

August 2017: Farm to School Conference to be held in conjunction with Hawaii Ag Conference, Mayor's bill 43 signed into law, West Oahu SWCD meeting changes, etc.

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West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Working with Farmers to Conserve Hawaii's Soil and Water Resources since 1950.

NRCS Webinar Series:

Building Relationships and Meeting Needs of Small Farming Operations

In this [webinar](#) on August 30 at 2pm EST (8am Hawaii time), participants will learn about strategies and techniques to address the needs of small farming operations.



In Part 1, participants will be introduced to strategies and techniques for:

- Getting to know the customer
- Delivering services according to knowledge about the client's individual circumstances
- Accessing other resources that can support the business development and planning
- Giving special care to communicating alternatives so client understands them
- How to bring up issues and concerns the client hasn't mentioned
- Delivering information that could disappoint without damaging the relationship
- Partnership building

[2017 Small Farm Assistance series webinars:](#)

- Building Relationships and Meeting Needs of Small Farming Operations, August 30
- Strategies for Mitigating Small Farm Site Limitations, September 27

- Conservation Systems for Micro-scale Livestock Operations, October 25
- Conservation Planning Assistance for Supporting Small Farm and Community Garden Productivity, November 29

<http://www.conservationwebinars.net/webinars/building-relationships-and-meeting-needs-of-small-farming-operations>



The Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) helps the owners of non-industrial private forests restore forest health damaged by natural disasters. The EFRP does this by authorizing payments to owners of private forests to restore disaster damaged forests. The local USDA Farm Services Agency (FSA) implements EFRP for all disasters with the exceptions of drought and insect infestations. In the case of drought or an insect infestation, the national FSA office authorizes EFRP implementation.

For more information, you may view a recent, recorded webinar given for Forest Stewardship program managers (link below) or see <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/emergency-forest-restoration/index>

BILL 43 -

"[In July], Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell signed [Bill 43](#) into law, which makes it clear that private property owners are responsible for the maintenance of channels, streambeds, streambanks and drainageways, and that these waterways must not create unsanitary conditions or become a public nuisance." - KHON News. [View KHON vide here](#)

Notes on Food Safety – workshop for small farmers

Are you a small farmer?

You are invited to participate in the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) regulation update for small farmers. Information on best practices for on-farm food safety and info packet will be shared at Mohala Farms Friday, August 11 from 5 – 8 pm. RSVP to Lillian Kong at LKong@kkv.net.



Teacher Workshop - Agriculture

Agriculture systems are complex. Issues including land use, water rights, technology, sustainability, food safety, and systems of scale are regularly discussed in our communities here in Hawaii. This three-day teacher workshop explores methods for teaching across disciplines about issues affecting agriculture, soil, water and conservation. Together participants will explore issues through activities aligned to standards and build relationships with diverse community partners through place-based learning at three sites on O'ahu: Kahumana Organic Farm in Waianae, DuPont Pioneer in Waialua, and The Halawa Xeriscape Garden in Halawa.

West O'ahu Soil and Water Conservation District, event host, engages landowners and land managers in stewardship, or the wise use of our natural resources through best management practices. In addition to exploring critical thinking in relation to Hawaii's diverse Ag Systems, we will explore the concept of stewardship. The goal of this workshop is to help teachers support students in making informed decision about complex environmental issues.

We look forward to you joining us. Please contact Michelle Gorham with any questions – WestOahuSWCD@gmail.com or 808.729.1676

Register today through September 29, 2017 on Eventbrite: Cost: \$150
<https://agriculturepde3workshop.eventbrite.com> Scholarships may be available.



National Association of Conservation Districts Photo Contest!

Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home is the Stewardship theme for 2018. You may download the logo on NACD's Flickr page [here](#). Stewardship materials are currently in development, but you can find more information on poster and photo contest rules [here](#).

Learn more at: <http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/contests/>



Farm to School Conference

The Farm to School Conference will be held on August 30th for Free just after the 2017 Ag Conference at the Honolulu Convention Center.

[AG2017 Conference](#) Attendees can register directly through their AG2017 Conference Registration (\$300 to attend the Ag conference)

Those not attending the AG2017 Conference may register directly with the Hawaii Farm to School Coordinator:

[REGISTER for the 2017 HI F2S SYMPOSIUM \(through this link\)](#)

The [Hawaii Farm to School Program](#) is established within the Department of Agriculture ([HRS §141-11](#)) with the following purposes to:

- Improve **student health**;
- Develop an educated **agricultural workforce**;
- Enrich the local food system through the support and increase of **local food procurement** for the State's public schools and other institutions;
- Accelerate **garden and farm-based education** for the State's public school students; and
- Expand the **relationships** between public schools and agricultural communities.



2017 Hawaii Ag Conference

Register Now for Hawai'i Agriculture Conference, August 29-30

Registration for AG2017 is live at <http://hiagconference.org>.

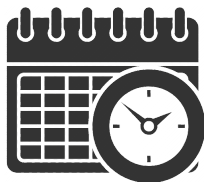
Keynote speakers at AG2017 include:

- **Nainoa Thompson**, President, Polynesian Voyaging Society
- **President Hilda C. Heine**, Republic of the Marshall Islands
- **Ben Hartman**, Clay Bottom Farm, and Author, "The Lean Farm"

New to the conference are:

- **Grower Buyer Meetup**
- **AGxChange**
- **Farm to Table Tastings**

The Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawai'i presents AG2017 with support from our title sponsor, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. For more information on the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawai'i, visit <http://agleaderhi.org>.



Calendar of Events

Aggie Events and Deadlines: Get involved in Oahu Agriculture

- August 3 from 10 - 3 **Crop insurance webinar *AgriLogic Consulting, LLC***
An overview of federally subsidized crop insurance offerings available to Hawai'i agricultural producers. Topics include crop insurance programs available, eligibility, deadlines, coverage levels, subsidies, and next steps for purchasing crop insurance. E-mail hawaii@agrillogic.com to RSVP by Wednesday, August 2.
- August 7, Waianae HFUU - The Wai'anae Chapter of the Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m at Kahumana Organic Farm. 1 year anniversary.

- August 11 from 5-8 Best practices for on-farm food safety at Mohala Farms. RSVP to Lillian Kong at LKong@kkv.net.
- August 22, 2017, West Oahu SWCD Monthly Meeting. Crop Production Services Conference Room, Kunia Village 92-1770 Kunia Road, Kunia HI 96759.
- August 28, 2017 - Eat Think Drink: How to access Capital and move your project from seed to shelf. [Buy Tickets](#)
- August 29 - 30 Hawaii Ag Conference - The premier all-Ag conference in Hawaii. [Register today](#).
- August 30 - [Hawaii Farm to School Symposium](#) - 12:00noon – 5:00pm



Online Workshops with NRCS:

[Managing Cover Crops in an Arid Region: A Farmer's Perspective](#)

August 8, 2017 2:00 pm US/Eastern. 8am Hawaii Time

This webinar will focus on managing cover crops to improve soil health in a fragile, arid region of western Oklahoma by integrating livestock and multi-species covers into a diverse no-till cropping and grazing system to increase water and nutrient cycling.

[Cost Effective Conservation Programs: What are the Challenges?](#)

August 22, 2017 2:00 pm US/Eastern. 8am Hawaii Time

Participate in this webinar to learn about USDA Economic Research Service findings related to factors or policy design choices that can influence the cost effectiveness of conservation programs.

[Building Relationship and Meeting Needs of the Small Farmer](#)

August 30, 2017 2:00 pm US/Eastern. 8am Hawaii Time

Participants will learn about strategies and techniques to address the needs of small farming operations.

West Oahu SWCD Meeting Update:

West Oahu SWCD has rescheduled some meetings. Please take note and update your calendars accordingly.

August 22, 2017 (NEXT MEETING)

September 26, 2017 (pending confirmation)

October – No Meeting

November 14, 2017

December 12, 2017

Location of all meetings: Crop Production Services Conference Room, Kunia Village 92-1770 Kunia Road, Kunia HI 96759. Please enter through the side door.

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

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About Us: 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 WestOahuSWCD@gmail.com

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