

Title: Cultivating Invasive Species Awareness among Farmers
Organization: Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Council,
in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Economic Development
Award(s): \$5,000



Introduction: Oahu RC&D is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving our natural resources by building capacity among those working literally at the grass-roots level in Hawaii's sustainability movement. We provide information, training and consultation to farmers and individuals making on-the-ground decisions regarding the use of soil and water resources and the production of local food.

Through a partnership with the Office of Economic Development and the City and County's Agricultural Liaison, Oahu RC&D developed three workshops to increase invasive species awareness and action among the agricultural community. Organizational costs to host the three workshops equaled \$7,500, plus an additional \$2,500 of in-kind support from host farmers and partner organizations. HISC funds covered 50% of the total project budget (\$5,000).

Achievements in FY13

Pasture Management Workshop: Kualoa Ranch hosted a farm tour featuring their efforts to improve pasture management (healthy pastures are less susceptible to invasive plants) and raise local beef. Participants also heard about management efforts through the Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership. Attendees = 12.

Native Plants Workshop: Hui Ku Maoli Ola hosted a workshop and nursery tour featuring numerous native plant species, including history, cultural use and a discussion on why selecting native plants is good for Hawaii's environment and economy. The workshop also included a live demonstration of the Plant Pono website. Attendees = 35.

Beekeeping Workshop: Nalo-Meli and UH-CTAHR hosted a workshop on beekeeping and honey production that allowed participants to satisfy their sweet tooth and gear up to support our wild and domestic honey populations. In-depth information on two common bee pests (varroa mite and small hive beetle) was shared by UH researchers and Department of Ag specialists. Attendees = 40.



Rick Barboza (in yellow) discussed native plant production at Hui Ku Maoli Ola, and how to select native plants for use in landscaping.

A representative from the Oahu Invasive Species Committee was present at each workshop to discuss their efforts and provide information on identification and control of invasive species. The City's Agricultural Liaison was also present at the workshops to talk with and hear from participants.

In addition to the workshops, invasive species information was distributed to more than 2400 people via Oahu RC&D's electronic news bulletin in October 2012.

There is growing interest among the agricultural community in this topic, and Oahu RC&D routinely seeks funds to conduct outreach targeting farmers and landowners. We expect the need for this activity to increase given the continued introduction of plant and agricultural products (and pests) in Hawaii.

Contact Information: For more information about Oahu RC&D and its programs, including upcoming workshops, please visit www.oahurcd.org, call 808-622-9026 or send us a note at admin@oahurcd.org.