

COHERENCE LAB

NEWSLETTER DEC 2017



SHARING COHERENCE FOR THE HOLIDAYS How we Cultivate Harmony, Resilience & Gratitude

From all of us at Coherence Lab, we wish you a joyful, blessed holiday season and a peaceful New Year! We want to express our heartfelt appreciation and acknowledge the special and significant role you play in our Coherence community. We are grateful for your trust, partnership and support as we seek to reimagine and realize in practice how to live on Earth in harmony and balance.

Coherence Lab operates as a *ThinkTank* and *Action Lab* exploring ways to advance community-derived visions fostering sustainability. As we look back on our work in 2017 and our plans for the New Year ahead, we celebrate our accomplishments and are grateful for the opportunity to build on these achievements. We are inspiring new ways of being in community through deep listening and collective visioning. We have created new and critical opportunities for community to come together; communities to honor the earth, each other and future generations. We have successfully launched core programs and created strategic partnerships to anchor our work. [Highlights of our progress are included here.](#) Thank you for being a part of this journey with us, we cannot do it without you!



Wisdom Weavers of the World Gathering



Inspired by the vision of Alaskan Aleut traditional and environmental leader, Ilarion (Kuuyux) Merculieff, 12 Indigenous Wisdom Weavers from tribes around the world gathered for four days on Kaua'i to co-create a message for humanity. The gathering witnessed the profound, and often tender, emergence of collective wisdom through deep listening. Coherence Lab is grateful to have offered our humble and loving service as hosts and 'ground crew' in this noble endeavor and we express our gratitude to all the many committed people from Kaua'i, and around the world, that helped to make this possible.

Indigenous peoples hold a vast repository of untapped knowledge from direct experience in human adaptation for survival. These Wisdom Keepers gathered to create a message to shift consciousness and share instructions for how to live in balance and harmony with the natural world. They see this as planting seeds to restore balance, reinvigorate our planet, and restore Mother Earth and all living beings to full health. Working with Academy Award and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Jeffrey D. Brown and his stellar media team, the event was recorded, and web-ready videos will be produced and translated into multiple languages. These messages will then be disseminated to partner organizations around the world. This gathering will also be featured in a full-length documentary.

THE SUMMIT EXCEEDED OUR EXPECTATIONS

[In the words of one of our ground crew members]

“ To my surprise, we entered into a field of radical apology and forgiveness. We grieved the confusion of mixed ancestry, whiteness, oppression, and the trauma that has hurt us individually as members of this human species who, collectively, have been traumatized for longer than any of us can remember. For me, it culminated when a man named Daniel got on his knees, gradually turning as he spoke to face every woman in the circle and said, 'To the women: I apologize for every time I saw you as an object for my pleasure, every time I didn't honor your voice, every time I took you for granted. When I dishonored you, I dishonored my own Mother. I am so sorry. I love you. Please forgive me.' Afterward, we were in a different space, elevated to a higher potential. Forgiveness, Reconciliation, and Love permeated the circle. Across cultures, races, languages, economic divides, ages, and experiences, we had located the pulse of Unity”
— Hilary Giovale, Flagstaff, Arizona; member of the Kaua'i Ground Crew

NOV 2017
Kilauea, Kaua'i







Photo: WildwdStudios.com

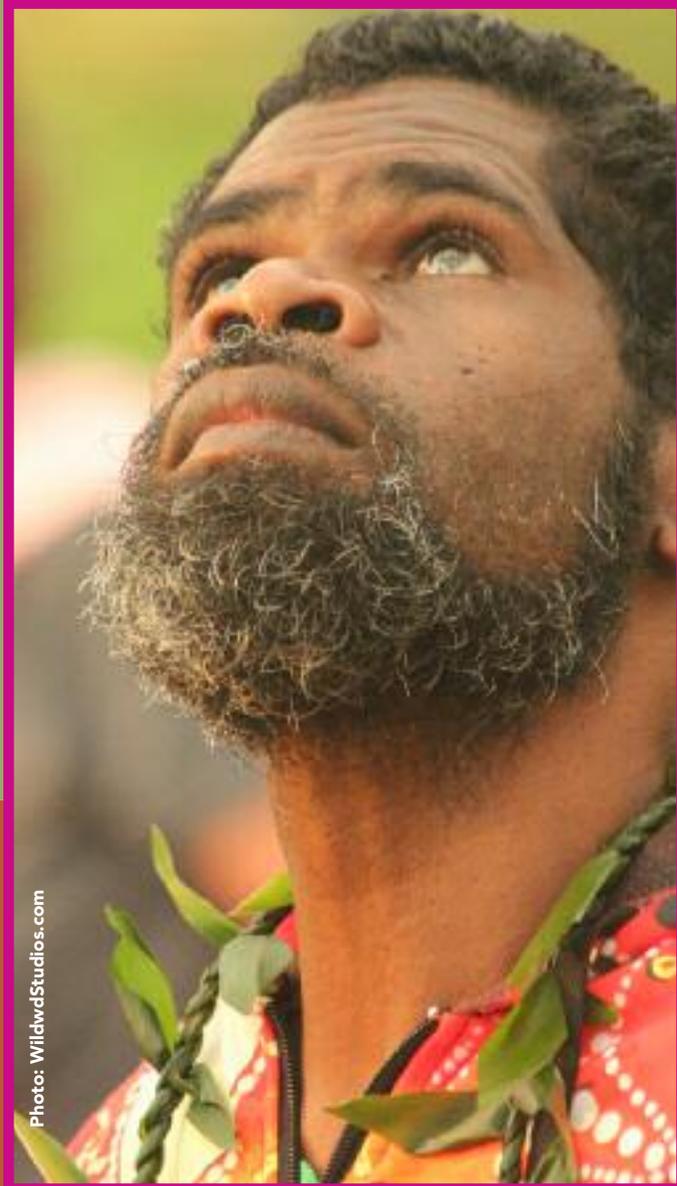


Photo: WildwdStudios.com



Photo: WildwdStudios.com



Photo: Ian Merculieff

Youth with the Wisdom Weavers of the World

Ancient wisdom is passed down through the generations, and wisdom also comes from looking at the world through new eyes and the hearts of the young. Our Kaua'i youth honored the elders and the Earth with their loving and engaging participation in the Wisdom Weavers of the World gathering.

The Island School Halau performed at the opening ceremony for the Wisdom Weavers of the World Conference, setting the stage for all that was to come. Kumu Kauka, who led this opening ceremony, was one of the 13 indigenous elders representing many different tribes from around the globe at this event.

The Wisdom Weaver were extremely grateful to experience Kanuikapono Charter School's early morning piko where the students sang the elders into circle and offered chants to welcome them. It was a profound experience for the elders and touched their hearts deeply.

At the close of the Conference, we held a special Youth/Elder Council at Pu'ukumu school that was open to the community. This collaborative session gave youth a chance to deeply listen and share their wisdom while the elders listened deeply. It was a stunning session. The youth asked the most profound questions, sparking new ideas for continuing work through our YOUTH JAMS in 2018.



Photos: Kit Thomas





First Rights of Nature Conservation Easement for the State of Hawaii

Over the past year, in partnership with the Terra Conservation Trust and rights-based law firm Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELDF), Coherence Lab has worked with landowners on Kaua'i to adopt the first Rights of Nature conservation easement for the State of Hawaii. We are delighted to announce that the first easement for the state of Hawaii was officially adopted and dedicated in sacred ceremony in December 2017.

Through this revolutionary conservation easement, the deeded land will be recognized as having legal rights; guaranteed to be protected from ecological damage in perpetuity no matter who owns the deed to the land in future generations. We are excited to be working in collaboration with landowners here on Kaua'i to create more Rights of Nature conservation easements and see this as an

important step towards spiritual and ecological healing for Kaua'i.

Several countries and dozens of US communities have recognized legal rights for ecosystems to exist, thrive, and regenerate their vital cycles. Coherence Lab is excited to help bring Rights of Nature to Kaua'i! Modern law "sees" nature as human property. Yet whole systems science and ancient wisdom teach that there is no separation between humans and all life on Earth. In the spirit of Aloha 'Aina, there are no owners of land, we are but temporary stewards. In early 2017 we held our first Rights of Nature ecosystems stewardship summit. Together with CELDF and members of our Kaua'i community, we explored opportunities to bring human law into balance with natural law, and hold our sacred land as the center of our own spirituality, health and well-being.





Sharing Coherence with the National Bioneers Conference

For nearly 30 years the annual Bioneers conference has showcased the best, most innovative thinking in the movements for environmental justice and social change, and we were thrilled to participate in the October 2017 Annual Conference, where we explored the cutting edge of building coherence.

Our workshop, *Leading from the Emerging Future: Uniting Systems Science, Ancient Wisdom and Presence*, was a huge success. The driving question for the workshop was "What practical strategies can we cultivate to strengthen our ability to operate from our ideal intended outcomes and apply inspired coherence in our work?" The standing room-only workshop was facilitated by Joanna Macy, beloved and renowned "whole systems" thinker, activist and Buddhist teacher; Shilpa Jain, Executive Director, YES! World; and Rene Henery, Coherence Lab advisor, ecologist and eco-geographer, California Science Director for Trout Unlimited.



As Rene commented on the experience, *"I was reminded what coherence is: the property of a unified whole; what it feels like: vulnerable, authentic; and what it can look like in practice: listening and sharing, discovering difference while experiencing that we all belong. My deepest gratitude to Coherence, panelists and participants for coming together and co-creating that space, so simple and so profound; an amazing imprint to carry home... and forward."*

LOOKING AHEAD

Key Projects in Development
for the NEW YEAR



1

THE NATURAL EDGE Doing Good by Bringing Business Back to Nature

Coherence Lab will be taking corporate executives and nonprofit and community leaders on special deep nature journeys designed to give companies and groups a natural edge by recalibrating priorities toward harmony and evolutionary thinking, rather than competition and stasis.

2

KAUA'I LEADERSHIP SUMMIT & SOLUTION LABS 2018

Designed to engage key stakeholders, policymakers, business leaders and others toward new thinking for change on the island. The Leadership Summit and Solutions Lab will create a platform for sharpening the focus on developing a sustainability model for Kaua'i.

3

KAUA'I CIRCLE: FROM MODEL TO ACTION

Fostering an innovative system of community engagement through the creation of a free, interactive wiki community website that provides a constantly updated scan of Kaua'i as a whole system. The goal is to provide a data-rich, yet easy-to-understand overview of all the critical elements our community has and needs for a thriving, sustainable future.

4

YOUTH LEADERSHIP: ALOHA 'AINA, YOUTH JAM

Coherence Lab is partnering with YES! to empower young people to get involved in shaping their future on the island by learning to listen to the island and one another. This Youth-specific JAM is designed to create transformative fields of shared inquiry in which young leaders deepen the root system behind the commitments, prayers and actions that move through their lives to support them in becoming powerful change-makers. Our intention is to create a council of youth leaders across the island, some of whom will participate in our upcoming Leadership Summit and Solutions Lab.



COHERENCE | forming a unified whole

We are delighted to announce one of our most JOYOUS CELEBRATIONS OF COHERENCE in 2017...
Prajna (Executive Director) and Greg (Director of Engagement) were married!

Reflecting

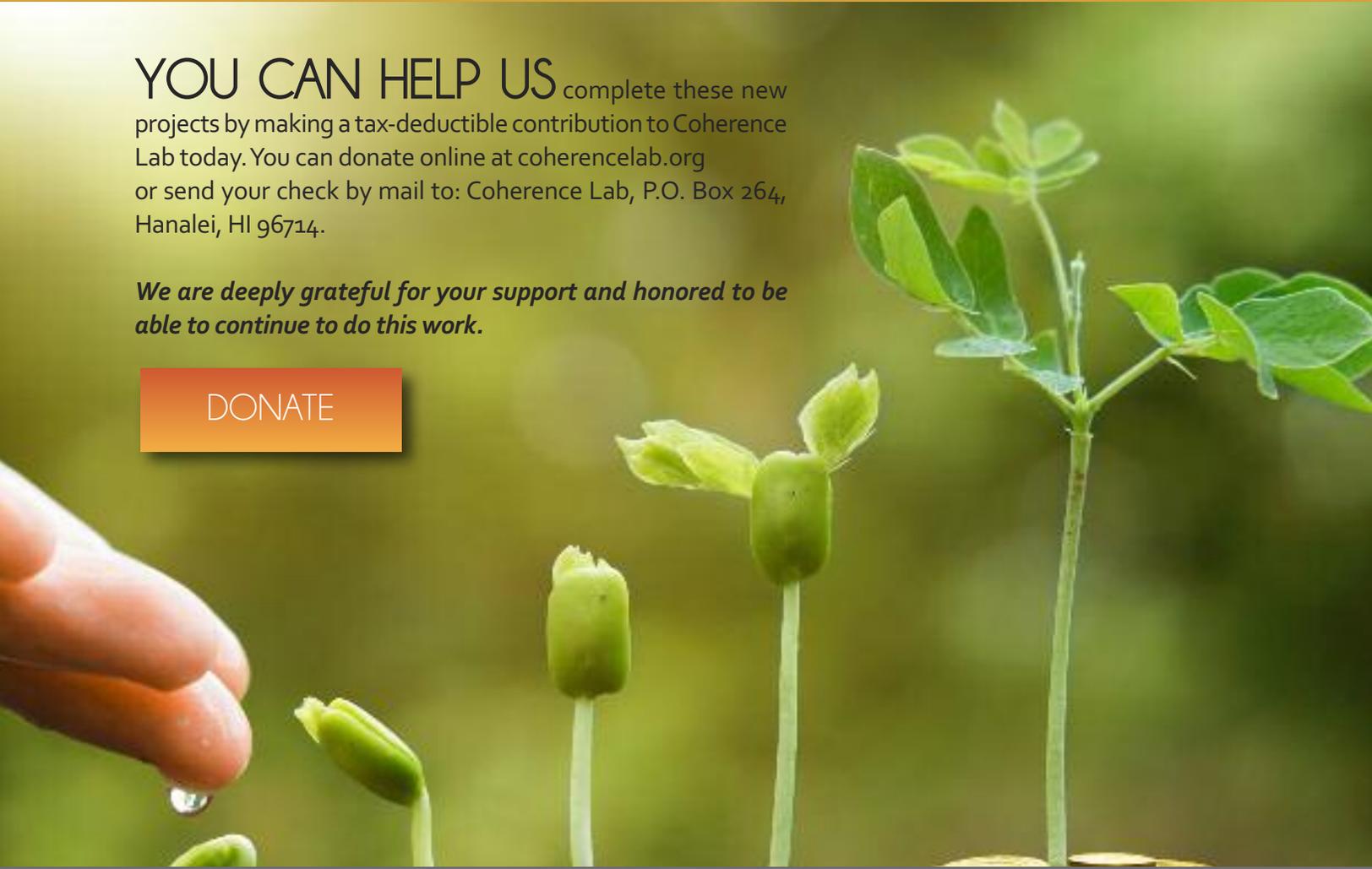
These are just some of the highlights from the past year and the year ahead. We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve the island and the community of Kaua'i in these critical ways. Thank you for being part of this incredible unfolding of coherence!

It is clear that Coherence Lab has an important role to play in bringing together indigenous wisdom and Earth Systems Science to put forth whole-systems solutions; build diverse community-based coalitions; and design projects to create a sustainable future that works for all.

YOU CAN HELP US complete these new projects by making a tax-deductible contribution to Coherence Lab today. You can donate online at coherencelab.org or send your check by mail to: Coherence Lab, P.O. Box 264, Hanalei, HI 96714.

We are deeply grateful for your support and honored to be able to continue to do this work.

DONATE



May 2018 bring us all closer to the healthy, just and unified Kaua'i and world we envision!

Love & Aloha,
Prajna Horn and the Coherence Lab Team

Coherence Lab is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization.



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