DATE: Thursday, November 21,
TIME: 5 ET/ 4 MT/ 3 CT/ **2 PT** and 12 UTC (Hawaii)

CALL-IN: 424-203-8075, Access Code: 519956#

Present: Jo Ellen (TMC), Craig Malina (Speciality/ Kauai Project), Nathanael Johnson (Grist), Oriana (Filmmaker-Oahu/Oakland), Andrea Brower (activist/ Huffpost blogger), James (Yes!), Joel Bleifuss (IIT), Ikaika (Hawaiian Independent), Mike Ludwig (Truthout), Maureen (Earth Island)

AGENDA:

**Report from Island Activist:** Andrea Brower

It’s possible the Governor Abercrombie of Hawaii will lead efforts to overturn the Kauai bill. Hawaii Island also passed a bill to limit pesticides but there is movement throughout the state to regulate these companies. The head of the Dept. of Agriculture resigned.

**Reports from TMC Journalists:**

**Ikaika Hussey**—this is an election year, so there is money in the air.

**Mike Ludwig** (Truthout), just returned from Kauai—two part series, first story out today, as an overview of the issue, following two community activists on the West Side. Next piece will include workers opposed to the bill and the economic issues. Kauai becoming a microcosm of the global debate—difference between folks who want to throw the companies off the island, and those who want to just get info on health.

**Maureen Nandini Mitra** (Earth Island), heading to Kauai December 1—why are things happening there the way they are; history of plantation culture and how that translates; modern version of plantation economy and how that ties into environmental and social justice issues.

**James Trimarco** (Yes!) heading to Kauai—sustainable agriculture projects on Kauai, and also education and agriculture. This topic is interesting because Hawaii is far from the rest of the world; it can be a laboratory for sustainability. Hawaii leads the US in consumer-generated solar power. Is Hawaii’s role in the economy of food about GMO or about sustainability for people who live there.

**Joel Bleifus—**We’ll be covering politics around native rights, and the Hawaii indigineous culture

**Nathanael Johnson—**I’m interested in finding a character or story that is a crucible for these issues around health, economics, culture

**Discussion of Project Next Steps:**

Jo Ellen Green Kaiser (TMC)

Be good to have background content that shows this is not just anti\_GMO, but researched about the companies.

Andrea: Be great to have more investigation of alliances between the governor and state on the influence of this industry and why it is so strong. GAP will do some FOIA requests as well.

Ikaika: We’re part of a coalition that is trying to build a searchable database of campaign finance spending records, hopefullly by January.

**Decision: URL for this project**

Is this fundamentally a Kauai project, a project on pesticide-resistant GMO seed, or a project on agribusiness?

This is bigger than Kauai—it is happening on many islands. It is a statewide issue.

This is bigger than the pesticide and GMO issue. State influence over local rights, money in politics, etc. But is that too large a scope for this project.

The hook should be a small, representative nugget.

GMO is the metaphor, being so alienated from our food system. KauaiGMO may be the smallest nugget. It’s an issue but it’s also a social movement. It’s about the future of agriculture and who will own it. Seeds of Dissent. It’s a controversy about the future of our agricultural system.

**Closing Remarks**

Craig Malina--Project Initiator, Project Development Director and also TMC member (Specialty Studios)

I’ve been so amazed at what’s been happening over in Kauai. Come to Kauai. It’s just so different being on the island. There is no substitute for having been there and seeing the people.