

This month's e-news highlights opportunities for professional learning. These collaborative efforts often result in economic and environmental benefits. Next month, West Oahu SWCD will announce dates for Together We Farm courses developed with partners across the islands to advance agriculture.

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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.



The State of Hawaii, [Division of Forestry and Wildlife](#), the [Hawaii Agriculture Research Center](#), and [West Oahu SWCD](#) hosted a rewarding, informative and fun Landowner Assistance Workshop focused on agroforestry and high-value conservation/agroforestry investments. More than 32 landowners and partners participated. Stay tuned for our next workshop.



Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the [Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation](#), hosted a farm tour for the Hawaii State Association of Counties to share information about the broad spectrum of agriculture in Hawaii. The tour included a site visit to Sugarland Farms with owner, Larry Jeffs. Larry is a West Oahu SWCD Director, Cooperator, and the Board Chair. Mahalo to Larry and Brian for their mana'o and leadership.

HAWAII FARMER NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The University of Hawaii invites Hawaii farmers to participate in the [Hawaii Farmer Needs Assessment](#). This was developed to understand the barriers and needs of farmers related to increasing food production in Hawaii.

This 3-5 minute survey will help define the kinds of support, extension, training, research, and public policy that may best meet the needs of growers across the state.

Visit hawaiifarmersurvey.com to learn more or go [directly to the survey here](#).

A summary of the findings will be posted to hawaiifarmersurvey.com in late 2018.
For more information, please contact:

Hunter Heavilin
Email: Huntersh@Hawaii.edu
Phone: (808) 391-8687

North Shore EVP

A Community Economic Vitality Partnership

North Shore Non-profit Advances Food Safety for Small Farms

North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership announced its designation as an official USDA GroupGAP group, serving the local agriculture community with a food safety certification program. GAP, or Good Agricultural Practices, certification is generally accepted as a quality and safe food standard for most commercial produce buyers. North Shore EVP is Hawaii's first GroupGAP group; one of 15 in the United States.

For local producers, food safety certification can mean increased sales, more acreage in production, and more resilient farms. "Improving agriculture is something this community has always supported," says Kevin Kelly, President of North Shore EVP. "We all love the country, but it's our farmers who are preserving the legacy of agriculture on the North Shore. We're honored to be working with a group of really motivated farmers and helping them become more successful at what they do."

The first 10 GroupGAP farms will receive their GAP certification in the coming weeks after completing a final audit of their farms. Small Farmers can apply to the next Group GAP cohort available through North Shore EVP today through July 25. The cohort will start in August. Visit the website to download an application or contact Lisa Rhoden, Food Safety Director.

North Shore EVP is an economic development organization working with the communities of the North Shore to create new jobs and grow economic opportunities from existing resources in the region.

CONTACT:
Lisa Rhoden, Food Safety Director
PHONE: 808-343-8196
EMAIL: lisa@nsevp.org
WEBSITE: www.nsevp.org



Hawaii Conservation Conference: Technology & Conservation

At the 2018 Hawaii Conservation Conference, West Oahu SWCD will lead a forum dedicated on the exploration of technology applications in conservation. Join our session at 2pm on Thursday, July 26, 2018.

Abstract: Technology plays an increasingly large role in our lives. How that technology is applied to advance an organization's mission varies. In this forum we encourage participants to think outside the box with a panel of conservation and technology leaders from Smart Yields, Ameresco, Oahu Resource Conservation & Development Council, and Natural Resource Data Solutions. Each presenter will share stories of tech tools applied to advance conservation goals. Tech can increase capacity, efficiency, and efficacy as well as reduce inputs. Technology and conservation can work hand in hand and must to advance our collective conservation goals at the farm, field, forest, or ocean. Participants will be invited to explore innovative and rogue practices, ask questions, and share mana'o.

Speakers:

- Sam Aruch, Natural Resource Data Solutions
- James McCay, Ameresco
- Stephanie Mock, Oahu Resource Conservation & Development Council
- Mark Phillipson, Smart Yields

Moderator: Michelle Gorham, West Oahu SWCD

[Register](#)



2018 Small Business Fair: Launch your Dreams into Reality!

Sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA), DBEDT and Honolulu Community College

Honolulu Community College will host the 2018 Hawaii Small Business Fair, sponsored in partnership with the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) and the U.S. Small Business Association (SBA). 18 workshops and 30 exhibitors from federal, state and local agencies and non-profit organizations will provide small business owners and future business owners the information and know-how to grow or start their business.

Event Details

Saturday, August 4, 2018

Location

Honolulu Community College

[874 Dillingham Blvd., Honolulu](#)

[More information on the website.](#)



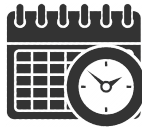
Mahalo to the Kona Soil and Water Conservation District for coordinating a wonderful conference this past June. Special mahalos to Mary Robblee for her excellent coordination, Greg Hendrickson for serving as the MC, and Tom Greenwell for his remarkable tour. Having supportive leaders and partners in the SWCD network makes our efforts more effective and efficient.



Supporting Student Mentors

From August to December, Middle and High school students across the state develop science and engineering fair projects. Science Fair students are expected to secure a mentor to guide them in project development. It is enriching and rewarding to explore innovation and science through the lens of a student. These mentor/mentee relationships are integral in developing our future generations and inspiring local connections to diverse career opportunities. Mentors typically contribute ~10 hours of support to their mentee over the course of 3 months.

Interested? Complete this 2 minute [Google Form](#) by July 31. Subjects of interest include agriculture, conservation, engineering, development of medical technologies, and tech/coding. If you have questions, you can also contact Michelle Gorham - 808.729.1676



Calendar of Events

Ag Events and Deadlines:

July 13-14: Hawaii State Farm Fair at the Kualoa Ranch Grounds

July 23: [Hawaii Environmental Education Conference](#)

July 24: West Oahu SWCD monthly meeting

July 24-26: [Hawaii Conservation Conference](#) Stop by to listen, learn, and share with West Oahu SWCD's panel on July 26 at 2pm

July 27-29: [National Sustainable Agriculture Education Conference](#)

August 6: Waianae Chapter HFUU Meeting - 6:00pm potluck



[Hawaii Farm to School Calendar](#)

Online Workshops with NRCS:

Train on your own time with these great resources from NRCS. Explore the free, online training opportunities and a list of archived webinars [here](#)

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Trees Make Communities More Livable

Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Grants are available. Watch the webinar or visit the [website](#) to learn more.

West Oahu SWCD's Next Meeting: July 24, 2018 at 12:30pm

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 Directors: Mike Glidden and Kalani Fronda

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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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