssl@hawaii.edu) introducing yourself, your academic requirements, your mālama ‘āina experience level, and your special interests.

4. **DOCUMENTATION:** The following registration documents are **required** for all new and returning participants **before** service:
  - a. Register online for [ACCESS Engagement](#) at the start of each semester. Check the “MINA” box under the forms of engagement question.
  - b. The registration will give you access to the “MAN Engagement Repository FA23” [Laulima webpage](#). There, you will find the required documents and how to complete them:
    - The UHM Waiver of Liability (**required for all MINA participants**, including guests and faculty) Please note that there is a separate waiver of liability for minors.
    - Collaboration Agreement
  - c. Keep track of your service hours on a [timesheet](#) that must be signed by your on-site supervisor—either MINA leaders or community partner staff. At the end of the semester, submit the timesheet through the Laulima repository site.

If you are bringing your ‘ohana or others along to our workdays, please have a signed waiver for each of them.

## STRUCTURE

For summer sessions, MINA is planned for 20 hours of service. Some teachers and other campuses may have different requirements, which we will accommodate.

- I. **ORIENTATION (3 HOURS):** The MINA Orientation is **required** for participants new to the MINA program, but optional for repeat participants.
  - A. **GUIDED ORIENTATION** (best option)
    1. Attend one in-person orientation (see schedule below)
    2. Watch [Ahupua‘a, Fishponds, and Lo‘i](#)
      - a. Full length version is available via this [link](#)
    3. Read [Ahupuaa: A Kanaka Maoli System of Natural Resource Enhancement, Utilization, and Preservation](#) by Dr. Marion Kelly, 1997

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Wednesday, September 6	3:30pm-5:30pm	ACCESS Lounge, Dean Hall, UHM
Thursday, September 7	4:30pm-6:30pm	ACCESS Lounge, Dean Hall, UHM
Thursday, September 14	3:30pm-5:30pm	ACCESS Lounge, Dean Hall, UHM

- B. **SELF-ORIENTATION:** (boring option) only available for MINA participants who cannot attend an in-person orientation (must email [csssl@hawaii.edu](mailto:csssl@hawaii.edu) for permission)
  1. **WATCH** the film above in full
  2. **READ** the article above
  3. **WRITE** a one-page reflection/summary of what you learned and send it to [csssl@hawaii.edu](mailto:csssl@hawaii.edu)
  4. **SCHEDULE** a one-on-one meeting with a MINA leader to go through protocols and ensure understanding of the program

- II. PATHWAY PLACEMENT:** Based on prior mālama ‘āina experience, MINA participants will be placed into a specific MINA pathway to achieve desired learning outcomes and fulfill service-learning hours
- A. **‘A‘a (roots) - Beginner Level:** New to O‘ahu or to Hawai‘i, or new to Hawaiian history, culture, and ‘āina practices. MINA participants will be introduced to Hawaiian places and people according to the MINA WORKDAY schedule below. The purpose is to place roots in this moku.
    - B. **Lālā (branch) - Intermediate Level:** Seasoned in mālama ‘āina in Hawai‘i, MINA participants will branch out and create a schedule with MINA alaka‘i to foster in-depth relationships with multiple sites tailored to desired learning experience. Requires scheduling with community partners.
    - C. **Lau (leaves) - Advanced Level:** Intimately involved in mālama ‘āina in Hawai‘i, MINA participants will contribute to the growth of and foster a strong relationship with one site over the course of the semester. See MINA alaka‘i to coordinate.

**III. MINA ACTIVITIES:** Details and information about workdays can be found in the [MINA Calendar](#). **Registration for each activity is REQUIRED.** CORE activities are in all caps and are required for ‘a‘a-level participants because they are tailored to the ahupua‘a learning experience. CORE activities are also activities in which food is provided. Activities that are not in caps are educational as well, but not as tailored as the CORE activities. All participants must attend one of each type of workday: upland, midland, lowland, and the final reflection to successfully complete the program. Below is the MINA schedule:

DATE	TIME	SITE	ACTIVITY
Saturday, September 2	8:30am-12pm	Niuhelawai (Lo‘i Kalo Park), Kalihi	Midland
Saturday, September 9	8:30am-12:30pm	ULUPŌ HEIAU, KAILUA	MIDLAND CORE
Saturday, September 16	9am-12pm	Mālama Maunaloa, Wailupe	Lowland
Sunday, September 24	9am-2pm	HA‘IKŪ HEIAU COMPLEX, HE‘EIA	UPLAND CORE
Saturday, September 30	9am-12pm	Kuhiawaho, Waiawa, ‘Ewa	Midland
Saturday, October 7	9am-12pm	Ho‘oulu ‘Āina, Kalihi	Upland
TBA	TBA	Mālama Mākua, Mākua, Wai‘anae	Upland
Saturday, October 14	8:30am-12:30pm	PAEPAE O HE‘EIA, HE‘EIA	LOWLAND CORE
Saturday, October 21	9am-12pm	Loko Ea, Kawailoa, Waialua	Lowland
Saturday, November 4	9am-12pm	HUILUA LOKO, KAHANA	LOWLAND CORE
Saturday, November 11	8am-12pm	Waikalua Loko, Kāne‘ohe	Lowland
Saturday, December 2	9am-12pm	PAPAHANA KUAOLA, HE‘EIA	UPLAND CORE
Saturday, December 2	12pm-2pm	PAPAHANA KUAOLA, HE‘EIA	FINAL REFLECTION CORE

Saturday, December 9	8am-12pm	Mālama Pu‘uloa, Honouliuli, ‘Ewa	Lowland
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Activities not listed here will **not** count towards MINA hours, unless agreed upon with MINA coordinators beforehand.

IV. **FINAL REFLECTION & PĀ‘INA:** MINA participants are **required** come together at the end of the semester to reflect on their experiences and what they’ve learned. Some topics discussed during reflection:

- A. How did you apply what you learned in class to your service work? How did your service work help you think about what you were learning in class?
- B. What did you learn about the needs of the communities you served? How did your work specifically address those needs?
- C. What was the highlight of your service-learning experience with the Mālama I Nā Ahupua‘a program?

If students are unable to attend the final reflection, they may reflect on their own in writing. Please email [csssl@hawaii.edu](mailto:csssl@hawaii.edu) for additional instructions.

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## CONDUCT IN THE FIELD

MINA participants are to conduct themselves as representatives of their families, their cultures, their countries, and students of their home institutions. They must understand that wherever they go, they are guests and must act humbly and respectfully. The sites that we will visit are sites of living history—the ancestors remain and speak through their descendants, the current stewards of those places. Follow these guidelines as a code of conduct for working in the field:

1. **SIGN IN:** MINA participants must sign in on both the MINA sign-in sheet AND that of the community partner. This is proof of your participation in the activity for future reference (and may override information on the individual timesheets in case of discrepancy).
2. **‘OLI (chant):** Students must learn the ‘oli *E Hō Mai* by Edith Kanāka‘ole as protocol for entering sacred spaces. This ‘oli and others are available [here](#).
3. **HA‘AHA‘A (humility):** Students must enter humbly with open minds and hearts, willing and able to learn. Whenever alaka‘i speak, students are to be quiet and listen attentively.
4. **KŌKUA (help):** MINA’s goal is to proactively address the issues of food security, environmental justice, and colonialism. Students must be helping and working in order to earn service-learning hours. If one is unable to perform certain tasks, one will be accommodated to tasks that one can help with.
5. **LAULIMA (cooperation):** Help us help you. The life of a student is not an easy one, so let us know how we can work with you to make sure you have the best possible learning experience.