



PARTNERSHIPS IN AGRICULTURE

Kamehameha Schools & the Pauahi Foundation announce the Mahi'ai Match-Up

Kamehameha Schools and the Pauahi Foundation announce the return of Mahi'ai Match-Up – an agricultural business plan contest dedicated to supporting Hawai'i's sustainable food movement and decreasing the state's dependence on imports. All farmers, ranchers, entrepreneurs, or aspiring farmers with fresh, innovative ideas are welcome to enter. The application window opens today and ends February 29, 2016.

"Mahi'ai Match-Up provides a venue for farmers and entrepreneurs to access some of our most valuable agricultural lands," said Sydney Keli'ipule'ole, senior director of statewide operations for Kamehameha Schools. "Kamehameha Schools is engaged in an ongoing effort to work with community partners to find and nurture talented farmers with innovative ideas that will increase food production for Hawai'i's market."

The top two business plans will receive an agricultural lease with up to five years of waived rent from Kamehameha Schools and seed monies from the Pauahi Foundation totaling \$35,000 to help increase the probability of long-term, sustainable success.

"Ulupono Initiative is proud to continue its partnership with Kamehameha Schools and Pauahi Foundation to assist talented farmers in realizing their dream of establishing a bona fide agricultural business in Hawai'i," said Murray Clay, managing partner of Ulupono Initiative.

"The goal of Mahi'ai Match-Up directly aligns with our mission of making Hawai'i more self-

sufficient by increasing local food production. The group of entrants from the first two years has been impressive, and we are excited to see what year three has in store."

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Two bills that directly affect the SWCD's are House Bill [2420](#): Making an Appropriation to the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts and sister Senate Bill, [2990](#), both of which passed the first reading.

Two other legislative bills that may affect the Districts and Cooperators are HB2029 and HB1750. The first bill concerns the creation of a Water Infrastructure Authority and Loan Program within DLNR and the second bill is a measure on Stormwater Management.

To check the status of bills and/or to submit testimony, please visit <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/>

TEACHING ABOUT BIOTECH:



On January 11, 2016, West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) in partnership with the State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife offered a Project Learning Tree biotech workshop for the University of Hawaii Master of Education Students. [Project Learning Tree's Biotech supplement](#) is available on-line and is designed for high school and community college educators in the fields of Biology, Environmental Science, Social Studies, and Agriculture. A special effort has been made to construct activities that support instruction in AP Biology, AP Environmental Science, and AP Human Geography. This module was created as a supplement to the *Focus on Risk* curriculum.

People who want to learn more can [download a sample](#): "Biotechnology and You" or [Purchase](#) the entire *Exploring Environmental Issues: Biotechnology* module or contact: Michelle@OahuSWCD.org. Learn more about Project Learning Tree at www.PLT.org or from Makana at HawaiiPLT@gmail.com

"The greatest value was learning new activities for my classroom. Thank you for coming tonight. I will use the activity in my class next quarter" – Hayley, Waipahu High School.

"I am excited to see how PLT could fit in my job with Scouts. Some directions [with the Biotech workshop] were tough to understand, but it was a good challenge" - Caleb, Hawaii Chapter - Boy Scouts of America



David Morgan, Director with Windward Oahu SWCD, monitors the cattle at Kualoa Ranch. The Ranch features varied farm operations including aquaculture, livestock, and diversified agriculture (fruits, vegetables, and ornamentals) and land stewardship. Follow them on Instagram: @kualoagrown

OAHU's SWCDs: UNITED IN SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE



To better meet the needs of cooperators, Directors from West Oahu, Windward Oahu and South Oahu SWCDs joined together to discuss operational and programmatic priorities on January 14, 2016. Donna Ching facilitated the meeting. Participants identified cross-cutting internal and external issues as well as strategies and programmatic assumptions to improve future planning and SWCD outcomes. Mahalo to the participating Directors and Donna whom volunteer their time to support soil and water conservation and agriculture on Oahu.



CTAHR Training on GAP and FDA FSMA rules

Please join Jari Sugano & Jensen Uyeda, Oahu Cooperative Extension Agents, as they provide an update on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Rule. They will provide a detailed overview of food safety programs that may affect local agricultural businesses in Hawaii.

Dates and Times

1. February 20, 2016: Kapiolani Community College (12 - 2 pm)
2. February 23, 2016: Waimanalo Research Station (10 am - 12 pm)
3. March 1, 2016: Kaneohe Extension Office (5- 7 pm)
4. March 12, 2016: Kahuku Community Center (10 am - 12 pm) **PENDING**
5. March 23, 2016: HARC North Classroom (10 am - 12 pm)

Events will begin with Ms. Joy Gold of the Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program (HIAMP). HIAMP helps farmers grow solutions to challenges that narrow financial margins or uncooperative weather can create with lenders and unsecured creditors, and insurance claims. Ms. Gold will talk about how HIAMP can help resolve disagreements with complex federal programs over program eligibility and compliance.

Please reserve a seat for one of these upcoming sessions at wahiawa@ctahr.hawaii.edu or call (808) 622- 4185. To find out more about these upcoming educational events, please contact uganoj@ctahr.hawaii.edu or juyeda@hawaii.edu.

West Oahu SWCD Directors

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

February West Oahu SWCD meeting: Tuesday, February 23, at 12:30 at the Crop Protection 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.



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