

December 2016 - It's the Holidays and time for giving! HARC is giving Awa slips, NRCS is giving grant funds, DOH is giving new opportunities for cottage food industries, students are giving ag support to communities and schools, and much more. Thank you, all, for giving!

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GIFTS ABOUND IN THE AG COMMUNITY - AND BOY ARE WE THANKFUL!

**HARC - Opihikao - Awa - Production Opportunity**

The [Hawaii Agriculture Research Center](#) through a Specialty Crop Block Grant Program with HDOA, is propagating and distributing rooted nodules of Opihikao plants in 4" pots to interested growers who are not currently growing Opihikao or who do not have access to the propagative material. Ideally, the plants would be grown in different conditions in locations statewide.

Those interested in participating in the project should contact Aileen Yeh [ayeh@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ayeh@hawaii.rr.com)



### Conservation Monitoring

The [Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Council](#) (Oahu RC&D) is a great partner with West Oahu SWCD. They perform a number of services including conservation monitoring, planning, and technical assistance.

Conservation monitoring services are available to farmers, ranchers, and nursery owners who have a current conservation plan. Typically, the interested party will schedule a site visit with a Oahu RC&D conservation planners who will provide a written report detailing observations and recommendations.

#### **Monitoring a conservation plan can help you:**

- Maintain the effectiveness of implemented best management practices
- Identify new practices the land manager can implement to increase benefits
- Track progress of a conservation plan for reporting purposes
- Create and maintain a record of efforts to successfully implement a conservation plan

To learn more about our monitoring services, contact us  
at: [admin@oahurcd.org](mailto:admin@oahurcd.org).



HAWAII STATE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH

#### DOH - GIVING OPTIONS TO “HOMEMADE” OR COTTAGE FOOD INDUSTRIES

The Department of Health of the State of Hawaii will hold [public hearings on amendments](#) to new Health Administrative Rules titled "Food Safety Code" this December. One rule allows for a more robust “homemade” or cottage food industry by removing barriers that limit frequency of sales while at the same time requiring easy and low cost food handlers’ education for these operators and labeling requirements that notify the public that these homemade foods were done in a facility not inspected by the DOH. The DOH still reserves the right, as always, to investigate, embargo, seize and to halt the sales of any food product, including homemade foods, deemed to be a public health risk.

The Oahu meeting will take place on Monday, December 5, 2016 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. Environmental Health Services Division Food Safety Education Room 99-945 Halawa Valley St., Aiea



## NRCS: GIVING SUPPORT THROUGH FUNDS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Did you miss the NRCS November deadline from funding and technical assistance for [EQIP](#), [National On-Farm Energy Management Plans](#), or the [National Organic Initiative](#)? Never fear because a new deadline is here. Interested parties can apply by January 20, 2017 for NRCS can help with high tunnels, cover crops, developing a Transition to Organic Plan, and so much more. It is highly recommended to apply as soon as possible so all files are in place. [Bernadette Luncsford, District Conservationist](#), is available immediately to support applicants to ensure all preliminarily paperwork is done before the deadline.

Preference is given to those who are Cooperators with Conservation Plans. If you are interested in being a Cooperator and developing a Conservation Plan with West Oahu, join us at the next meeting on December 20, 2016. Details at the bottom of this e-news.

### NRCS - CONSERVATION TRAINING UPDATE

**December 6, 2016 - 10am Hawaii time**

[Residue and Tillage Management in Organic Farming Systems: Western States](#)

**December 20, 2016 - 9am Hawaii time**

[Adopting Farms to Weather Extremes and Climate Uncertainty.](#)

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## GIVE BY SUPPORTING AG AT YOUR SCHOOL

<https://newfarmers.usda.gov/supporting-ag-your-school>

- Talk to your school about [Farm to School](#), an organization that connects schools with resources and educational materials about food and agriculture.
  - Join or start a [4-H Club](#). 4-H partners with 110 universities to provide mentoring. The four Hs stand for four values members work on through fun and engaging programs: Head (thinking, managing), Heart (relating, caring), Hands (giving, working), and Health (being, living).
  - The National [FFA Organization](#) develops the potential of students for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success as an integral part of agricultural education. Founded in 1928 and formerly known as Future Farmers of America, FFA covers all aspects of agriculture—from production farming, agribusiness and forestry to biotechnology, marketing and food processing.
  - National FFA Organization, Discovery Education and [AgCareers.com](#) have also partnered to create [AgExplorer.com](#), a new career exploration website to help students explore the broad range of careers in agriculture.
  - [Start a school garden](#). Learn by doing while growing healthy food.
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### [West Oahu SWCD Digital Photo Contest](#)

#### **Apply Today!**

Apply in one of two ways -

1) Via Social Media: upload your photo to FaceBook or Instagram #WestOahuSWCD and # your selected category. If you are selected as a social media winner, we will ask you to complete the application and send in a high res copy of your image by mid-December.

2) Via email: Submit your images and a completed [application form](#) to WOsacdContest@gmail.com. [Like us on facebook](#)

Deadline - December 5, 2016

Categories:

1. **People & Nature:** Illustrates above and beyond the hope that people and nature can thrive together on this planet.
2. **Farming:** Best farm moment
3. **Ranching:** Best ranching moment
4. **Soils:** West Oahu has a beautiful array of soil colors and types.
5. **Research:** Research is a critical component to maintaining soil and water health.
6. **Water:** Best vibrant moment of water quality.
7. **Culture:** Best image capturing cultural connections to soil and water conservation.
8. **Pollinators:** Best capture of pollinators. Note that images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife, or damage to the environment by the photographer will be ineligible.
9. **Adventure:** Best action/adventure moment.
10. **Soil and Water Conservation in Cities:** Best urban moment.

**Rules:** Comprehensive Rules are found [here](#).


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**Next West Oahu SWCD meeting: DECEMBER 20, 2016**

**Location:** Crop Production Services Conference Room, Kunia Village 92-1770 Kunia Road, Kunia HI 96759. Agendas will be faxed and posted on the Lt. Governor's website.

**West Oahu SWCD Directors**

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



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 with HARC.  
Submit articles and information to [Michelle@OahuSWCD.org](mailto:Michelle@OahuSWCD.org).




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