



January 19, 2024

Mr. Douglass Adams, Director  
Department of Research & Development  
County of Hawai'i  
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1301  
Hilo, HI 96720

Aloha Mr. Adams:

I am writing to submit my qualifications on behalf of Supersistence LLC for inclusion on the fiscal year 2023-2024 list of providers of professional services in the following categories:

RD.3) Community Planning (Community and Economic Development, Community Engagement, Strategic Planning, Sustainability Systems)

RD.13) Community Planning (Public Relations and Event Planning)

Please find attached my resume outlining over 10 years of experience working in food systems, sustainability, community development, and strategic planning. Relevant projects have focused on community needs assessments, systems analysis, program and policy design, as well as convening diverse stakeholders and delivering engaging presentations to support collective impact initiatives.

As the principal of Supersistence LLC I offer expertise as a consultant adept at research, community engagement, process design, and data driven communications tailored to the unique circumstances and aspirations of community groups or institutional clients. My focus lies in creatively navigating complex systems towards social, ecological, and economic thriving in Hawaii.

References and resume of past performance are provided. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any additional information. I look forward to the opportunity to support the work of the County.

Sincerely,  
Hunter Heavilin

Supersistence LLC  
+1 (808) 391-8687  
[hunter@supersistence.org](mailto:hunter@supersistence.org)  
[www.supersistence.org](http://www.supersistence.org)

# Statements of Qualification and Expressions of Interest

## (1) General Information

Firm Name: Supersistence LLC

Principal: Hunter Heavilin

Email: [hunter@supersistence.org](mailto:hunter@supersistence.org)

Phone: +1 (808) 391-8687

Principal Place of Business: 2861 Komaia Place, Honolulu, HI 96822

Locations of Offices: Virtual/Mobile across all Hawaiian Islands

## (2) Firm Operations

Firm Age: Planning consultant since 2014

Average Number of Employees (past 5 years): 1

## (3) Principal Qualifications:

PhD Candidate in Geography & Environment, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Master of Arts in Geography & Environment, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Master of Urban & Regional Planning, University of Hawaii at Manoa

10+ years experience as an independent consultant, researcher, designer, project manager, and facilitator

Full resume attached detailing relevant experience

## (4) Selected 2023 Projects & References:

- Soil Classification Systems & Use in Regulating Agricultural Lands Study
  - Reference: Aaron Setogawa, Senior Planner, Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, [aaron.h.setogawa@hawaii.gov](mailto:aaron.h.setogawa@hawaii.gov)
- Oahu Compost Project
  - Reference: Dexter Kishida, (previously) Food Security and Sustainability Program Manager, City and County of Honolulu, [dexter.k.kishida@hawaii.gov](mailto:dexter.k.kishida@hawaii.gov)
- Farm to Food Bank Initiative & Campaign
  - Reference: Peggy Mierzwa, Director of Policy & Advocacy, Hawai'i Public Health Institute, [peggy@hiphi.org](mailto:peggy@hiphi.org)
- Web Soil Health Economics Tool
  - Reference: Dave Elliott, Executive Director, , Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Council, [dave.elliott@oahurcd.org](mailto:dave.elliott@oahurcd.org)
- Market Systems Development Initiative Data Analyst
  - Reference: Dennis Flemming, Executive Director, Hamakua Institute, [dennis@hamakuainstitute.org](mailto:dennis@hamakuainstitute.org)

## (5) Descriptive Literature:

Resume below provides overview of experience

# Hunter Heavilin

Honolulu, Hawaii

+1 (808) 391-8687

[Hunter@Supersistence.org](mailto:Hunter@Supersistence.org)

[www.Supersistence.org](http://www.Supersistence.org)

## SUMMARY

For over a decade, I have worked with individuals, organizations, communities, and networks to address issues in environmental quality, social equity, and economic development. Through research, education, facilitation, and design my work navigates social and ecological systems towards the development of resilient and sustainable human habitats.

## EDUCATION

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>University of Hawaii at Manoa</b><br>(expected)<br>PhD ABD, Department of Geography and Environment<br>Research Focus: "Local Foods Through Crisis: Dependency & Disruptions in Hawaii"  | 2016 - 2024 |
| <b>University of Hawaii at Manoa</b><br>Master of Arts in Geography and Environment   | 2019        |
| <b>University of Hawaii at Manoa</b><br>Master of Urban and Regional Planning<br>Thesis: "Planners to Planters: Enabling Urban Agriculture in Honolulu"   | 2014        |
| <b>University of Hawaii at Manoa</b><br>Graduate Certificate in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance<br>Thesis: "Plantalytics: Developing Assistive Technology for Designing Multi-Hazard Resilient Food Production Systems" | 2014        |
| <b>Prescott College</b><br>Bachelor of Arts in Sustainable Community Development<br>Thesis: "Functional Resonance: Permaculture and Disaster Risk Reduction"  | 2012        |
| <b>Hawaii Community College</b><br>Associate of Science in Tropical Forest Ecosystem and Agroforestry Management  | 2010        |

## EMPLOYMENT

### **Supersistence**

01/2014 - Present

Food Systems Planner, Principal

Self-employment consultancy providing food systems related consulting from community engagement, primary research and data analysis, to policy development and advocacy. Clients include business, government, non-profit, and community based organizations.

See Selected Consulting for a subset of recent clients.

### **Hawaii Public Health Institute**

05/2020 - 07/2022

Hawaii Food Resilience Consultant

Collected and produced data on hunger and feeding programs to aid COVID-19 pandemic response strategies. Support data efforts of the Kupuna Food Security Coalition and County food access coordinators. Coordinated efforts with HI-EMA, Hawaii Hunger Action Network, ESF-6 Mass Care Meetings and other relevant groups.

### **Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Mgmt, UH Manoa**

01/2017 - 09/2019

Graduate Research Assistant

Modeled climate change impacts to land suitability for agricultural crops in Hawaii. Working with soil, crop, and climate specialists to collect and refine data, executing the model to obtain land suitability and suitability change maps, and validating prediction results.

### **Farm Link Hawaii**

11/2015 - 12/2018

Market Developer and Manager

Developed a digital marketplace and physical distribution network for a food hub connecting farms and buyers across Oahu. Grew the network to over 75 farms selling to more than 100 buyers ranging from individuals to institutions, producing a more than tenfold sales increase.

### **Oahu Farm to School Network**

08/2013 - 12/2016

Director

Framed and initiated the network development process, supporting a core membership of individuals and organizations advancing farm to school opportunities. Completed initial network survey and connectivity mapping to enhance network relationship and expand membership.

### **Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development**

03/2015 - 10/2015

Regional Food Systems Network Weaver and Convener

Stewarded the Hina'i Network of institutional, organizational, and community partners focused on strengthening food and economic systems through place-based agricultural production and youth engagement towards the re-establishment of indigenous ancestral abundance across Oahu's West, Central, and North Shore communities. Developed regional, agro-ecological, organic, and community-based social enterprises network assessment and map tools.

### **National Disaster Preparedness Training Center**

06/2014 - 12/2014

Graduate Assistant

Development of 8-hour workshops on food security in acute post-disaster contexts and planning for resilient food systems.

**Hawaii Association of Independent Schools**

08/2010 - 07/2013

Farm to School Programs Consultant

Consulted on design, education, and implementation of projects for the Grow Hawaii Farm-to-School program with 15 private and charter middle school sustainability projects focused on agriculture, gardening, and waste management.

**The Green House Sustainable Learning Center**

10/2007 - 03/2013

Co-Director

Program and curriculum development for a community-based learning center serving as a model for sustainable urban ecological living. Developed programming and curriculum, as well as led instruction, for multiple in-school and afterschool environmental education programs in dozens of schools across Oahu. Led weekend adult workshops as well as planning, hosting, and implementation of community events and workdays.

**Institute For Human Services**

02/2010 - 02/2011

Instructor and Garden Designer

Instructor and program co-developer of the Learning Environmental Awareness Program. Leading after-school classes for middle and high school age at-risk youth. Duties include coordinating with schools, classroom management, instruction, training of teaching assistants. School garden management and design as well as curriculum and program development. Also designed, oversaw the installation of, and managed the front gardens at the Women's and Children's Shelter as part of the IHS Urban Farm Project.

**Kokua Hawaii Foundation**

06/2008 - 05/2009

3R's Program Coordinator

Coordination of school recycling hauling programs at over 30 schools on Oahu island. Development of waste reduction and recycling curriculum. Education for youth about the waste stream and waste auditing.

**PUBLICATIONS**

Heavilin, H. (2020). Local Foods Through Crisis. In *The Value of Hawai'i 3: Hulihia, the Turning* (Vol. 3, pp. 34–37). University of Hawai'i Press.

<https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctv1pncr2m.12>

Heavilin, H. (2014). A Way with Waste. In *The Value of Hawai'i 2: Ancestral Roots, Oceanic Visions* (Vol 2, pp. 111–118). University of Hawai'i Press.

<https://doi.org/10.1515/9780824840259-018>

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Heavilin, H. (2022, September 27). Setting the Context: History of Local Food in Hawai'i [Conference opening presentation]. Hawaii Agriculture Conference 2022, Honolulu, HI.  
[https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vRPo1IcO41T7EO5JrLproLimhllgYyYUQw78lmhXZnfTu2Yo21N\\_W\\_XEadIEtbsjtWVH3shEm8pz1pM/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vRPo1IcO41T7EO5JrLproLimhllgYyYUQw78lmhXZnfTu2Yo21N_W_XEadIEtbsjtWVH3shEm8pz1pM/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000)

Heavilin, H. (2021, November 11). Local Foods Through Crisis: Growing Food System Resilience [Public presentation]. Garden Club of Honolulu, Honolulu, HI.  
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vQ8SqI4GiHLaKTE5gHpCqH81ThaHwFI8YHOPX4dSYW-AVXO4BBzAov1J5ho-Xy9eoknFVl7I8fEaO/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000>

Heavilin, H. (2018, April 10). Assessment of Climate Change Impacts to Hawaii's Crop Industries [Paper presentation]. American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting 2018, New Orleans, LA.  
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vTFYttMEXHRWdjpIaPddBMMxysy982nriGanLuId70XarpVsoa8RM51yhKcXRUKzDJ8v3lbZi8gunn/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000>

Heavilin, H. (2013). Rethinking waste as a resource [Public presentation]. TEDx Honolulu.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V65KJLgUcy4>

Heavilin, H. (2011, November 25). Permaculture in Hawaii [Conference presentation]. International Permaculture Conference, Havana, Cuba.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MF3JVIUFGg4>

## SELECTED CONSULTING

**State of Hawaii Office of Planning & Sustainable Development** 06/2023 - Ongoing

Lead Contractor on Soil Classifications Systems and Use in Regulating Agricultural Lands  
Evaluation of existing soil classification systems and their impact on regulating agricultural lands. Researching and assessing the suitability of the current systems, studying best practices in agricultural land regulation from other jurisdictions, and developing recommendations. Overseeing subcontractors from multiple firms.

**Hawaii Foodbank** 01/2022 - 03/2023

Food Insecurity and Distribution Data Developer  
Produced data tools to demonstrate food insecurity across the islands, visualize the volume and destination of food distribution, and determine gaps and overlaps in between these data. Also developed a statewide food pantry survey and data system to enable live mapping of food access points.

**Malama Kauai**

11/2022

Food Insecurity Data Analyst

Produced data tools to demonstrate food insecurity experiences within Kauai County.

**Hawaii Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice**

12/2021 -

06-2022

SNAP Data Landscape &amp; Needs Assessment

Framed and led a research project to articulate the available and desired data to inform efforts to increase Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program (SNAP) enrollment. Compiled available state and federal data into visualizations and assessed advocate needs for additional data.

**Hawaii Farmers Union United**

01/2022 -

05-2022

Government Relations Representative

Serving as a professional advocate who works to influence political decisions on behalf of HFUU. Primary work aids policy prioritization, drafting and delivering testimony, and educating officials on issues. Drafted, introduced, and lobbied for bills to advance family farm policy. Automated bill tracking and provided testimony to successfully see passage of multiple priority bills.

**Plasch Econ Pacific. Hawaii**

09/2018 -

10/2021

Agricultural Consultant

Agricultural systems research, analysis and planning. Projects have focused on local and national market price assessment, public land lease pricing, operations planning, and sectoral analysis. Clients include Kamehameha Schools, Mahi Pono LLC, and other private firms.

**County of Hawaii**

06/2021 -

09/2021

Emergency Feeding Plan

Convened multi-agency stakeholder group and produced, in concert with the Hamakua Institute, an Emergency Feeding Plan for the County of Hawaii Civil Defense Agency.

**Oahu Resource Conservation & Development**

08/2020 -

09/2020

Project Consultant

Reviewed costs and practicality of various soil health practices focused on building soil carbon in Hawaii. Identified and compiled available data to assist farmers in a decision-making tool for best management practice (BMP) implementation. Developed a draft [Soil Health tool](#) to aid land managers in selecting conservation practices to address resource concerns and enhance soil carbon. The results of this work will provide direction for future opportunities to promote carbon farming and soil health initiatives in Hawaii.

**Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action**

03/2020 -

05/2020

Policy &amp; Communications

Policy analysis and strategic communications on agrofood bills in the 2020 legislative session. Collating and reviewing relevant policy, topical coalition and campaign building, and writing popular press pieces. Undertook spatial analysis of existing and proposed policies paired with framing future research goals and governing agency interaction strategies.

**Hawaii Ulu Cooperative**

01/2020 -

04/2020

Local Market Demand Analyst

Contract research to assist the cooperative in identifying market sectors to pursue. Developed and deployed a survey instrument and outreach strategy to assess market demand for local crops and products.

**Plan Pacific. Honolulu County**

01/2016 -

12/2019

Planning Consultant

Contract consulting for City and County of Honolulu's Department of Planning and Permitting. Projects included a) report on issues and recommendations to update rural and agricultural zoning to protect farm lands and support farmers, and b) survey and report on improving the regional planning processes of the DPP.

**Hawaii Green Growth. Hawaii**

07/2019 -

10/2019

Local Food Price Analyst

Designed and implemented local food price and volume study across the state. The study quantified small and mid size farm data that have historically not been assessed by state analyses. Study results and process viewable at [supersistence.org/pie](http://supersistence.org/pie).

**Statewide Farmer Needs Assessment. Hawaii**

01/2018 -

12/2018

Research Lead

In partnership with Dr. Albie Miles of UHWO's Sustainable Community Food Systems developed and deployed a statewide assessment of structural barriers to increasing farm productivity across the state. Archived data products and results are viewable at [hawaiifarmersurvey.com](http://hawaiifarmersurvey.com)

**Roth Ecological Design Int. LLC. Hawaii**

08/2012 -

09/2017

Agriculture &amp; Systems Planner

Contract consulting for design and planning for low-impact development, biological wastewater treatment, net-zero water systems, and agricultural development. The most recent project was agricultural pre-planning for the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' 500-acre land holding in Wahiawa, HI.

**Pono Permaculture. Hawaii.**

08/2008 -

08/2016 Principal

Consultation, education, and design work with homeowners, small farmers, community groups and centers. Focused on ecological site planning, installation, and management for production landscapes.

**Adventist Development and Relief Agency. Vanuatu**

08/2012 Kaikai fo Laef (Food For Life) Project Consultant and Teacher

Food and agricultural system site analysis across multiple islands that culminated in co-teaching a 14-day permaculture design certificate course focused on sharing climate-smart agricultural strategies between communities and introducing other sustainable agricultural practices to improve nutrition and food security in remote villages.

**SELECTED TEACHING**

**Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design. Oahu, Hawaii**

10/2011 -

10/2016 Permaculture Design Certificate Courses

Coursework developer and lead teacher for annual 72-hour Permaculture Design Certificate courses on Oahu focused ecological design oriented towards the development of sustainable agricultural systems and communities.

**Permaculture Research Institute USA. Molokai, Hawaii.**

10/2010-06/2011

Permaculture workshop series

Permaculture teacher and curriculum development for multiple courses (Plant Propagation & Seed Saving, Swale Practicum, Permaculture Design Certificate course, etc) working with Hawaiian Homestead farmers, smallholders, and youth in coordination with Sust'ainable Molokai, Alu Like and Na Pua No`eau.

**GrassRoots United. Port-Au-Prince, Haiti**

05 /

2011 Permaculture Design Certificate Course

Co-taught with Larry Santoyo.

**International Association for Human Values. Cap Haitien, Haiti**

01 /

2011 Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security, and Waste Management

Course planner and instructor for a USAID funded intensive workshop with the Nouvelle Vie Haitian Youth Corps. Students developed skill sets to design and implement organic waste management systems in nearby markets, and urban agriculture programs to reduce dependence on food aid and imported food, improve nutrition, and reduce family food costs.

**SELECTED VOLUNTEERING**

**Food Systems Division, American Planning Association**

02/2022

- Present

Executive Committee Member & Membership Chair  
Advancing food system planning nationwide via professional development and education opportunities.

**AgHui**

04/2020

- Present

Working Group Member

A broad coalition of agricultural stakeholders from across the sector and the state that first convened in April 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic to forge deeper connections between local agriculture, emergency food distribution, and long-term economic planning. Developed survey and [dashboard](#) to compile and connect shovel-ready projects with public and private funders.

**Sierra Club Oahu Group**

01/2018

- 12/2021

Executive Committee Chair

Oversaw staff and policy work on environmental protection and social equity advancement.

**SEEQS: the School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability**

04/2016 -

01/2019

Governing Board Member & Board Secretary

Direction and advising for secondary public charter school development.

**HI SOUP**

11/2014 -

01/2017

Organizer. Honolulu, HI

Coordinating community crowdfunding dinners with local chefs and venues wherein participants vote with their dollars to support community projects to make a better city.

**Permablitz Hawaii**

10/2011 -

10/2016 Core Hui (team) Member

A reciprocal gardening network with the goal of restoring Hawaii's food security one backyard at a time through free monthly community workdays transforming home and institutional landscapes.

**Think Tech Hawaii**

12/2014 -

06/2015

Host. Honolulu, HI

Host of "Sustainable Hawaii" a weekly interview show highlighting community members working towards the transition from being individual consumers with rights to building communities of producers with responsibilities.

**Local Foods Local Places Honolulu**

11/2014

Organizer & Steering Committee Member. Honolulu, HI

An EPA backed smart-growth focused community food planning process developing strategies to improve food access, food security, and food equity to spur investment and stewardship in the Kakaako Makai area. The program is now the Active Transportation and Food Access Committee coordinated by the Hawaii Department of Health.

### Engineers Without Borders, Honolulu Professional Chapter

01/2012 Agricultural Lead. Chiang-Mai, Thailand.

Mae Wan Water Infrastructure Project team member focused on the assessment of agricultural and orchard production systems to increase drought tolerance and reduce water use. Assessment of water resource systems and irrigation infrastructure potential.

### Earthquake Disaster Response

02/2010 -

04/2010 Volunteer Responder. Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.

Consulted on solid waste management in ad hoc camps of internally displaced persons with community groups and international development organizations. Coordinated waste management provisions to unsanctioned camps receiving no formal government support. Led post-disaster workshops on permaculture design, composting, solid and human waste management, and low-tech water catchment and filtration.

## SELECTED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **Asia-Pacific Affairs Leadership Program**

2019

Pacific Forum

### **Kuleana Academy**

2019

Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action

### **Big Data Analysis**

2017-2018

DevLeague

### **Facilitative Skills for Collaborative Leaders**

2014

Pacific Center for Collaboration

### **Coastal Community Resilience (AWR-228-C)**

2013

National Disaster Preparedness Training Center

## MEMBERSHIPS

### **Scholars Strategy Network**

2020 -

Present

### **American Association of Geographers**

2017 -

Present

### **American Planning Association**

2013 -

Present

## AWARDS

### **40 Under 40, Class of 2021**

Pacific Business News.

07 / 2021

### **Commendation for Permablitz Hawai'i**

Hawai'i State Senate

03 / 2015

### **Commendation for The Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design**

Hawai'i State Senate

09 / 2012