

Huli 'Ia

Observing Environmental Patterns to Strengthen our Relationship with Resources

Guidance:

Huli 'ia is an observational process documenting seasonal changes and shifts across entire landscapes, *ma uka* to *ma kai* and everything in between, above and around. It is a tool used to identify dominant correlating cycles to support and guide our management and best-practices in supporting a productive and thriving community: 'Āina Momona.

Huli 'ia documents these natural changes over time, identifies dominant cycles within certain species or occurrences (flowering, fruiting, presence/absence of flora/fauna, cloud formations, spawning or recruiting of fish species, etc), and assists in identifying correlations between species and/or occurrences as indicators of the other. Basically, when one thing happens (a flower blooms in mass) it indicates that another occurrence (a fish is spawning in mass) is happening. It allows natural cycles to support and guide our management practices in contrast to months of the year guiding these practices, which, with the impacts of climate change are difficult in allowing the flexibility needed to ensure the best times to rest areas or species and/or to harvest areas or species. Huli 'ia strengthens the kilo or observer in community members (supporting the cultural practice of kilo), establishes and deepens intimate relationships between people and place (supporting more conscious kama'āina), and provides a community with guidance to support sustainability, health and wellness, and mālama 'āina (participation in caring for our resources).

A product of **Huli 'Ia is a seasonal calendar** (see link) showcasing these dominant natural cycles and their correlations. These compiled cycles provide us with a timeline of place and a well-documented resource to guide discussions and implementation of best practices in support of these cycles, and ultimately, their productivity. The seasonal calendar will also include *'ōlelo no'eau*, a traditional system of transferring knowledge through wise sayings, by capturing the knowledge in easily remembered jargon and/or sayings. Participants, based on monitoring activities, compose a new, contemporary set of *'ōlelo no'eau* capturing the knowledge of today ensuring a traditional mechanism of passing on information to the next generation.

This Huli 'Ia seasonal calendar directly addresses the innovative means to repair, maintain, and improve natural resources through growing awareness and consciousness of participants and the community at-large, which will support best practices and inadvertently impact the health of natural resources.

PROTOCOL

There are 3 main objectives and outcomes of Huli 'Ia, 1) improving and growing our awareness and consciousness of the world around us through all 6 senses: sight, taste, touch, smell,

hearing, intuition 2) improving our ability to remember, and 3) documenting seasonal changes to create a written record to support best practices.

Improving and growing awareness and consciousness: It's about consciously "**watching**" the world around us (wind direction, temperature, clouds, trees, animals, landscape, people, etc.) until it becomes an unconscious behavior. It's about turning on your "kilo" switch to be present, aware, and conscious of the world around at all times. It's about allowing your skin to alert you of a wind change, about your nose alerting you that it will rain. Observation is a skill refined and sharpened through conscious practice. We also observe based on the experiences we come from. As a sailor, you pay attention to specific things. As a farmer, there is another set of observations that you would pay attention to. Through sharing observations from the experiences of many, we are able to "see" what others see growing our observation base. If there are 10 people contributing to the group observation discussion and each brings just one observation to the group that no one else paid attention to, each person would then have 9 more new things to be conscious of.

Improving our ability to remember: We encourage the documentation process to be a group activity where individuals in the group reflect on the past week or few weeks and share the dominant characteristics of their observations. This trains and challenges each person to depend on and strengthen their memories. The only writing down of information is usually in the documentation process and a group activity.

Documenting seasonal changes: We highly recommend and insist on this being a group activity facilitated by someone familiar with Huli 'Ia. We find the discussion being one of the most valuable pieces of this process. The facilitators can ask another to record or can record themselves but we do recommend the recorder be someone who is an ongoing contributor to the discussion since they are familiar with the datasheet and familiar with the note taking language and placement of observations.

The facilitator runs through each species and/or element encouraging and asking questions that will help lead the conversation, but not direct the outcomes. We want people to contribute their observation but may need help pulling specifics and descriptions out from their memories. We **DO NOT** want the discussion to lead to the cause or affect of what was observed. First, it limits participants from being able to draw conclusions for themselves based on what they've personally observed and/or what they've learned from the discussion. Secondly, a lot of cause and affect can be assumptions and/or commonly known. But if we draw conclusions too soon, we may overlook another, very important cause and effect or connection which confines us in the opportunity to learn or be aware of something new, see the world through another perspective and possibly be alerted to unidentified and unknowing challenges AND potentially a new set of solution. Remember Huli 'Ia is a way for the world around us (our environment) to tell us what is going on. Sometimes it's the same old message, but sometimes it can be something new. If we assume we already know what is needed, we miss the message. Our places, like people, change over time and so do their needs. Huli 'Ia is meant to help us reset.

Recorder:.....
 Participants:

Huli i ka lani! Huli i ka honua! Huli i ke kai!
Observation Datasheet

Location:.....

Date:

Moon Phase:

Kau:

LANI		HONU A		KAI	
Clouds: high/mid/low, shape, color, % cover, etc		Plants: Flowering or Fruiting		Tide & currents: time, strength, debris, foam, low / high / extreme	
Wind: dominant direction, strength, direction change & time		Plants: Seeding or new growth / dying back		Waves, swell, ocean conditions: direction, size, etc	
Weather Report: storming, clear skies, wind storm, etc.		Animals reproducing, pregnant, birthing		Fish Nearshore: presence / absence, spawning, recruiting, congregating	
Weather (describe) rainbows, rain (duration, direction)		Birds: depart/arrive, present/absent, color of plumage, etc		Fish Reef system: presence / absence, spawning, recruiting, congregating	
Flora/Fauna adrift... birds, swarming insects, seeds/pollen		Precipitation: dry/wet, waonahale, kula, kahakai... describe landscape		Fish pelagic: presence / absence, spawning, recruiting, congregating	
Visibility: distance of sight, haze, color		Rivers & springs: water level, color, current strength, etc		Misc. spawning / congregating / recruiting	
Sunrise / Sunset: Colors, location, time, specific activities related		Flora/Fauna rivers: reproducing, pregnant, birthing, limu & other plants		Misc. presence / absence. Whales, Mantas, sharks, jellyfish & location	
Moonrise / Moonset: Colors, location, time, specific activities related phase		Smells / Scents: waonahale, kula, kahakai...		Smells / Scents: lihikai, near shore, deep sea	
Starlines/Stars: note location and time of night		Lihikai: limu line, inverts, plants, presence, absence, behavior		Harvesting / Resting / planting / etc. practices	
General temperature, humidity, & other lani related observations		Lihikai/Kaheka: fish, birds, behavior & activity, stages of growth		Personal reflection: how do you feel?	



Ho'oiho

Kau Wela

Welehu (Nov/Dec)

Makali'i (Dec/Jan)

Ka'elo (Jan/Feb)

Kaulua (Feb/Mar)

Nana (Mar/Apr)

Welo (Apr/May)

Ikiiki (May/Jun)

Ka'aona (Jun/Jul)

Hinaia'ele'ele (Jul/Aug)

Hilinaehu (Aug/Sept)

Hilinama (Sept/Oct)

Ikua (Oct/Nov)

Lani

Clouds: high/mid/low, shape, color, % cover, etc

Wind: dominant direction, strength, direction change & time

Weather Report: storming, clear skies, wind storm, visibility, etc

Flora/Fauna adrift... birds, swarming insects, seeds/pollen

Weather (describe) rainbows, rain saturation, Intensity. Etc.

Moonrise / Moonset / stars: Colors, location, time, activities, phase

Sunrise / Sunset: Colors, location, time, specific activities related

Honua

Plants: Flowering or Fruiting

Plants: Seeding or new growth / dying back

Animals reproducing, pregnant, birthing

Birds: depart/arrive, present/absent, color of plumage, etc

Precipitation: dry/wet, waonahale, kula, kahakai. describe landscape

Rivers & springs: water level, color, current strength, etc

Flora/Fauna rivers: reproducing, pregnant, birthing, limu, plants

Smells / Scents: waonahale, kula, kahakai...

Lihikai: limu line, inverts, plants, presence, absence, behavior

Lihikai/Kaheka: fish, birds, behavior & activity, growth stages

Kai

Tide & currents: time, strength, debris, foam, low / high / extreme

Waves, swell, ocean conditions: direction, size, etc

Fish nearshore: presence/absence, spawning, recruiting, congregating

Fish reef: presence / absence, spawning, recruiting, congregating

Fish pelagic: presence / absence, spawning, recruiting, congregating

Misc. spawning / congregating / recruiting

Misc. presence / absence. Whales, Mantas, sharks, jellyfish & location

Smells / Scents: lihikai, near shore, deep sea

Harvesting / Resting / planting / etc. practices

Personal reflection: how do you feel? AND other!

