



12th Annual Youth Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development



The Stone Soup Leadership Institute's 12th Leadership Summit for Sustainable Development was held in Menemsha. Founded on the Vineyard in 1997, the Institute trains young and emerging leaders to develop tools to build a sustainable world. It was auspicious when the Hokule'a arrived early right in Menemsha Harbor. In preparation for the Hokule'a's arrival, delegates made leis with ti leaves brought from Hawaii Island.



Once it landed in Vineyard Haven, delegates had a private tour of the Hokule'a. The delegates were impressed with the navigation techniques of using the stars, waves, and natural environment. Delegates enjoyed learning about the origin of the ship's name; "the star of gladness," used for latitude and direction.

Delegates from Martha's Vineyard were joined by Hawaii, Holyoke, Philippines, Puerto Rico and Thailand. Young and emerging leaders worked side by side to develop leadership skills like Design Thinking, Life Planning, Project Management and Technology – Pitch Deck so they can change their lives and the world. Delegates shared best sustainability practices from their islands.



The 2016 Summit began a Sustainable Vineyard Tour. Thanks to the Trustees of the Reservation with delegates kayaked in Chappaquiddick. The deLana family hosted lunch.



Traveling to Lucy Vincent Beach, delegates learned how a "magic stone" led to the book, *Stone Soup for the World: Life Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes*. Making Stone Soup is a way to discover how we have more than enough when we share. Everyone quietly searched for their own stone, marking the beginning of each individual journey toward becoming a leader.



Hawaiian Emerging Leader Elijah Anakalea-Buckley led the group in a Hawaiian chant thanking the natural world. Everyone came together to create an art project honoring the Ocean.



Polynesian Voyaging Society's delegate Niko Powell [shared the mission of the Hokule'a](#) and their "voyage around the world to bridge ancient wisdom with modern technology and spread the spirit of Malama Honua (care for mother earth in native Hawaiian).

The Hokule'a crew traveled to the Summit House. Mariana shared the purpose of the Hokule'a is to spread stories of hope around the world and prove that the land of Hawaii was purposefully discovered. Before the Hokule'a, native Hawaiians had lost hope; their culture and language were disappearing. The Hokule'a changed replaced sorrow with hope; joy and humility. By being part of this incredible voyage, she is both "living history" and "living the future by seeing those who are being awakened."



Sherrie finds that the Hokule'a awakens and heals wherever it goes. The honoring of the First Nations – and on Martha's Vineyard, the Wampanoags, was profound.

"The more time one spends with water, the more one will want to preserve our Earth. Every other breath we take is from the ocean, living and breathing is a continuous "thank you" to the ocean.

The touchstone of the Summit is 3 questions:

What is your dream for your life?

What is your dream for your community?

What is your dream for your world?

The heart of the Summit is for youth to envision their own dreams for their lives. Creating dream collages combines art with personal development, helping youth to visualize personal and professional dreams.

Youth received strategic support from their Professional Workgroups. MVYLI Emerging Leader and recent college grad, **Shawna Brown** led the Health/Medical Group where **Claudia Motta** aspires to be a doctor, **Sashel**, a nurse; **Isabel Robertson**, a veterinarian. Future environmental scientists and engineers **Daniel Gaines**, **Skyler Cameron**, **Mateo Garcia** joined forces with **Juanito and Elijah**.

Successful entrepreneur **Tania Cruz** shared her journey to find Posh Packer, a business that connects millennial travelers with affordable lodging around the world. "It is okay to fail," said Tania. "In order to succeed, one has to embrace failure and stay passionate and determined despite one's downfalls."

J'Anthony Smith was encouraged to develop his writing skills to become a published writer. In Tania's **Anya Vickers** placed symbols of planes on her collage to represent the freedom she hopes to experience once she becomes an entrepreneur.

George DeLana aspires to use his math and financial skills to develop business to help the environment. **Jason Gavina** mentored George to share about Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) - "change-making" through the corporate sector - convincing management to help the environment, community, and indigenous peoples.

Josue Cruz led the inspirational workshop about how to develop a **5-Year Action Plan**. "Visualize yourself in 20 years. Now think about what you need to do to get there: *Dream, Visualize, Plan*." Josue described his own circuitous journey to becoming a lawyer. **Skyler's** dream is to have a job in engineering or journalism. Through the 5-year plan workshop, he developed specific steps he'd need to accomplish, finalize a portfolio, intern with local businesses. **Mateo** created a plan to get a high GPA, save money, and stay focused on his goals. **Bella Chimes** thought that just the exercise of imagining herself in 20 years was inspirational, and opened her eyes to the possibilities of her future.

During the Summit delegates presented **best sustainability practices** from their islands.

Daniel Gaines presented the **MVYLI Virtual Field Station**, a website where students can access information about the environment on Martha's Vineyard, common pollution sources, island initiatives, and ecological documents.

www.virtualfieldstation.com

Elijah's [Sustain Hawaii](#) described Hawaii's goal to use 100% renewable energy by 2045, and outlined strategies Hawaii will achieve this. Sustainable energy is "the provision of energy to meet the needs of the present while not compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." Hawaii's use of the natural environment - primarily wind and ocean - to create energy nurtures future generations.

Josue Cruz's [School Garden Program in Puerto Rico](#). Over 17,000 students discovered the importance of planting their own food and creating awareness of food self-sufficiency. At the 2010 Summit Josue was inspired by Island Grown Schools.

[Holyoke Massachusetts](#) delegates J'Anthony Smith and Sugeily Colon shared social problems (food inequity, poverty, and high school drop-out rate); and solutions like the farmer's markets that allow citizens to purchase fresh food with EBT stamps and Nuestras Raices, a Puerto Rican migrant farmers organization that promotes the health and emotional well-being of residents locally grown food.

Emerging Leader Jason Gavina explained how the [Philippines are the 13th most climate-vulnerable country in the world](#). He showed sustainability projects like Rags to Riches program and the Bambikes, two eco-friendly and sustainable projects.

Delegates learned state-of-the-art leadership tools like [Design Thinking](#) (DT), a human-centric, creative approach to problem solving. Presented by Hawaiian Emerging Leader **Juanito Moises Jr.** it comes from Stanford University's D School. Everyone used their new Design Thinking skills to create prototypes of wallets. One group created a waterproof, phone-charging wallet to accommodate youth worried about leaving their phone unwatched at the beach. Another made a wallet-aramband to eliminate the problem of pockets that were too small.

Tania led the **Institute's Certificate Program** for the **TouchStone Leaders Platform** where emerging leaders developed innovative sustainability projects. Projects for the coming year include: **Sustainable Sister Island Project: Hawaii and Philippines** and the **Sustainable Holyoke Youth Leadership Initiative**.



Using these innovation tools, delegates envisioned the **Sustainable Vineyard Van** so tourists could learn about the Island and help preserve it. This builds on **MVYLI's Sustainability Project** (2009-2013). Everyone joined teams: Cultural/Sustainability Locations, Marketing, Business, Mechanical Design. The Digital Team created a "Pitch Deck". An empowering and eye-opening experience!

With the [Project Management](#) workshop, **Jason Gavina** brought all the pieces together. "Life is about Project Management." Three stages of planning, implementation, and evaluation. He highlighted the importance of communicating with people and effectively delegating tasks.

At the Summit Graduation, delegates received [official letters from government officials](#). They presented their 5 Year Plans, the Sustainable Vineyard Pitch Deck and the impressive DEMO for the Institute's Platform.



Watch slideshow of Summit at:
<https://youtu.be/XOSbudaBwKQ>

[Read photo essay from Holyoke youth delegate:
J'Anthony Smith](#)



Our Delegates & Faculty

Hawaii Delegates

Elijah Anakalea-Buckley Juanito Moises Jr. Niko Powell

Holyoke Delegates

Sugeily Colon J-Anthony Smith

Martha's Vineyard Delegates

Sequoia Ahren
 Ana Alves
 Sashel Blidgen
 Sam Bresnick
 Cooper Bennett
 Skyler Cameron
 Bella Chimes
 Daniel Gaines
 Mateo Garcia
 Claudia Motta
 Isabel Robertson
 Eddie Rosado

Philippines Delegate

Jason Gavina

Thailand Delegate

Kwankaew Ketphol

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Edgartown Pizza	Shirley's
Giordano's	Stop & Shop
Island Source	Tea Lane Catering
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