

# HAMAMOTO GARDENS GUÅHAN SUSTAINABLE CULTURE FOOD RESILIENCY HUB

Hafa Adai,

For six years, Guåhan Sustainable Culture (GSC) has been empowering our community through sustainable farming education and building food resilience. With Guam's 90% dependence on imported food and rapid loss of agricultural lands to development, particularly as the military buildup continues to consume viable land for housing developments, training facilities, and other military infrastructure, we are committed to creating a more self-sufficient and sustainable future for our island.

To further this mission, we secured the historic 50-acre Hamamoto Gardens to establish a Food Resiliency Hub—a vibrant space where farmers learn sustainable practices, children connect with agriculture, and indigenous knowledge thrives. This property features 14 acres of fruit forest, ample land for farmers to cultivate crops, USDA-approved water systems, and community-focused programs that address critical challenges like food insecurity and the preservation of traditional practices. Together, these resources make Hamamoto Gardens a cornerstone for nurturing Guam's agricultural future and strengthening our island's food sovereignty.

With the support of partners like Kataly Foundation, Center for Ethical Land Transition, and local collaborators, we've made great progress, but there is still much to do. The attached document shares more about this transformative effort and how you can help. We'd love the opportunity to connect and answer any questions.

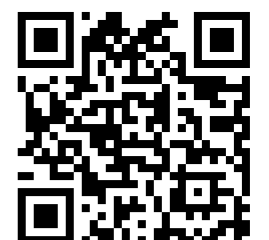
Sincerely,



**Michelle Crisostomo**  
President & Co-Founder



**Marlyn Oberiano**  
Vice President & Co-Founder



**GUSUSTAINABLE.ORG**

DEC 2024

# GUÅHAN SUSTAINABLE CULTURE FOOD RESILIENCY HUB

## AT HAMAMOTO GARDENS

Hamamoto Gardens presents a unique and urgent opportunity to establish a robust Food Resiliency Hub on Guåhan. Spanning 50 acres in Yona, Southern Guåhan, this property is more than just land—it is a catalyst for community growth, food sovereignty, and cultural regeneration. Once an ecotourism park on the eastern side of Guåhan, it showcases the island's natural beauty through winding paved trails that meanderes through fruit jungles, open grasslands, and overlooks offering breathtaking views of lush forests and the ocean beyond.



# WHAT WE DO AND WHY

Guåhan Sustainable Culture (GSC) has nurtured sustainability, food sovereignty, and the preservation of CHamoru Culture on Guåhan since its founding in 2019. We aim to accomplish this by mastering the cultivation of our own food and ensuring the health of our land through sustainable farming practices for generations to come.

With a track record of impactful initiatives, GSC has firmly established itself as a trusted organization dedicated to fulfilling its mission. Through responsible resource stewardship and a commitment to transparency, GSC has garnered the confidence of donors, partners, and the community. This includes GSC providing valuable experiences for local AmeriCorps members.

Key programs include educational initiatives for students, support for local farmers, operation of three community gardens, distribution of fresh produce to those in need, and workshops and outreach for community members of all ages. Our Li'l Sprouts summer and after-school program and Farm to School program instill values of food security and promote an appreciation for local agriculture. The Farmers 1st program helped raise and distribute 126 microgrants to local farmers after Typhoon Mawar. All of these programs work collectively to strengthen our local food system and foster a resilient, sustainable future for Guåhan.

Our mission is to cultivate ideas and strategies for environmental sustainability within our local community through practical education, social engagement, and collaborative partnerships.

# HOW WE USE OUR RESOURCES

Guåhan Sustainable Culture (GSC) has a clear financial plan and a deep understanding of allocating funds to maximize impact and achieve its mission effectively. In its first six years, GSC garnered \$4.5 million in funding from a diverse mix of community donations, grants, program revenues, and government funding.

**\$3M**

## Farmers 1st Program & Regional Food Business

To empower local farmers and producers and foster a resilient agricultural sector over the next four years.

**\$700K**

## AmeriCorps Program

To cultivate future leaders in healthy futures and environmental sustainability. Recently awarded for another year.

**\$635K**

## SWIFR Innovation & Regenerative Program

To ignite a passion for environmental stewardship in our community.

**\$175K**

## Li'l Sprouts Academy & Farm to School

To plant the seeds of self-reliance and resiliency in our youth.

**\$75K**

## Farm Fresh Program

To nourish our community, especially those battling cancer, with local, nutritious food.

**\$75K**

## Aquaculture Systems (IMT-RAS)

To build and evaluate the production of oyster gardens in an integrated multi-trophic recirculating aquaculture system.

**\$20K**

## Pineksai CHamoru Language in the Garden Project

To preserve and celebrate our island's rich cultural heritage.



GSC FOOD RESILIENCY HUB AT HAMAMOTO GARDENS

GSC has made a tangible impact on the lives of individuals and the broader community. By providing support, resources, and hope, we are making a difference in the face of adversity and fostering a more resilient Guåhan. Our impact is further demonstrated through key statistics as of June 30, 2024:



Distribution of over 50,000 pounds of fresh produce to our community.



Provision of 1,200 bags of free local produce to 324 cancer patients.



Engagement of 270 K-8th grade students in our summer and after-school programs since Li'l Sprouts Academy's inception in 2022.



Participation of 600 students in our Farm to School initiatives.



Establishment of 3 community gardens and 13 school/group gardens.

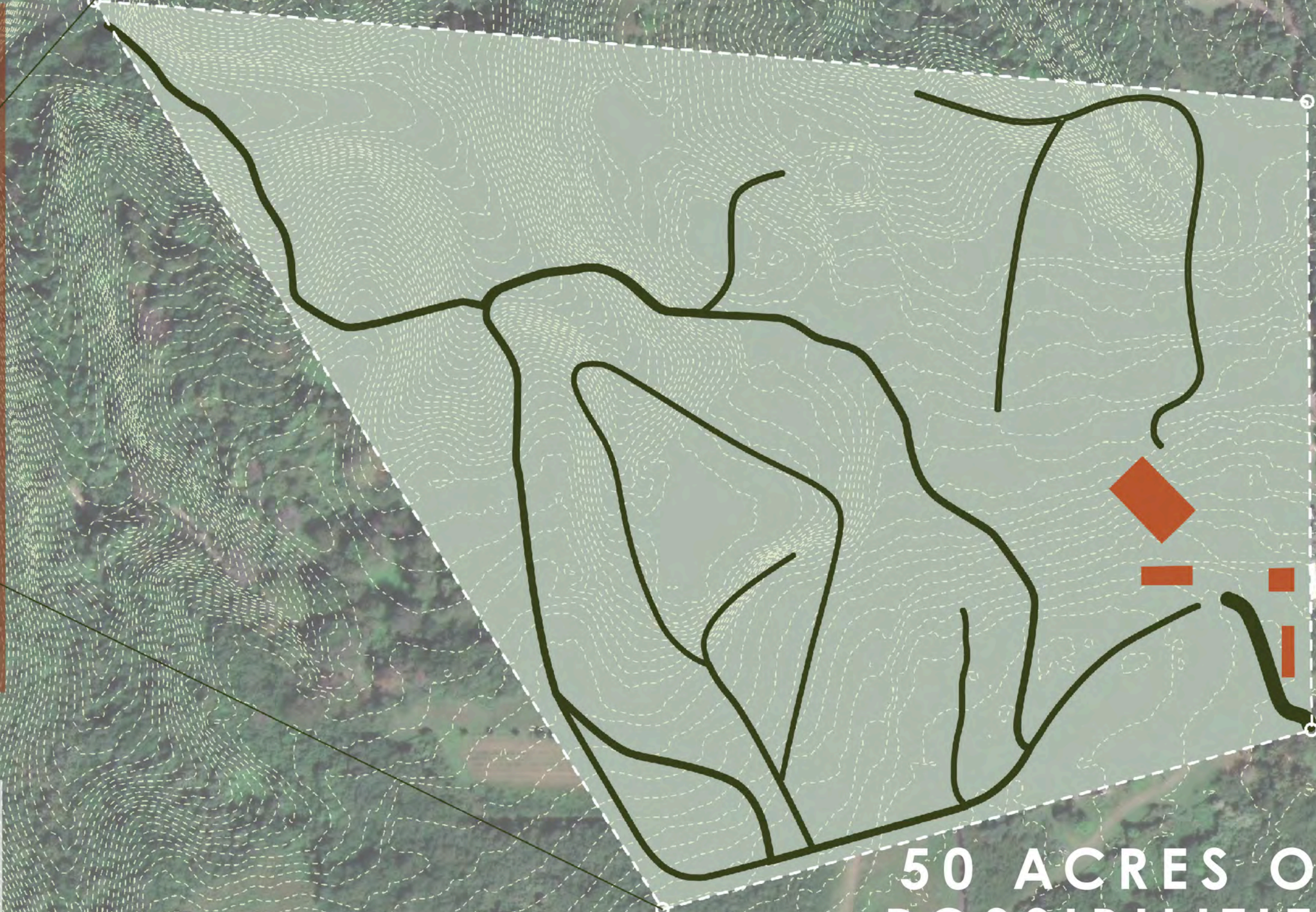


Distribution of relief aid to 126 farmers devastated by Typhoon Mawar through our Farmers 1st Program.



Support was provided to over 200 local farmers in navigating disaster applications and recovery efforts.

# HAMAMOTO GARDENS



N  
1:1,300

- Hamamoto Gardens Property Line
- Existing Paths
- Buildings

50 ACRES OF  
POSSIBILITIES

GSC FOOD RESILIENCY HUB AT HAMAMOTO GARDENS

# FOCUS ON: PROGRAMMING

AMERICORPS PROGRAM

LIVESTOCK FARMING

COMMUNITY FARMING

FOOD HUB

FARMERS MARKET

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

AGROFORESTRY SYSTEM

AQUACULTURE

GSC OFFICES

LEARNING CENTER

LIL SPROUTS ACADEMY

NURSERY

ARTIST RESIDENCY

Agricultural Area

Road

Trail Loop

N

1:700

GSC FOOD RESILIENCY HUB AT HAMAMOTO GARDENS

# IMAGINE:

## COMPOSTING

Residents drop off waste and pick up nutrient-rich soil, closing the loop in sustainable gardening.



# A CLOSED LOOP SYSTEM

## YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Kids will learn the numerous benefits of composting, including how it reduces waste and enriches soil.

## FARMERS MARKET

Increase the availability farm fresh and value-added produce for a Food Sovereign Guåhan.

## FOOD DEMOCRACY

Seeds, nursery grown sprouts, and fruit saplings, sold to encourage residents to grow their own food.

## COMMUNITY

Local artisans and businesses will be able to sell their products, creating a network geared towards a more resilient island.

# FARMERS MARKETS

GSC FOOD RESILIENCY HUB AT HAMAMOTO GARDENS

# IMAGINE:

## FARM PLOTS

Plots of land will be allocated for local beginning farmers, providing them with the opportunity to cultivate their own produce.

## POLLINATORS

The newly planted native fruits and vegetables in the farm plots will attract many pollinators, increasing fruit and vegetable production.



## RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEM

Existing rainwater tanks and new storage tanks will be used to improve water conservation and support irrigation efforts.

# FARM PLOTS

GSC FOOD RESILIENCY HUB AT HAMAMOTO GARDENS

# IMAGINE:

## FOOD HUB

Produce collected in the farm plots will be distributed through the food hub. Local farmers will also be able to bring their produce for wider distribution to the community.

## A FOOD HUB



## INDIGENOUS TEACHINGS

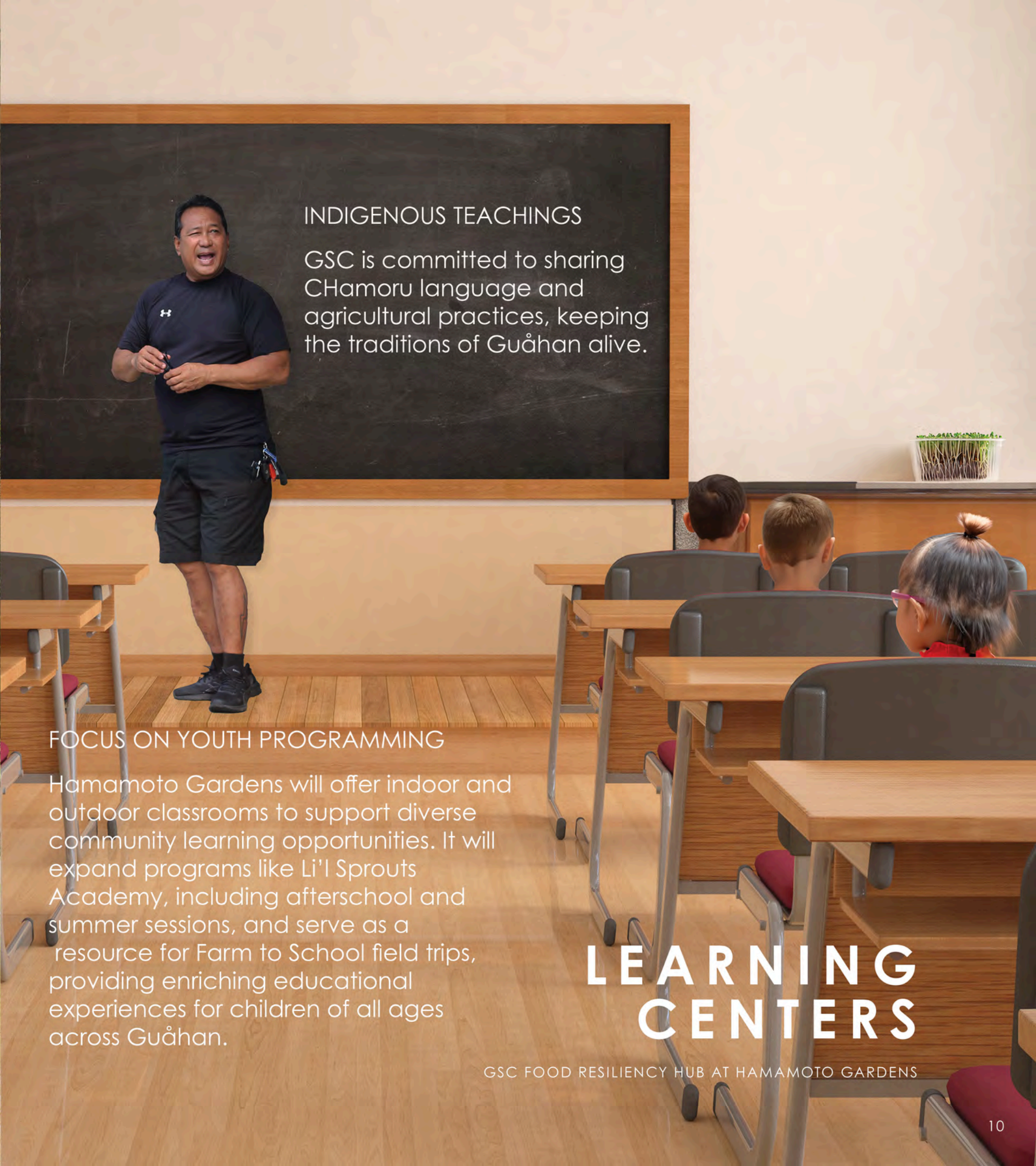
GSC is committed to sharing CHamoru language and agricultural practices, keeping the traditions of Guåhan alive.

## FOCUS ON YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Hamamoto Gardens will offer indoor and outdoor classrooms to support diverse community learning opportunities. It will expand programs like Li'l Sprouts Academy, including afterschool and summer sessions, and serve as a resource for Farm to School field trips, providing enriching educational experiences for children of all ages across Guåhan.

## LEARNING CENTERS

GSC FOOD RESILIENCY HUB AT HAMAMOTO GARDENS



# IMAGINE:

## AQUAPONICS

Establish a closed loop aquaculture system that grows talapia and leafy greens to feed the community. Vegetables are fertilized by nutrient-rich waste water, which in turn is filtered by the plants and cycled back into the tilapia tanks.

## NURSERY

Established fruit tree and vegetable nursery will help jumpstart community members' personal food growing journeys.

## OFF-THE-GRID NETWORK

Disaster resilience aquaculture and nursery operations will be integrated components of a larger off-the-grid system supported by solar panels and rain water collection.

# OFF-THE-GRID AQUACULTURE

GSC FOOD RESILIENCY HUB AT HAMAMOTO GARDENS

# IMAGINE:

## FOOD FOREST

Establishment of a biodiverse and self-sustaining food forest that provides culturally integral crops.

## APICULTURE

New and established beehives will be maintained as an important source of pollination and honey, that will be sold at the farmers market.

## AMERICORPS & VOLUNTEERS

In addition to the community farming plots, GSC will grow produce for donation that will be managed by both our AmeriCorps members and other community volunteers.

## STRATEGIC INTERCROPPING

The planting strategy will demonstrate and promote mutualistic plant relationships.

# AGROFORESTRY

GSC FOOD RESILIENCY HUB AT HAMAMOTO GARDENS



# INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Food Resiliency Hub at Hamamoto Gardens will ensure long-term sustainability by embedding indigenous leadership and community involvement in every aspect of its operations.

## Leading with Cultural Wisdom

- Women-led initiatives integrating CHamoru values and traditional knowledge
- Guided by elder council while empowering youth leadership ensuring future sustainability

## Community-Driven Development

- Diverse advisory boards with regular community planning sessions
- Comprehensive skill-sharing in farming, education, and cultural programs

## Sustainable Governance

- Community land trust model with transparent, participatory decision-making
- Regular reporting and community feedback systems

# THE TIME IS NOW

## A Critical Moment for Guåhan's Future:

GSC has purchased the 50-acre Hamamoto Gardens property. With military housing developers showing active interest, we made the bold decision to secure this land before it's lost to development that doesn't serve our community's needs. Securing Food Sovereignty on an island where 90% of food is imported and agricultural land is rapidly disappearing, this acquisition will:

- Preserve vital farmland from development
- Transform an existing agricultural site into a Food Resiliency Hub
- Create immediate impact through ready-to-use infrastructure
- Strengthen Guåhan's food independence for generations





Guåhan Sustainable Culture

# PARTNERING FOR GUÅHAN'S FOOD RESILIENCE

We invite you to join our growing coalition of supporters in advancing this vital effort to strengthen Guam's food sovereignty and resilience. Together, we can ensure that future generations have access to fresh, local food, cultural knowledge, and sustainable agricultural opportunities. Your support will play a crucial role in safeguarding this historic land and fostering a stronger, more self-reliant future for our island.

To contribute to this worthy cause or learn more about how you can support our efforts, please contact us or visit <https://www.gusustainable.org/donate>.

Si Yu'os Ma'åse',

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