

May 2016 West Oahu SWCD news: Parade of Farms, Hawaii Organic Farmers Conference, Bagrada Bug on Oahu, SEEDs for Tomorrow, Value Added Producer Grant and more.

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#### PARADE OF FARMS

The Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Council is hosting the first annual Parade of Farms on Saturday, May 14. The event features farm tours, bean-to-bar chocolate making, rum tasting, keiki activities, Hawaii ag. innovations, and more. Register for tours [here](#).

#### 2016 Parade of Farms

This family friendly event features a free open house of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Station, Guided tours of farms and products. Join the Parade of Farms featuring some of Hawaii's farmers, agriculture researchers, and local product developers on Saturday, May 14th, 2016 from 9am-6pm. The open house, activities, and tours depart from the Hawaii Agriculture Research

Center located at 94-340 Kunia Rd. Reservations are required for guided tours and pau hana here: [www.oahurcd.org/parade-of-farms/](http://www.oahurcd.org/parade-of-farms/)

**Activities at a Glance:**

**Open House at Hawaii Agriculture Research Center:** These free activities will include a chocolate bean to bar demonstration, coffee, chocolate and honey tasting, and docent tours of the research facilities and field crops. Lunch will also be available here.

**Our Food and Farmers, 10:00-12:30 & 2:00-4:30** - Hawaii Ag Foundation Ag Park at Kunia, Frankie's Nursery, Kunia Plantation Village and Kunia Country Farm

**Our Products, 10:00-12:30** - Oils of Aloha and Manulele Distillers

**Agricultural Innovations, 1:30-4:30** - Hawaiian Earth Products, Paina Hawaii Irradiator, DuPont Pioneer Hawaii

**Kō Hana Pau Hana, 4:30-6:00** - Join the makers of the rum for light pupu, rum tasting, rum cocktail demonstrations and a casual talk story end of day .

**More Information and tour registration:** <http://www.oahurcd.org//parade-of-farms/>

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## Bagrada Bug Update

Please be advised that HDOA confirmed the Bagrada Bug on Oahu in early April of 2016. It is now found on Maui, Oahu, and Hawaii Island. Due to the nature of the pest, eradication efforts will not be pursued. However, Extension Agent, Robin Shimabuku and Emeritus Extension Specialist, Dr. Ronald Mau has provided us with field generated, research based data on this economically important pest of crucifers.

Please scout fields and keep an eye out for the characteristics outlined in the HDOA publication: <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/files/2013/01/Bagrada-hilaris-NPA.pdf>

Please contact the UH CTAHR extension office for support. 808.622.4185.

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## **SEEDs for Tomorrow: Cultivating the Next Generation of Agripreneurs -** A Student and Teacher Summer Enrichment Opportunity.

The Hawaii Agriculture Research Center is hosting the summer "Seeds 4 Tomorrow" program July 18 - 23. Featuring hands-on learning from research to retail; interactive activities - in labs and in

the field; and loads of fun- with peers, producers and the process of being a agripreneur, Seeds 4 Tomorrow is an interactive, fun exploration of career opportunities in the industry of agriculture. Open to all 7th - 11th graders.

Day 1: Conservation, cultivation & agroforestry  
Day 2: Plant and insect identification & anatomy  
Day 3: Crop improvement & propagation  
Day 4: Research to retail  
Day 5: Budding "Agriprenurs" Day  
Day 6: Entrepreneurs competition/ Awards

**Where:** Hawaii Agriculture Research Center 94-340 Kunia Road, Waipahu HI

**When:** 8 am - 2 pm (M-F) & 8 am - 10 am Saturday

**How much:** \$50 per student (scholarships available)

Teachers are also welcome to join in the learning to build best practices and connections for agriculture education in the classroom. Stipends available.

Apply Here by June 27th: [http://www.harc-hspa.com/uploads/2/6/1/7/26170270/seeds4tomorrowapplicationtemp..docx\\_2\\_.pdf](http://www.harc-hspa.com/uploads/2/6/1/7/26170270/seeds4tomorrowapplicationtemp..docx_2_.pdf) Website: <http://www.harc-hspa.com/seeds4tomorrow.html>

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Committed to the future of rural communities.

### **FUNDING NOTICE: Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG)**

**Program Status:** Open

**Application Deadline:** Paper Application: July 1, 2016 | Electronic Applications: June 24, 2016

**Notice of Solicitation of Application:** [[PDF](#)]

#### **What does this program do?**

The VAPG program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of bio-based, value-added products. Generating new products, creating and expanding marketing opportunities, and increasing producer income are the goals of this program. You may receive priority if you are a beginning farmer or rancher, a socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, a small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm, a farmer or rancher cooperative, or are proposing a mid-tier value chain. Grants are awarded through a national competition.

**Program Funding:** \$44 million

**Maximum Grant Amount:** \$75,000 for planning grants; \$250,000 for working capital grants

**Matching Funds Requirements:** 50% of total project costs

#### **Who may apply for this program?**

Independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures are eligible to apply for this program.

#### **How may funds be used?**

Grant and matching funds can be used for planning activities or for working capital expenses related to producing and marketing a value-added agricultural product. Examples of planning activities include conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans for processing and marketing the proposed value-added product. Examples of working capital expenses include:

- Processing costs
  - Marketing and advertising expenses
  - Some inventory and salary expenses
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### **UH Extension - Poamoho Research Station Field Day**

Monday, May 9, 2016 from 9-12, the UH Poamoho Research Station will be hosting a field day featuring updates and exhibits on:

- Chickpea Variety Trials
- Hydroculture
- Food Safety
- Organic Sweet Potato Germplasm
- Sustainable Organic Research
- And more!

Join Extension agents at the Research station located at 65-620 Kaukonahua Road in Waialua, HI 96791.

For more information, email Dr. Amjad Ahmad at [alobody@hawaii.edu](mailto:alobody@hawaii.edu) or call 389-4953



### **Hawaii Organic Farmers Association: Annual Conference**

Saturday, May 28 from 9-4, the HOFA annual conference will take place at KEY Project Community Center in Kaneohe (47-200 Waihee Road).

**HOFA 2016 Annual meeting and Conference - Schedule**  
 9:00-9:30am Check-in / Mingle Breakfast, Coffee  
 9:30-10:30am Introduction (1 hour)

- Why Organic? Industry wide
- Soil Amendments on Oahu
- Good news organic
- Organic Certification – Sarah Townsend

10:30 – 11:30 Membership Meeting(1 hour)

Re-launch of our new Organic Marketplace and our Small Farm Exemption  
Report from the Treasurer

11:30-1:00pm Hands On (1.5 hours)

- Kupuna gardening - container gardening
- Simple plantings for success and nutrition
- Mini composting, weed composting

1:00-1:30 Lunch (30 minutes)

Updates from Booth Vendors

1:30-3:30 Rotating Breakout sessions (1.5 hours)

- Little Fire Ant and other invasive species – Una Greenaway
- Soil Conditioning – Jon Biloon
- Amendments – Ted Radovich
- Cover Crops, Markets – Hector Valenzuela
- Certification – Sarah Townsend

\$10 for members and \$35 for non-members (includes membership) [Register here](#).

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### **NRCS Webinars**

- May 25, 2016 - 2:00pm Eastern: [Newest Research on Value of Habitat for Pest management](#)

Join this webinar to learn about the benefits of creating on-farm habitat to support conservation biological control. The webinar will emphasize the most current scientific research on enhancing native beneficial insects and why maintaining habitat is so critical to these insects. Learn how adding diversity into agricultural cropland can provide the basic

requirements to support these insects and how other farm management practices may have an impact.

- June 7, 2016 2:00pm Eastern: [Weed Management in Organic Cropping Systems](#)

Weed management is often cited as the major challenge for organic producers and those transitioning to organic production. This webinar will discuss the primary weed control strategies for organic systems: the role of prevention, cultural and mechanical control, crop rotation, crop competition, and cultivation. Experts from Penn State will also introduce the Organic Crop Production guide that includes weed management as well as many other organic topics and case studies of successful organic crop farmers.

More webinars can be found

here: <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/documents/planned-conservation-webinars>

### West Oahu SWCD Directors

Larry Jefts (Chair), Peter Gibson, Alan Gottlieb, Taylor Kellerman, & John McHugh.

**May West Oahu SWCD meeting**: Tuesday May 31, 12:30. Location: Crop Production Services Conference Room located in the Upper Kunia HARC building. Learn more at <http://www.oahuswcd.org>.

The West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to building partnerships that strengthen agriculture in Hawaii and contribute to a vibrant island community, environment, and economy.

Newsletter compiled by Michelle Gorham, West Oahu SWCD.  
Submit articles and information to [Michelle@OahuSWCD.org](mailto:Michelle@OahuSWCD.org)





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