

December

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December 2017: Work with KMWP, National Farmers Union meeting: Free, FSMA Food Safety update, and NRCS webinar: Life underground: soil microbial communities on the farm!

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West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

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



On-Line Conference: National Farmers Union

December 4-7, 2017

Join the National Farmers Union for their annual, nationally focused online conference: Growing for the Future. This FREE four-day online conference is focused on developing agricultural leaders from all backgrounds, and provides an opportunity for beginning farmers to acquire the skills they need to run a successful operation. [Register here.](#)



FSMA FOOD SAFETY UPDATE

A Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Rule guidebook for Hawaii growers was developed by a team of partners and produced by the Roots Cafe/Kokua Kalihi Valley. Guide content, layout and illustrations by Lilian Kong. Fred Reppun of CTAHR served as the project collaborator and A-dae Romero-Briones, a food safety lawyer, served as the project consultant. Mahalo for their dedication to develop this easy to understand tool for Hawaii

Growers: <https://www.rootskalihi.com/resources/>

Upcoming Courses:

Jan. 16-18: FSMA Food Safety Course- Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventative Controls for Human Food (Hilo, HI) A FSMA food safety plan is **required** of food facilities that register with the US FDA and distribute their products in the United States. This course teaches how to develop and implement a FSMA food safety plan and meets the training requirements FSMA. [Register and more info](#)

Jan. 22-23: This two-day training combines a session on the **Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP)** and a session on the **Sanitary Transportation of Human and Animal Food**. The courses are scheduled on January 22-23, 2018 in Honolulu, HI. [Register](#)

This and more information can be found on www.foodsafetyhawaii.org, an official site of the Department of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii at Manoa. **FoodSafetyHawaii.org** aims to strengthen the confidence and competence of the food industry clientele in providing safe and wholesome foods through the understanding of issues in the food industry, identifying opportunities to clarify misperceptions and to provide correct information, and optimizing communications using sound and accurate science.





Waianae Mountains Watershed Partnership

Volunteer or work deep in the forests of the Waianae Mountains with the Waianae Mountains Watershed Partnership (WMWP)!

Typically volunteers can meet at the baseyard before caravanning to the mountains to conduct invasive species control, native species outplanting and other field work to improve the watershed of our beautiful island home. We also need nursery support growing out plants and prepping them for outplanting.

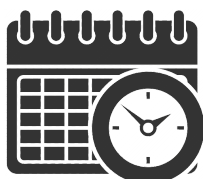
WMWP is looking temporary, full-time positions which we hope to convert to regular, full-time positions. The scope of work includes weed control, outplanting, nursery work (native plant propagation and grow-out, maintenance, and general planting), possibility of ungulate control, fence maintenance, etc.

Parties interested in employment or volunteering should contact WMWP Coordinator, Yumi Miyata at wmwpcoordinator@gmail.com.



Forests are a valuable component of many working farms and ranches in Hawaii and across the US. Forests contribute to soil health, air quality, biodiversity, windbreaks, climate resilience, and succession planning. The US Forest Service report "[Assessing Forest Sustainability in the Tropical Islands of the United States](#)" was released in November of 2017. This report evaluates current conditions for forests on

released in November of 2017. This report evaluates current conditions for forests on U.S. Tropical Islands as they relate to the ecological, social, and economic dimensions of sustainability. The [report](#) covers 3.2 million acres of tropical forests, 1.5 million acres are in Hawaii.



Calendar of Events

Aggie Events and Deadlines: Get involved in Oahu Agriculture

- December 4: Waianae Hawaii Farmers' Union United (HFUU) Meeting at Kahumana Organic Farm 6:00 potluck
- December 4-7: HFUU On-Line Conference for [Beginner Farmers](#)
- December 19: West Oahu SWCD monthly meeting * *Note date and time*
- January 9: South County Farm Bureau meeting 6:00pm HARC lower Kunia
- January 22-23: FSMA Food Safety Course- Hazard Analysis and Risk-Based Preventative Controls for Human Food (Honolulu, HI) - [more info](#)

[Hawaii Farm to School Calendar](#)



Online Workshops with NRCS:

[Life Underground: Partnering with Soil Microbial Communities on the Farm](#)

This webinar is scheduled for Dec 12, 2017 9am Hawaii time and 2:00 pm US/Eastern

This webinar will focus on the challenges and benefits of managing soil biology rather than relying only on chemically based systems, along with the key roles that soil microbes play in agroecosystems.

[An Introduction to the Agricultural Air Quality Conservation Measures Reference Guides](#)

This webinar is scheduled for Dec 12, 2017 9:30am Hawaii time and 2:30 pm US/Eastern

Webinar participants will learn about two documents that can assist in selecting appropriate strategies and Conservation Practice Standards when an air quality resource concern has been identified.

More found [here](#)



West Oahu SWCD Meeting Update:

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

December 19, 2017 at 12:30

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 Jefts (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 of HARC. Submit articles and information to WestOahuSWCD@gmail.com

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