



Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) - Haleakala Chapter

We're all about the food! Let's keep it local!

2015 Board of Directors - HFUU - Haleakala Chapter

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Phyllis Robinson - President (pfierrob@aol.com)

As the President of the HFUU Haleakala Chapter, I got sober about what it means to live in one of the most remote island chains in the world. My sobriety manifests in making a commitment in support of our island's quest for food security, healthier soils, and in service to a community of healthier minds, bodies, and spirits. I now know this quest can be best

realized in support of local small farmers.

When I first moved to Kihei 10 years ago from Massachusetts (where I had a large organic garden), I wanted to learn about tropical agriculture. I joined a group forming called [South Maui Sustainability](#) (SMS) and became a core group member. At SMS I met people who were interested in fostering food security through teaching people how to grow their own food, supporting school and community gardens, water conservation, and protection of our fragile reef systems. During that same time, I also joined the Maui Tomorrow Food Security Committee. This was when the need for a local food movement struck me hard when I learned that we import over 80% of our food and, if the barges stopped, we had 6 days of food stored. Yikes!

Professional Profile: From 2002-2007, as a member of the Maui County Board of Water Supply and in my last year serving as Board Chair, I came face to face with farmers and ranchers worried about drought and its impact on their livelihoods. I also learned about the impact of feral ungulates, Axis deer, wild pigs, and goats threatening our watersheds. I met hunters interested in a venison industry and became immersed in the quest to rescue farmers and ranchers from inundation by these pests by proposing to the County that we form a cooperative of Axis deer harvesters. The Maui Axis Deer Harvesting Cooperative was born.

My avocation is that of an educator. I hold a doctorate in adult education and one of my central interests in being an HFUU Board member is to help create the curriculum for our On-Farm Mentoring initiative. As a team member at UH-Maui College Office of Continuing Education & Training, [SLIM](#), and [EdVenture](#), my paid work takes me into job creation in sustainable agriculture! a perfect marriage of my paid work and volunteerism. How lucky can one woman be?



Susan Teton - Vice President
(Susan@ChefTeton.com)

As a member of the HFUU Haleakala's Board, I attend every Board meeting and monthly community meeting. One of my specific roles was to create a manual that describes the structure of the monthly meetings so that volunteers would have a guide, and gatherings, such as ours, could be reproduced by other chapters. I continue to act as a liaison with the head volunteer and the BOD as

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we refine our meeting content, strategies, and structure. I am also a member of the Legislative Committee with a goal to learn as much as I can about legislation in the coming year. My favorite role is to recruit chefs in the area to present for Chefâ€™s Corner at monthly meetings.

HFUU embodies my passion and purpose which is sustainable, regenerative agriculture. From my perspective, this area of work is one of the single most powerful things we can focus on within our current culture. The health of our land and people depends on clean air, water, and soil. The quality of our food supply not only determines our current health and the health of future generations, but also fosters a strong sense of community as we work together in a mutually enhancing relationship with all life on Earth.

Professional Profile: Susan Teton Campbell has spent the last 23 years as an author, speaker, student, and activist in the area of food and its profound effects on personal health and the environment. She first authored *The Healthy School Lunch Action Guide* which included an award-winning curriculum for students, parents, teachers, and food service personnel. Her experience included working closely with leaders in environmental practices, food producers, and organizations working together in the rising natural foods industry. Since moving to Maui, Susan launched a multimedia company focused on education. Her [Essential Cuisine DVD series](#) and online courses inspire and teach people how to steward their body and the Earth with vibrant organic food.



Melissa Jenks-Olivit - Treasurer
(melissa.mfuu@gmail.com)

As Treasurer of HFUU, I work with the other board members to fulfill our Mission and Vision. Ensuring fiscal responsibility and clarity is my goal.

HFUU is important for empowering people to grow and eat healthy food, while improving the land for future generations. I derive great joy from helping create the meetings where we all have opportunities to share knowledge, joy, and inspiration with others. It is wonderful to see this organization growing and reaching more members of the community. I am thrilled to be a part of it.

Professional Profile: I have always been a bit obsessed with food. I trained as a chef and had a catering business in London and then a restaurant in Singapore. There I met George, a yacht builder, and embarked on a new chapter of my life, joining George in his business and raising a family. We set sail from Singapore with our two young children. Our journey led us to the Hawaiian Islands where we have become more interested and involved in farming and food issues. As an organic farmer myself, my life experiences have built on my innate appreciation of good food, and have developed my strong desire to analyze and research the connections between health, happiness, and soil.



Elan Goldbart - Secretary
(oaktree1er@gmail.com)

As the HFUU Haleakala Secretary, I strive to refine communication within our organization. While compiling our meeting agendas and keeping track of our group process, I seek to make sure that each decision we make consistently supports our Mission and Vision.

Facilitating the creation of our monthly member meetings is my favorite part of my role!

HFUU embodies what is most important to me â€” community focused around some of our basic human needs. While coming together each month in celebration of food, our community is supporting the care of people and the care of our planet. By sharing regenerative agricultural practices and supporting policies that promote regenerative agriculture, we are actively promoting right relationship with the aina that furthers our access to healthy food, clean water, and fresh air.

Professional Profile: Elan is a farmer, educator, and mentor dedicated to stewarding agrobiodiversity, promoting justice across the food system, and facilitating transformative learning for people of all ages. His experience in seed saving, agroecology, whole-systems design, and building cooperatives is directed toward cultivating land-based education programs that inspire and empower a diversity of people and communities. Elan strives to build healthy culture from the ground up by growing soil, food, and farmers.



Bill Greenleaf - Director
(bgreenleaf.maui@yahoo.com)

As an HFUU Haleakala Board member, my focus is to facilitate the desire of the members by participating with a pro-active Board of Directors to create a monthly gathering that celebrates food, community, and new ideas. These meetings provide space for the organization to grow, develop, and be an active contributor to State and National politics.

HFUU is an organization that resonates with me at the cellular level. From the beginning, Vincent Mina and I have worked together to define and hold space for the Maui Community to GROW healthy food. I didn't even understand the idea of holding space at the time. Then more and more people joined with a similar dream and we needed a bigger space. I began to understand what happens when an organization holds space for change. As HFUU grows in the community, our mission and values spread too. I am happy to be involved in an organization that puts food and community at the center of its values.

Professional Profile: My earliest memory in life is the sparkle of the sunlight on a golf ball. I have played golf since I was 18 months of age; it became a mastery practice for me in my 20s and a life long career. My PGA credentials are: Master Professional. I'm proud of reaching a distinction that less than 300 of the 30,000 PGA members have reached. The mastery practice in golf has led to a mastery practice in life. A blessing from my wife Marta is the foundation she has built for our family on the subject of eating healthy food. Creating a mastery practice around growing our own food promises that the final chapters of my life will be as rich and fulfilling as the earlier chapters.



Russell Greenleaf - Director (rgrnlf@gmail.com)

Russell Greenleaf has been on the HFUU Haleakala Board since 2013. As an active farmer, Russell is very invested in developing sustainable practices as he spends his days working the soil and growing food on several upcountry farms.

More on Russell coming soon!



John Dobovan - Director (jd@kulahaven.com)

John Dobovan joined the HFUU Haleakala Board in January 2015. My goal is to support Maui's sustainable agriculture in all of its myriad forms. I firmly believe that we can feed ourselves on this lush land but we must do so with intelligence and care.

I have been a Hawaii resident since 1966 and was a co-founder of a



successful aquaponics startup in Waimanalo. I relocated to Maui at the end of 2012 in order to pursue my dream of raising Rainbow trout. I have established the first trout hatchery in Kula and am working with other farmers and landowners to transform marginal lands into profitable and sustainable aquaponic ventures.



Jenny Pell - Director (jennypell@gmail.com)

Jenny Pell joined the HFUU Haleakala Board in January 2015. Former tree planter, helicopter pilot, carpenter, and yurt builder, Jenny Pell stays busy managing her growing full-service design and consulting company Permaculture Now. Based on Maui, HI, Jenny divides her time between Maui and Belize, with ongoing projects in the Pacific NW. Projects include design, installation, permaculture education and trainings, and ongoing management of projects over time.

The company's portfolio spans organic agriculture, farm cooperatives, agri-tourism, building resilience through farm diversification and value-added product lines, appropriate technologies, urban permaculture design, and policy work related to food security. Jenny has many years experience living and working on organic farms, and is especially keen to work with Maui farmers on perennial agroforestry strategies, seed banks, and growing profitable, thriving farms serving Maui residents and visitors.



Steven Bronstein - Director (bluehi@hawaii.rr.com)

As a new member of the Board (Jan 2015), my goal is to bring together elements that will help farmers create a livelihood that will warrant their efforts. I relocated to Maui fifteen years ago from the East Coast to raise my two young children. It is through education and empowering our youth with opportunity that we will create food sovereignty throughout Hawaii. I have been working and learning this past year with members of HFUU on the viability of Industrial Hemp for construction on Hawaii and feed for Maui's grass-fed beef industry.

Professional Profile: I served as an Officer and Founder of Cushman & Wakefield's, Inc. entire retail division based in NY, spearheading and assisting restaurateurs and others into business. I have authored & lectured at New York University Graduate School of Real Estate on the economics of developing restaurants, & at The Culinary Institute of America on how to open and operate a restaurant from a business vantage point. I also developed an award-winning upscale restaurant on the mainland. I assisted several Caribbean Island Nations, notably St Vincent & The Grenadines, on their "controlled development." I represent Hawaiian companies on their expansion, and also do pro bono work for The County of Maui, The State of Hawaii, and The University of Hawaii Culinary College. Much of my work is geared toward wellness-medical expansion, representing medical doctors, naturopaths, & medical facilities.



Tara Grace - Director (taragrace808@gmail.com)

Tara Grace joined the HFUU Haleakala Board in January 2015. Tara has been a full time resident of Maui since 1978. Mother of four, Grand Mother to one. Since 2004, Tara has been a full time real estate sales agent, specializing in North Shore AG land & homes. She carries a burning passion to support the sustainability of the island home of her family and greater community. Tara bridges worlds and helps projects fulfill their goals by networking resources. She is an eternal optimist and hard work is what drives her forward each day of her life.

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