

NEW - Monthly Calendar feature; Ag Day at the Capitol is February 23, Seeds4Tomorrow - Spring Break Program, No February West Oahu meeting.

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West Oahu SWCD

West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

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



It's Groundhog day today, but we don't need any furry predictions to tell us that agriculture continues to thrive on Oahu. This month we don't have enough space in our newsletter to conveniently share full stories of all the great things happening. To supply you with information about what partners in agriculture and conservation are doing to help each other, we developed an at-a-glance calendar to keep you informed while you keep pace with your business. Each event has a contact person or a clickable link so you can learn more, register, etc. Share your events, volunteer opportunities, and trainings in our future e-newsletters by contacting Michelle@OahuSWCD.

Calendar of Events

Volunteer

- Help Prevent the Spread of Coffee Berry Borer. Join the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC) for a morning of pruning and coffee stripping on February 11, 2017. 7:30 light snacks at the HARC Lower Kunia Research Station: 94-340 Kunia Road. 8:00am work starts. Contact Chifumi Nagai for more information. 808.561.3164

Aggie Events: Get active and involved by learning and sharing at these events!

- February 6 at 6:30pm - Waianae, Hawaii Farmers Union United Meeting. Location Kahumana Farm 86-660 Lualualei Homestead Road. Locavore Potluck.
- February 7, East Oahu, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation Meeting - Grant Hamachi (President)- grant.hamachi@gmail.com
- February 14, South Oahu, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation Meeting - HARC Lower Kunia Research Station: 94-340 Kunia Road. Contact Jayme as meeting date may change jaymebee@gmail.com
- February 14, West Oahu, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation Meeting - Jeanne Vana (President)-bigwavetomatoes@gmail.com
- **Ag Day at the Capitol: February 23, 2017. Food, fun, and information. Hosted by [Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation](#)**

In-Person Trainings/Conferences

- February 4, 2017 Reducing Risk and enhancing sustainability for small farmers through [ORCD Register Here](#)
- February 7, 2017 5:30 - 7:30- Worker Protection Standards. Taught by CTAHR. Kaneohe Extension Office. 45-260 Waikalua Rd. Typically provided by HDOA for \$25.00/ person. This event is free to those who register via, suganoj@ctahr.hawaii.edu. Space is limited.
- February 10, 2017. Farming + Soil Conservation Training. Grant funding available for best management practices through [ORCD. Register Here](#)
- Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association invites you to attend its 2017 all-day conference, to be held at Ka'ikena Restaurant on the Kapiolani Community College campus on February 24th, 2017 from 7:45 AM to 5:15 PM [Register and More Information](#)

Online Workshops with NRCS:

- Successful Buffer Restoration: Initial Establishment Methods and Post-Planting Care. 9 am Hawaii time [Click Here!](#)
- Introduction to Plan Identification - February 23 at 9 am Hawaii . [Click here!](#)
- Sprinkler Irrigation: History and basics - February 28 at 9 am Hawaii Time. [Click Here!](#)

Grant Opportunities:

- Kokua Hawaii Foundation School mini-grants deadline is March 1, 2017 [Learn More](#)
- Sign up for NRCS funding updates [here](#) and get great info sent to your inbox!



Loans that change lives

Hawai'i Food Producers Fund

Kiva loans are now available statewide. Hawai'i food producers seeking loans through Kiva are eligible to receive 50% of their loan from the Hawai'i Food Producers Fund. Hawai'i food producers include Hawai'i-based farmers and food processors utilizing at least one Hawai'i-grown ingredient.

Loans are available up to \$10,000. The interest rate is fixed at 0%.

Hawai'i farmers and food processors utilizing at least one Hawai'i-grown ingredient are eligible to receive 50% of their Kiva loan from the Hawai'i Food Producers Fund.
<http://kohalacenter.org/business/microloan-kiva>

For information on contributing to the Hawai'i Food Producers Fund, please contact Hanna Bree at hbree@kohalacenter.org.



Go Farm Hawaii - AgCurious on North Shore

The North Shore of Oahu has long embraced agriculture. Through GoFarm Hawaii's AgCurious informational session in Waialua, people were exposed to the opportunity to grow that curiosity into knowledge, skills, and abilities for a viable agricultural business. The January 18, 2017 Go Farm AgCurious info. session hosted by DuPont Pioneer hosted 37 attendees and 7 teachers/guest speakers. A great turnout. Smiles and nods were elicited from the crowd when a past participant said "Get down and Get dirty. Go for it and learn to farm!" To Participate in [Go Farm](#), [visit their website](#) and learn more.

For your viewing pleasure: GoFarm leaders shared a newly released Farmer video. We loved it and hope you do, too. <https://youtu.be/rfun8E5U9Ns>



Seeds4Tomorrow: Farm to Fork Student Spring Break Adventure Program

Since 2014 the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC) has hosted Seeds4Tomorrow, a successful summer camp that teaches and cultivates the next generation of agricultural entrepreneurs--or as we like to call them--"Agripreneurs". This year we developed a spring program that follows the same principals of hands-on learning with students mentored by respected professionals and experts in agriculture.

HARC will be hosting a youth program March 20 - 25, 2017 8am - 2pm Monday to Friday / 8am - 10am on Saturday at their lower Kunia station located at 94-340 Kunia Road, Waipahu, HI 96797. The program is open to students in 6th to 12th grades. Cost is \$50 per student. If you are interested in volunteering please email the program coordinator at: seeds4tomorrow@gmail.com

[Learn more and register by March 5th:](http://www.harc-hspa.com/seeds4tomorrow.html) <http://www.harc-hspa.com/seeds4tomorrow.html>

NO FEBRUARY WEST OAHU SWCD MEETING

Next West Oahu SWCD Meeting: March 28, 2017

Location: Crop Production Services Conference Room, Kunia Village 92-1770 Kunia Road, Kunia HI 96759.

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 Michelle@OahuSWCD.org

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