

October 2017: Stop the Ant - here's how to help, Women Farmer Workshop, Rural Development Grant for value added, Specialty Crop Grant, Volunteer with Army, HFUU Convention, Free 3 PDE credit Teacher Workshop, and more!

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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.



October is Spot the Ant, Stop the Ant Month in Hawai'i

In 2014, the news outlets were buzzing with the detection of little fire ants (LFA) on O'ahu and Maui. There were public meetings in Mililani, new coverage of surveys in Waimānalo, and you probably heard something about testing your yard with peanut butter and chopsticks. Fast forward to 2017 and it may seem that the issue of little fire ant has become, well, a non-issue. But this couldn't be further from the truth. Even though it's dropped off the news cycle radar, the spread of little fire ant remains a cause for concern. While LFA is well established on Hawai'i Island, O'ahu still has a chance to remain LFA free if we can find and eradicate the ants while their colonies are relatively small. Several agencies and organizations throughout the State are working daily to prevent the spread of this nasty pest; from inspections of inter-island goods, early detection surveys of garden stores and nurseries, to outreach and education programs. However, these programs are understaffed and the public is asked

to join the effort to protect our island home. Test your property this October and send ant samples to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture for identification. Testing is quick and easy...simply place a thin smear of peanut butter on the end of disposable chopsticks, place the sticks around the yard in shady places. Collect the sticks after one hour and place any sticks with ants in a ziptop bag. Place the ziptop bag in the freezer overnight to kill the ants, then mail or drop off the ants to HDOA at 1428 S. King St., Honolulu, HI 96814.

We need your help to **Stop the Ant!** Test and submit your ant samples in this month. For more details and a video on how to test your yard, visit:

www.stoptheant.org



Teacher Workshop: Agriculture, Soil and Water

October 10 -12, 2018 - Free with PDE3 credits!

Where does our food come from and how do technology, water, and land influence agriculture in Hawaii? Teachers are invited to explore these and other questions during a high school focused teacher workshop October 10 - 12, 2017. Three PDE3 credits available. The workshop is hosted by West Oahu Soil and Water

Conservation District and the Hawaii Environmental Education Alliance.

By visiting three distinct sites, teachers will have the opportunity to explore agriculture through different lenses and perspectives. Participants will take with them new partnerships, access to field sites, field trip funding opportunities, curriculum correlated to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Three credits are available and those who submit a portfolio will be reimbursed fully. Cost otherwise is \$150.

Limited to 24 participants. [Register here](#). Make sure to sign up on PDE3 if you would like credits. Staff will shift you from "Waitlist" to approved upon confirmation of the Eventbrite registration. More information is below.

Grade levels: High School.

Fee: \$150 reimbursed with portfolio submission.

Locations: Kahumana Organic Farm, DuPont Pioneer, and Halawa Xeriscape Garden

Connections: NGSS, Common Core, and STEM

Tools and resources offered to participants: Fillable portfolio template with captions, access to new field trips sites, bus funding to select locations, 3 PLT Curricula, access to PLT grant funds, Opportunities for continued learning with the Pilina Community of Practice including formal and non-formal educators.

Please contact Michelle with questions – WestOahuSWCD@gmail.com or 808.729.1676

<https://agriculturepde3workshop.eventbrite.com> .

Mahalo to NRCS, The Learning Coalition, and the US Forest Service for financial support.



Women Farmer Workshop Series

Join O'ahu RC&D in the Women Farmers Workshop Series, which is tailored for women growers and producers in Hawai'i. We will be hosting one-day workshops on O'ahu, Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i island. The day includes presentations from experts in risk management, a lunch panel discussion of local women farmers, and afternoon hands-on sessions with guests and farmers. Networking opportunities and technical assistance will be available at each event. Cost is \$12.00, lunch is included. See locations below for each island. [Register Here](#)

All Workshops are 9:00 - 3:00
Kane'ohe, O'ahu - Kualoa Ranch
Lihue, Kauai - Lihue Neighborhood Center
Kahului, Maui - J. W. Cameron Center
Waimea, Hawai'i - Dept. Of Hawaiian Homelands, Kuhio Hale.

What questions should I reflect on before going into the workshop?

- Are you linked into Agro-Tourism Opportunities?
- Have you audited your cost of production?
- What marketing avenues do you utilize currently?

What should I bring to the event?

Lunch will be provided. You are welcome to bring materials for note-taking.

How can I contact the organizer with any questions?

Contact O'ahu RC&D for questions: 808-622-9026 | admin@oahurcd.org



Pesticide Risk Reduction Education

College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Oahu, Pearl City--2017 December 4 - 5 (Mon - Tue). Deadline for registration: November 6. This [announcement](#) (PDF) gives details.



Committed to the future of rural communities.

USDA Rural Development announces \$18 million in funding for value-added producers

What does this program do? The Value Added Producer Grant (VAPG) program helps agricultural producers enter into value-added activities related to the processing and/or marketing of new products. The goals of this program are

to generate new products, create and expand marketing opportunities, and increase producer income. Applicants may receive priority if they are a beginning farmer or rancher, a socially-disadvantaged farmer or rancher, a small or medium-sized farm or ranch structured as a family farm, a farmer or rancher cooperative, or are proposing a mid-tier value chain. Grants are awarded through a national competition. Each fiscal year, applications are requested through a notice published in the [Federal Register](#) and through an announcement posted on [Grants.gov](#).

Program Funding: \$18 million

Maximum Grant Amount: Planning Grants \$75,000; Working Capital Grants: \$250,000

Matching Funds Requirements: 50 percent of total project costs

Who may apply for this program? Independent producers, agricultural producer groups, farmer- or rancher-cooperatives, and majority-controlled producer-based business ventures, as defined in the [program regulation](#) are eligible to apply for this program.

How may funds be used? Grant and matching funds can be used for planning activities or for working capital expenses related to producing and marketing a value-added agricultural product. Examples of planning activities include conducting feasibility studies and developing business plans for processing and marketing the proposed value-added product. Examples of working capital expenses include: Processing costs, marketing and advertising expenses, some inventory and salary expenses, etc.

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>



United States Department of Agriculture
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

Special Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) Grants are Open!

The purpose of the SCRI program is to address the critical needs of the specialty crop industry by awarding grants to support research and extension that address key challenges of national, regional, and multi-state importance in sustaining all components of food and agriculture, including conventional and organic food

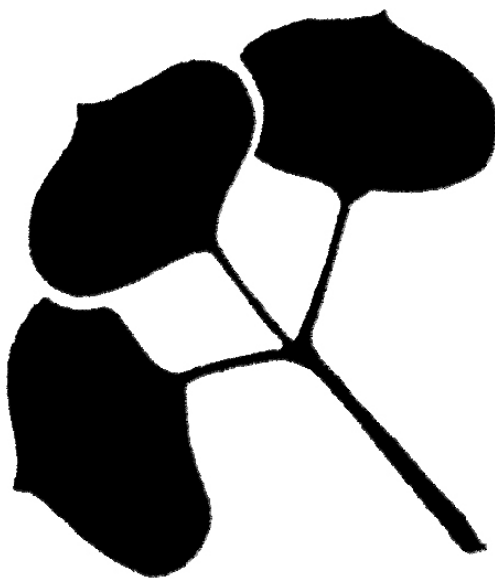
production systems. Closing date for applications is December 8, 2017. Estimated program funding is \$48,100,000

Projects must address at least one of five focus areas:

- Research in plant breeding, genetics, genomics, and other methods to improve crop characteristics
- Efforts to identify and address threats from pests and diseases, including threats to specialty crop pollinators
- Efforts to improve production efficiency, handling and processing, productivity, and profitability over the long term (including specialty crop policy and marketing)
- New innovations and technology, including improved mechanization and technologies that delay or inhibit ripening
- Methods to prevent, detect, monitor, control, and respond to potential food safety hazards in the production efficiency, handling and processing of specialty crops.

Pre-Applications may only be submitted by Federal agencies, national laboratories, colleges and universities, research institutions and organizations, private organizations or corporations, State Agricultural Experiment Stations, Cooperative Extension Services, individuals, or groups consisting of two or more of these entities.

<https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/specialty-crop-research-initiative-scri>



O'AHU ARMY NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM

Volunteer in the watershed

- with Oahu Army Natural Resource Management Program

Sunday, October 8 – [Makaha Weed Control](#)

Tuesday, October 10 – [Palikea Weed Control](#)

Tuesday, October 24 – [Kalua'a Weed Control](#)

Become a Volunteer or Renew Your Application for 2017

Mahalo for your interest in volunteering with us! We welcome new applicants and encourage previous volunteers to renew your applications for 2017.

Download the [PDF Application](#)

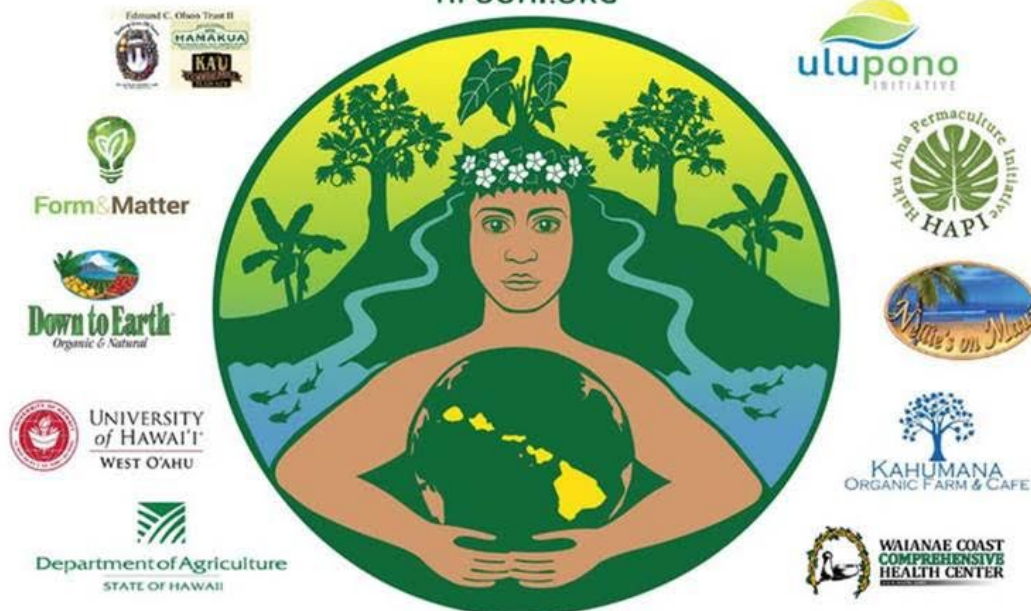
- Email your application to apply@oanrp.com
- Volunteer applications that are received during the September/October time frame will be processed in time for applicants to sign up for the **following** period of November/December.

Find out more about the OANRP volunteer program on our [volunteer page](#).

Hawai'i Farmers Union United

7TH ANNUAL CONVENTION WAI'ANAE O'AHU

HFUUHI.ORG



In Association with
Kahumana 5th Annual Organic Farm Festival
 "Cultivating Change"



OCT 6,7,8, 2017



UH West Oahu Campus · General & Break Out Sessions · Oct 6
Kahumana Organic Farm · Hands On Workshops · Oct 7, 8



Presenters:

Gabe Brown - International expert on Poly-culture of cover crops
 Peter Sallares - Australian Farmer, Expert on V-Trellis Fruit Production
 Glenn Martinez - Local Expert on Air-lift False Bottom Aquaponic Systems
 Mike Duponte - UH Extension Korean Natural Farming Expert on Chicken & Hog Production
 Albie Miles - UH West Oahu Professor, Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems
 Christopher Spezzano - Form & Matter: Technology Powered Community-Based Regenerative Agriculture
 Jennifer Kucera - NRCS Soil Health Scientist
 Bob Shaffer - Soil Culture Consulting
 Sheuli Molla - Oahu Water Resources Alternatives
 Doug Fine - HEMP Farmer and Author on Hemp Production
 Lelle of Lelle Vie - Essential Oil Distillation & Botanical Extractor
 Jayme Barton, Dave Elliot - Cover Crop Cocktails for Hawai'i Soils
 Dr. Ted Radovich - CTAHR Sustainable & Organic Farming Systems Laboratory
 David Fisher - Regenerative Business Development Expert
 Tulsi Gabbard - US Congress Woman
 Rep. Richard Creagan - House Agricultural Chair
 Sen. Mike Gabbard - Senate Agriculture and Environment Chair
 HDOA Director Scott Enright - Hawaii Dept of Agriculture
 NFU President Roger Johnson - NFU Chairman of the Board
 National Farmers Union Delegation - Delivering NFU State Charter to HFUU

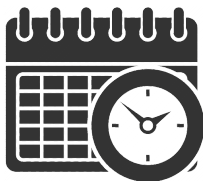


Registration & More Info at HFUUHI.ORG

- Early Registration by September 18th save \$50
- Pricing and Accommodations



**National
Farmers
Union**



Calendar of Events

Aggie Events and Deadlines: Get involved in Oahu Agriculture

- October 6-8: HFUU Annual Convention
- October 7, 2017: Kahumana Farm Fest - 11:00 am - 6:30 pm. [Get tickets](#)
- October 10 - 12: Agriculture Teacher Workshop [Register today](#).
- October 10: Oahu- Women Farmer Workshop [Series](#) -
- October 10: South County Farm Bureau Meeting 6pm Lower HARC
- October 24-25: Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation Annual Meeting



Online Workshops with NRCS:

[Interseeding, Precision Planting and Management of Cover Crops in a Corn and Soybean Rotation](#)

October, 10 2pm Eastern, 8am Hawaii Time

At the conclusion of this webinar participants will be able to develop a prescription for interseeding cover crops, understand the potential benefits of the practice, and describe situations where it will have the most potential for success.

[Wetland Labels for the Food Security Act](#)

October 24 2pm Eastern, 8am Hawaii Time

Participate to gain understanding of the labels used to identify land subject to restrictions and exemptions under the Food Security Act wetland conservation provisions.

[Restoring Native Plant Communities: Soil and Hydrology Suited Planning Tools](#)

October 31 2pm Eastern, 8am Hawaii Time

Learn how native plant community restoration can be guided by existing natural inventories. (Rescheduled from 10/25/2016.)

West Oahu SWCD Meeting Update:

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

October – No Meeting

November 7, 2017 at 12:30 (NEXT MEETING)

December 12, 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 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 of HARC. Submit articles and information to WestOahuSWCD@gmail.com

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