

# Hawai'i Food+ Policy

## Internship Information 2025



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[APPLICATION](#)

[FOODPLUSPOLICY.COM](https://FOODPLUSPOLICY.COM)

# Introduction

## Message from the team



We're excited that you're considering joining the Food+ Policy internship program! Agriculture is at the core of many environmental and health challenges, and we're committed to transforming Hawai'i's food systems to better support farmers and improve community well-being through education and proactive policy advocacy.

Our program equips interns with the policy literacy needed to engage with legislative processes and advocate for meaningful change. In this packet, you'll find details about the program, application process, and how to get involved.

We wish you the best as you apply! For more details and updates, please visit our website and follow us online.

Mahalo,  
**The Food+ Policy Team**

# Introduction

## Food+ Policy Mission

To empower Hawaii's students, farmers, and communities to strengthen local food systems through education and civic engagement.

## VISION

To be a fixture in Hawaii's food system, pioneering systems change as a thought leader.

## IMPACT

- **53 interns** from across Hawai'i and one international intern from Malaysia, contributing to policy change through hands-on experience.
- **411 bills tracked** collectively, showcasing active involvement in legislative efforts that impact food systems.
- **340 testimonies submitted**, influencing policy decisions and advocating for sustainable food systems.
- Interns from diverse islands: **O'ahu, Maui, Moloka'i, and Hawai'i Island**, reflecting broad representation from across the state.



# Introduction

## Food+ Policy Priorities

1. Increase civic engagement in younger generations through empowerment and education.	2. Increase opportunities and remove barriers for young people to engage in small farming for local consumption – as a way of life or a career.
3. Decrease dependency on imported food and agricultural goods and increase local farmers and value-added products for Hawaii food resiliency.	4. Incentivize and support regenerative and Native Hawaiian traditional farming and fishing practices.
5. Create access to healthy, culturally appropriate foods by supporting policies that serve the health and wellness of the people, the environment, social equity, and economic stability of Hawaii.	6. Provide farm-to-school programming– production, education & local procurement– for all learners.
7. Support policies that promote regenerative agriculture and encourage economic and environmental sustainability for Hawai'i.	

# Internship Origin and Purple Mai'a



**Purple Mai'a Foundation** is a technology education nonprofit dedicated to empowering culturally engaged, community-oriented innovators. By integrating Indigenous values with contemporary technology, Purple Mai'a fosters sustainable solutions for Hawai'i's communities. Since 2014, the foundation has created place-based programs that uplift local and Indigenous voices, blending cultural knowledge with modern tools to build resilience and inspire future leaders.

Recognizing the need to address food systems as part of community resilience, Purple Mai'a's co-CEO, Kelsey Amos, created Hawai'i Food+ Policy to focus on food sovereignty and policy change.

**Hawai'i Food+ Policy** emerged as an initiative aimed at creating pathways for meaningful civic engagement and policy change within Hawai'i's food systems. With a mission to advance food sovereignty and promote sustainable, equitable food policies, Food+ empowers advocates to shape the future of Hawai'i's food landscape. By educating and supporting local leaders, the program provides the tools needed to influence policy and drive systemic change at all levels. In partnership with Purple Mai'a, Food+ integrates cultural knowledge with policy work, ensuring that the voices and values of Hawai'i's diverse communities remain at the heart of food system transformation.

# Internship Overview

## INTERNSHIP AT A GLANCE

- **Start Date:** January 2025
- **5 month duration**
- **25 intern cohort size**

## KEY SKILLS CULTIVATED DURING THE INTERNSHIP

RESEARCH	CREATIVITY	COMMUNITY	DATA/TECH
Focused research on food policy and food systems transformation efforts in Hawai'i	Building skills in graphic design, art, video, and other creative means	Engagement in outreach and networking with various Hawai'i communities focused on food systems advocacy	Building dashboards and data products to further our food systems advocacy



# Internship Overview



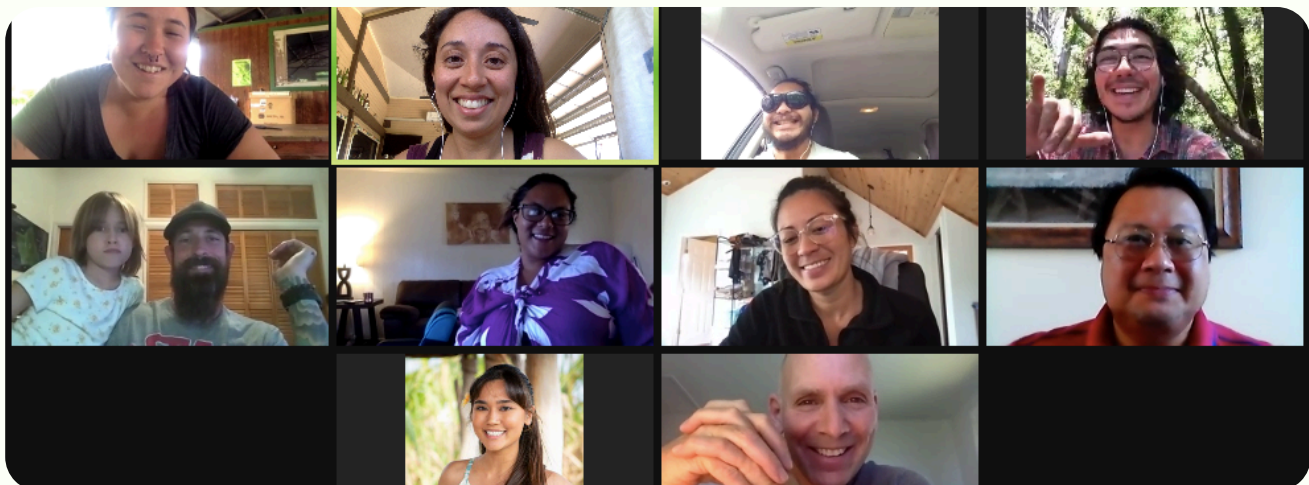
## Key Details and Responsibilities

- Interns will attend:
  - A weekly 1.5-hour team meeting on Mondays at 2 pm (working check-in meeting).
  - A weekly 1.5-hour learning session on Thursdays at 5 pm (presentations, discussions, or activities to deepen understanding of the legislative process).
- Additional internship work (estimated 2 to 8 hours per week) includes:
  - Tracking food and agriculture bills during the legislative session.
  - Developing written testimony on bills.
  - Communicating with the community through newsletter campaigns, social media, opinion pieces, outreach events, and other creative methods.

# Internship Overview

## WHO SHOULD APPLY

- Have a passion for and strong knowledge of an aspect of Hawai'i's food system
- Are eager to deepen your understanding of the legislative process, policy-making, and advocacy
- Thrive in a dynamic work environment that requires adaptability and creative problem-solving
- Can commit to mandatory team meetings on Mondays from 2–3:30 pm and Thursdays from 5–6:30 pm





# Application Timeline

## STEP 1: 2025 APPLICATION | OCT 16 – NOV 20, 2024

Those interested in applying must submit an application online by **Wednesday, November 20, 2024**. Email [food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org) or [janine@purplemaia.org](mailto:janine@purplemaia.org) with any questions.

## STEP 2: INTERVIEWS | OCT – NOV 2024

A 30 minute interview via Zoom will be scheduled where you'll meet our team and we'll learn more about you, including your background in civic engagement and the food system.

## STEP 3: EVALUATION | NOV – DEC 2024

The Food+ team will evaluate applicants and select the interns.

## STEP 4: ACCEPTANCE | DECEMBER 2024

The selected interns will be notified via email of their acceptance. You will be given a deadline to confirm your participation

## OPTIONAL

Attend a Food+ information session. You can find the schedule with instructions to register on [foodpluspolicy.com](https://foodpluspolicy.com).

## FAQ

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### IS THIS A PAID INTERNSHIP?

Yes! We're offering \$2,000 stipends for the legislative session/semester (Jan-May 2025).

### DO I NEED TO BE BASED ON O'AHU TO PARTICIPATE?

We are encouraging applicants from across the pae 'aina to apply. Most of the internship can be done remotely and via Zoom.

### WILL THERE BE OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK ON-SITE, OR IS IT PRIMARILY VIRTUAL?


We value the accessibility of virtual meetings but recognize the importance of building strong, in-person connections. To balance this, we offer several opportunities to meet face-to-face, including an in-person orientation, volunteer workdays, and tabling at community events.

### WHAT IS THE EXPECTED TIME COMMITMENT FOR THE INTERNSHIP?

The expected time commitment is approximately 10 hours per week, which includes two mandatory weekly meetings.



# CONTACT

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## READY TO APPLY?

[APPLY TODAY](#)