

Puna ‘Āina Project — Partner & Fiscal Sponsor Info

How to support this project through aligned 501(c)(3) partnerships and tax-deductible giving pathways

1) Project overview

The Puna ‘Āina Project is a small-scale ‘āina stewardship and food production initiative located on agricultural land in the Puna District of Hawai‘i Island. The project focuses on restoring overgrown land into productive food-growing space through breadfruit and citrus stewardship, soil improvement, composting, and rainwater-fed irrigation for agricultural use. Supporting infrastructure includes a non-habitable agricultural utility workshop used for tools, storage, and food-production activities.

2) What is fiscal sponsorship?

Fiscal sponsorship allows a project like this to operate under the legal and financial umbrella of an established 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations and grants are made to the nonprofit sponsor, which then administers funds to support approved project activities. This allows donors to make tax-deductible contributions while the project grows responsibly and transparently.

3) How support flows

- Donor or funder contributes to the sponsoring 501(c)(3).
- Sponsor accepts funds and provides oversight, compliance, and reporting.
- Funds are distributed to approved project expenses aligned with charitable purpose.
- Project lead documents outcomes and provides updates to sponsor and partners.

4) Examples of fundable activities

- Soil building, compost systems, and land restoration work
- Perennial crop establishment (breadfruit, citrus, herbs, roots, companion plants)
- Irrigation and rainwater distribution components for agricultural use
- Fencing or protective measures to reduce crop loss
- Tools, materials, and supplies supporting non-residential agricultural operations
- Educational documentation or community-facing stewardship outputs

5) What partners can expect

- Clear scope of work and phase-based development

- Basic budgeting and expense tracking
- Photo documentation and simple progress updates
- Alignment with food security, 'āina stewardship, and community benefit goals
- Willingness to collaborate with existing nonprofit frameworks

6) Current status

The project is currently in early development, including outreach to partner organizations, small-grant applications, and phased infrastructure planning. The focus is on building capacity responsibly and in alignment with established community organizations.

7) Project contact

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This document is informational and intended for organizations exploring partnership or fiscal sponsorship discussions.