



Larry Jefts, proprietor of Sugarland Farms, looks across his field of tomatoes in early November. Notice the vegetative barrier to the right - a [NRCS conservation practice](#).

PEST UPDATE: Bagrada Bug *Bagrada hilaris* (Burmeister)

The bagrada bug is a serious economic pest of agricultural crops, including broccoli, tatsoi, cabbages (head cabbage, especially Chinese cabbages, etc.), cauliflower, kale, radish, turnip, mustards, brussels sprouts, sweet alyssum, collards, and arugula. The bagrada bug can also feed on corn, cucumbers, okra, sugarcane, papaya, potato, cotton, figs and some legumes.



It was discovered in several areas of Maui Island in October and November of 2014 and in Kona on Hawaii Island in May of 2015. When first discovered, a small population was attacking Chinese cabbage and tatsoi in a student garden at the University of Hawaii Maui College campus, Kahului. Shortly after, the bagrada bug was found in Makawao and Kula. It's considered established and widespread on both Hawaii Island and Maui. Learn more from the [Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture](#).

PARTNERSHIPS IN AGRICULTURE



The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the U.S. Department of

Agriculture's principal agency for providing [conservation technical assistance](#) to private landowners, [conservation districts](#), tribes, and other organizations.

Cooperators interested in securing support will find that NRCS provides helpful guidance regarding best practices to include in a conservation plan, conservation planning, and financial assistance to implement conservation practices.

NRCS provides funding through their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Landowners must submit an application, invite NRCS staff to a site visit and help develop a plan that will work in their operation and on their land. Applications are ranked according to environmental need and subject to available funding. Applications are accepted year round and ranked at intervals through out the year. The next ranking cut off is December 18th.

Assistance can help land users:

- Maintain and improve private lands and their management by removing invasive species and establishing desirable species
- Implement better land management technologies such as constructing a high tunnel over crops to protect them
- Protect and improve water quality by addressing erosion
- Explore opportunities to diversify agricultural operations such as transition to organic production
- Develop and apply economically and environmentally sustainable agricultural systems like multistory cropping and increasing soil health

Annual Sunflower Bloom Benefits the North Shore Community

For over 10 years, DuPont Pioneer has planted and grown fields of sunflowers at its Waialua farm on Oahu's North Shore, producing an annual bloom that typically occurs from October to mid-December.



Pioneer's agronomists carefully inspect each sunflower to ensure that the crops produce high-quality sunflower seeds with the desired traits that will help farmers be successful.

This year, Pioneer welcomed the public to its farm and offered tours of the sunflower fields. Additionally, local photographers and artists enjoyed capturing the vibrant bloom during a special Artist's Evening that alone helped Waialua Elementary School raise \$1,000 for its arts program.



COMMUNITY FEATURE

Did you know that Kunia has a Farmers Market? Every Friday from 3-6 pick up fresh veggies and local products at the Kunia Farmers Market located at 92-1770 Kunia Road. Questions? Call 808.228.8447. Cash, EBT, debit, and credit are accepted.

FUNDING NOTICE:

The Oahu Mayor's Office of Economic Development (OED) has announced the [annual grant program for 2016](#). OED is requesting proposals for up to \$15,000 from community groups seeking support for projects that stimulate economic opportunities, strengthen the unique character of O'ahu's diverse ethnic communities and improve the quality of life of our residents.

Thank you for your support of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District. This new publication will feature news and community updates include best practices , pest alerts, stories from cooperators and partners, funding opportunities, and more. Submit a story by contacting Michelle Gorham Jones: Michelle@OahuSWCD.org

The West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to building partnerships that strengthen agriculture in Hawaii and the industry's support of a vibrant island community, environment, and economy.

Visit the embedded weblinks to learn more about what is happening with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts on the [Island of Oahu](#), in the [State of Hawaii](#), or [across the nation](#).

West Oahu SWCD Directors

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

