

REDISCOVERING

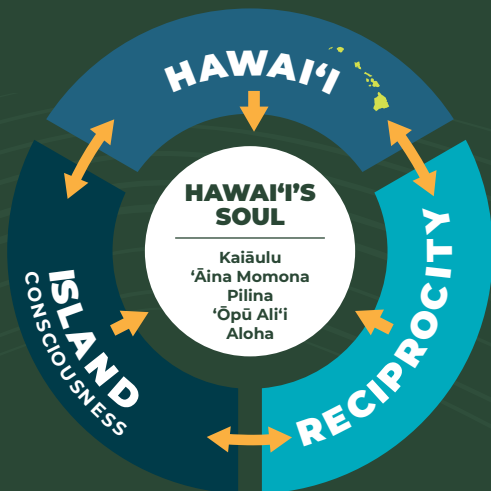
Hawai'i's Soul

Hawai'i is facing unresolved issues and growing conflicts that have the potential to divide our communities and negatively impact our economy and people. To help address these deep-rooted challenges, the Rediscovering Hawai'i's Soul initiative was launched to create spaces where leaders from all sectors could have open, candid, and difficult discussions to work together to reimagine a future for Hawai'i that is thriving, inclusive, and grounded in Hawaiian values and our diverse cultures.

Creating a Thriving Soul for Hawai'i

For those of us who call Hawai'i home, we must recognize that our thinking is shaped by these islands. Developing a mindset of **island consciousness** and deep understanding of our reciprocal relationship (pilina) with 'āina and people is essential to how we live in this place that we love.

When Hawai'i's people—no matter where they come from or how long ago—realize their shared *kuleana* (responsibility) to embrace these indigenous practices, then *aloha* thrives and robust outcomes ensue for the *kaiāulu* (community), *mo'omeheu* (culture), and *'āina momona* (land).



Hawai'i's Soul:

“You know
it when you
feel it.”

The essence of these islands—and what makes this archipelago unique—can be described as Hawai'i's Soul. It's a way of existing in a **reciprocal relationship** with all living things: the *'āina*, the ocean, the sky, the *kānaka* who originated from the islands, and immigrants and people who call Hawai'i home.

Hawai'i's Soul is tangible, pervasive, and indispensable to our island existence. It is living with **island consciousness**—the understanding that the health of culture, community, and individuals are inseparable from the health of earth's life cycle. It is our **kuleana** to use that awareness to care for Hawai'i and for each other with tenderness, so that people and place thrive together as one.

Our Hawaiian ancestors knew this.

Rediscovering Hawai'i's Soul Network: Our Journey Together for a Resilient Hawai'i

Through the process of Transformative Scenario Planning, the Hawai'i Executive Collaborative and Reos Partners convened a diverse group of community leaders in 2022 to build trust with each other and begin to envision a variety of conceivable outcomes for Hawai'i.

Out of these planning sessions emerged four possible scenarios for Hawai'i's future that are currently being shared with broader

audiences to spark conversation and collective action on what must be done to preserve and perpetuate Hawai'i's Soul.

Join this growing network on a journey to share these scenarios and implement solutions on what can and must be done, individually and together, for Hawai'i—its land and people.

Scenario Summaries

'Iwa

Great frigatebirds - birds whose appearance warns of incoming storms

In 'Iwa, the structures of Hawai'i's governing system do not change, and access to power, influence and opportunity is increasingly controlled by those from outside. The nature of the economy is extractive, built around using the land, culture, and people in Hawai'i to drive economic profits. 'Iwa sees those who are benefiting under the current conditions continuing to benefit, while those who are currently struggling see their lot deteriorating.

In this scenario, Hawai'i's soul is lost.

Nēnē

The Hawaiian goose - birds that are known to fly in pairs

In Nēnē, Native Hawaiians seek and receive Federal acknowledgement as Indian Tribes and establish a government-to-government relationship with the United States. The term "Hawaiian" is defined as a person holding citizenship in the tribal government. Hawaiians in this scenario feel reconnected to land, and a subsistence economy emerges on Hawaiian lands. Nēnē enshrines existing tensions between the Native Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian communities in new structures.

In this scenario, Hawai'i's soul is split in two.

Manu o Kū

The white tern - native Hawaiian birds that thrive in both ocean and urban environments.

In Manu o Kū, the structures of Hawai'i's governing system do not change, and traditional Hawaiian values are increasingly embraced and embodied by leaders in business, politics, and civil society. Manu o Kū sees access to power, influence, and opportunity being driven by those inside Hawai'i. This widespread adoption of Hawaiian values fundamentally shifts how people and institutions in Hawai'i engage with one another, and the term "Hawaiian" grows less fraught.

In this scenario, Hawai'i's soul is transformed.

'Ua'u

The Hawaiian petrel - birds that guide voyagers to unknown lands

In 'Ua'u, regulatory power and governing authority shift toward the individual states. A weakened federal government leads some states to leave the union, and Hawai'i becomes its own sovereign nation. As an independent nation, Hawai'i becomes a political and economic target for existing world powers. All citizens of the new nation are considered Hawaiian. 'Ua'u occurs via a major shift in the longstanding international order, and contains the most uncertainty around Hawai'i's future.

In this scenario, Hawai'i's soul is tested.