

September 2016 West Oahu SWCD news: Nat'l organic Cert.
Cost-share, Aina in Schools, Free Cornell class on the basics of
GMOs NRCS, Atherton Family Foundation Grant, and more!

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National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program

Aloha Organic Growers! The application form for the National Organic Certification Cost-Share Program is now online with links to more information and a fillable application form provided below. Deadline for receipt of all applications and documents is Friday, October 14, 2016. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed. An excerpt from the website is below:

Application for Organic Certification Cost-Share Assistance Organic producers and/or value added producers who receive or continue organic certification from a USDA accredited certifying agent between October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016, may apply for cost-share assistance. Reimbursement of 75 percent of an individual's certification costs, up to a maximum of \$750 per

certification scope. Such certification costs must be paid from October 1, 2015 and September 30, 2016.

Hawaii has a reimbursement budget of \$31,900 for organic growers/producers, and \$81,000 for organic value added producers/handlers.

<http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/add/md/organiccostshare/>

<http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/add/files/2013/01/Application-Form-for-Organic-FFY-2016.pdf>

Call Hideki Yamane (808) 973-9593 or Natalyn Bell (808) 973-9595 with questions.



Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation – Farm Field Trips for Schools!

Have you ever thought about bringing students to your farm to share your experiences and diversify operations? Join Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation (KHF) in building student awareness to around farming and agriculture this school year! Farm field trips provide hands-on learning experiences for elementary, middle, and high school students. Farmers can register to be a KHF [Farm Field Trip Destination](#). If approved, your farm will be featured on the KHF website.

In addition, the Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation provides [Field Trip Grants](#) to help bring public school students to outdoor sites where they can experience hands-on learning about Hawaii's environment. Teachers can [apply for financial support](#) to offset the cost of field trips through March 1, 2017. Funds are limited, so encourage teachers to apply early!

For more on the Kokuahawaii Foundation programs, visit <http://kokuahawaiifoundation.org/>

<http://kokuahawaiifoundation.org/fieldtrips/farms/>



Take a free on-line course from Cornell to learn the basics of genetic engineering and biotechnology and examine why the GMO is politically contentious. Participants will gain an understanding of how science works, its limits, and how the interaction of these factors leads to decision making. It starts on Septmeber 13, 2016.

**September 13 8am Hawaii time:****Soil Health Impacts on Pest Management**

Soil is alive with billions of microorganisms and most have an important and beneficial role to play in a healthy soil ecosystem. Some are not so beneficial and can bring about disease and damage to our crops. In a healthy soil ecosystem, the beneficial organisms provide competition and balance the populations of pathogenic biota. This biological ecosystem is very fragile and is greatly affected by weather, habitat, and outside influences. Learn more about soil health impacts including human inputs during this workshop.

September 28 8am Hawaii time:**Using NRCSs PLANTS Database in Conservation Planning**

PLANTS is the central repository of basic plant information for NRCS, and provides data for the approximately 25,000 native and naturalized plant species in the United States and its possessions. Plant data available include scientific and common names, distribution, photographs and illustrations, characteristics important for conservation and wildlife planning, legal status information (endangered and threatened, invasive, noxious, wetland), and scientific references. This webinar will review how PLANTS data can be used in conservation planning, including: pollinator plantings; alternative and cover crop selections, establishment and maintenance; rangeland management; managing for culturally significant plants; ecological site descriptions; invasive and noxious plant species control; and phytoremediation.

More webinars can be found here: <http://www.conservationwebinars.net/documents/planned-conservation-webinars>



[Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Council](#) is hosting a workshop for farmers on Saturday, September 24, 2016 from 9-12 at the KEY Project in Kahaluu

Learn about agribusiness and training courses for farming practices such as aquaponics, hydroponics, and natural farming.

This event is FREE, but participants are requested to [register](#). Also, if you have a conflict and cannot attend, please do let organizers know so they can adjust accordingly.

ATHERTON FAMILY FOUNDATION



The Foundation makes grants for programs and projects that benefit the people of Hawai'i. The fields of greatest interest are arts, culture, and humanities; community development; education; environment; health; human services; spiritual development; and youth development.

Through the Hawaii Community Foundation, the Alerton Foundation awards grants thrice annually, including the deadline of October 3, 2016. These awards will be considered at the board meeting in December of 2016.

Application procedures:

This application is available for online submission. Your organization must first establish an online account with the Hawaii Community Foundation to access the online application. Please go to <https://nexus.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/nonprofit> to request an account or, if you already have an account, to access the online application.

Note: If you are requesting an account for the first time, it may take two to three days for you to receive the account information. It's highly recommended you request your account early to give yourself adequate time to complete the application by the submission deadline.

Please visit the Atherton Family Foundation's grant guidelines for all information.

http://www.athertonfamilyfoundation.org/file/Atherton_Grant_Application_Guidelines.pdf

West Oahu SWCD meeting: Tuesday September 27, 12:30. **Location:** Crop Production Services Conference Room, Kunia Village 92-1770 Kunia Road, Kunia HI 96759. Agendas are faxed and posted on the Lt. Governor's website.

West Oahu SWCD Directors

Larry Jeffs (Chair), Peter Gibson, Alan Gottlieb, & John McHugh. Associate Directors: Mike Glidden and Joe Para.

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, and edited by Cindy Pinick, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center.

Submit articles and information to Michelle@OahuSWCD.org.



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1/12/2017

Organic cost-share program, Cornell: the Science and politics of GMO's, and more

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West Oahu Soil & Water Conservation District · P. O. Box 172 · 92-1770 Kunia Rd. · Kunia, HI 96759 · USA

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