



West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

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



### October "Together We Farm" Workshop

This October, West Oahu SWCD and partners will offer the first of 4 workshops building farmer capacity for sustainable land and ag practices through the "Together We Farm" education series. Farmers guided the development of these workshops, which include on-farm learning, peer-to-peer demonstrations, guidance from field research experts, resource kits to execute what was learned, and complimentary on-farm support. We did our best to schedule around markets and "typical" packing/processing times.

Focused on soil health, nutrient management, and best management practices, this first workshop will be offered in both English (October 20 at Kahumana Farm) and Thai (October 26) from 4-7pm.

Register for the English workshop on [Eventbrite](#). Register for the Thai workshops by contacting Michelle Gorham via email [WestOahuSWCD@gmail.com](mailto:WestOahuSWCD@gmail.com) or phone 808.729.1676.

#### October's Soil Workshop will provide:

- Resources to improve soil quality to increase yields and reduce inputs.
- Demonstration of how to collect soil for sampling (soil kit included)
- Farm tour of Kahumana Organic farm to experience soil conservation practices in action - including Q&A
- Connections with soil health experts, extension agents, other farmers, peer mentors, etc.
- Experience with land, soil and water Best Management Practices (BMPs)

In addition, each participant will receive:

- Free soil sample through UH CTAHR
- Farm to table dinner with Kahumana

Participate in the full series (4 workshops) to be eligible for mini grants for your farm – up to \$500!

Mahalo to our Sponsors: Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Title Sponsor) as well as Bayer, Corteva Agriscience, DR Horton, Hartung Brothers, Inc., South

County Farm Bureau, and private donors like you.

Mahalo to Josh Silva and the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and our hosts Kahumana Organic Farm and Cafe and Hawaii Ag Foundation.

November: **Worker Protection Standards** (11/25 Eng., 11/30 Thai)

January: **Pesticide Safety** (1/20 Eng, 1/25 Thai)

February: **Farm and Conservation Planning** (2/28 - 3/2 - one hour apts.

Contact Michelle to coordinate

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UPDATE - NOW STATEWIDE  
Free and Confidential Water Testing

FREE: Confidential FSMA Water Testing

UPDATE: SUPPORT NOW AVAILABLE STATEWIDE Farmers and producers of fresh produce can now secure free confidential water testing for E. coli across the state through the end of 2018.

Trained staff from partners will visit your site and collect samples, which will be tested to FSMA standards. A confidential report will be provided to the producer. This effort will help with FSMA compliance.

To learn more or schedule a site visit, contact a trained professional from the list of partners below

This project is made possible through a collaboration with the Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center and funding from the Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation.

OAHU CONTACTS:

Jayne Barton - jaymebee@gmail.com

Wendy Gady - Wendy.Gady@gmail.com

Frankie Koethe (808) 622-9026 - frankie.koethe@oahurcd.org

Stephanie Mock - stephanie.mock@oahurcd.org

Kacey Robello - kacey@hawaiiagfoundation.org

KAUAI CONTACTS

Lisa Rhoden - lisa@nsevp.org

Emilie Kirk - erkirk@hawaii.edu

MAUI CONTACTS

Jayne Barton - jaymebee@gmail.com

HAWAII ISLAND CONTACTS

Bill Jakubowski (Waimea/Kamuela) - n6xiv@yahoo.com

Aileen Yeh (Hilo/Kona) - akfwyeh@hawaii.rr.com

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**A Warm Welcome to Brandon Todd  
Oahu's new NRCS District Conservationist**

Brandon Todd was selected to the District Conservationist for the Oahu Field Office and started July 9, 2018. He comes from Roosevelt, Utah, where he was a soil conservationist. He started his NRCS career in 2009 as summer help while attending Utah State University. Upon graduation, Brandon was placed as a full-time employee as a Soil Conservationist in the Roosevelt Field Office, where he has been since 2012. He earned a bachelor's degree in Physical Geography and a master's degree in Human Resources.

His relationships with his producers, conservation districts, supervisors, and co-workers in Roosevelt and throughout the state of Utah are cherished. He is also thankful and excited for the opportunity to build new relationships with those in the Pacific Island area, and hopes to serve the people of Oahu. Please feel free to contact him at (808) 868-7586 for any question regarding NRCS technical assistance and programs information.



**Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers (HTFG) Conference**

Dates: September 20 - 23

Cost: \$100 for Members if you sign up by September 1 ( today!)

Hear from some of the top growers and marketers from around the world, network with other growers and industry movers and shakers, and eat lots of fruit (and other delicious food).

Registering is easy: click this [link](#) and it will take you straight to the HTFG page where you can sign up and pay RIGHT NOW. If you sign up before Sept 1, make sure you click on the \$100 registration for members.

Check out the packed and [informative agenda](#).

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COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA

**Classes with CTAHR -**

Register Today!

**Small Scale Pesticide Application Demo -**



Poamoho Research Station  
65-602 Kaukonahua Rd., Waialua  
Saturday, September 22th  
10:00am-12:00pm

This field day will provide:

- Experience a variety of small scale pesticide application equipment
- Sprayer calibration techniques
- Selecting the right application equipment for the job
- Pesticide calculation for small scale application
- Selecting appropriate surfactant for enhanced spray coverage
- Proper Personal Protective Equipment selection and maintenance

[Tickets on EventBrite](#) - \$10

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**Banana MacroProp and Bunchytop workshop (Part 1)**



Learn how to propagate healthy disease free banana plants using macropropagation techniques

- Propagation of clean banana plants through macropropagation techniques
- Identification and management of Banana Bunchy Top Virus (BBTV)
- A demonstration on rapid BBTV detection using AmplifyRP® Acceler8® test kits

Thursday, September 27, 2018  
2:00pm-4:00pm  
Poamoho Research Station



### **Youth Loans**

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to youth to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth loan funds must be used only to pay the expenses associated with an approved project.

- Buy livestock, seed, equipment and supplies
- Buy, rent or repair needed tools and equipment
- Pay operating expenses for the project

### **Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:**

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project adviser. The project supervisor must recommend the youth loan applicant, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. Honolulu - Jason Shitanishi - 808-861-8538 ext104

[More information can be found on-line](#)

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### **Project Learning Tree Educator Workshops**

From urban cities to rural parks, in gardens or in forests, on school grounds or in parking lots, Project Learning Tree (PLT) provides a curriculum and platform for teaching and learning across disciplines using the environment. West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District will host two PLT workshops this fall. Participants will explore learning spaces as a resource to connect multi-dimensional learners with cross-disciplinary studies as well as cultivate

stewardship of resources through place-based, culturally relevant lessons.

Mahalo to Dr. Richard Jones and Dr. Laurie James, education professors with UH West Oahu, for making this workshop open to Pre-service as well as in-service educators. Limited space is available.

### **Pre-K - 8 Workshop**

September 17 (Tuesday) and September 26 (Thursday) from 2 - 5pm at UH West Oahu. Must attend both days to receive the PLT [Prek-8 guide](#) and be eligible for PLT national grants.

### **Secondary Workshop**

October 18, 2018 from 2-4pm

Full workshop includes the PLT "[Places We Live](#)" activity guide

Partners:

#### **Host:**

Professors Dr. Richard Jones and Dr. Laurie James. Mahalo for making this workshop open to nonformal and formal educators as well as preservice! - this wouldn't be possible without you!

#### **Space provided by:**

Hale Kuahuokalā, the Student Organic Garden. Mahalo to UH West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems (SCFS) program for allowing us to use this gorgeous space!

#### **Guest Speakers:**

Ambyr Mokiau-Lee - Rapid Ohi's Death (ROD) education expert - Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species ROD Coordinator

Debbie Milliken - Rat Lung Worm education expert - Iolani School Sustainability Coordinator

#### **Facilitator:**

Michelle Gorham

To Register contact: [WestOahuSWCD@gmail.com](mailto:WestOahuSWCD@gmail.com)

\* Participate in the PLT September workshop and you are eligible to apply for the Project Learning Tree®(PLT), GreenWorks! Grant due September 30, 2018.

PLT, a national PreK-12 environmental education program, is offering GreenWorks! grants up to \$1,000 to schools and youth organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world. Students implement an action project they help design to green their school or to improve an aspect of their neighborhood's environment.

Special thanks to the State of Hawaii, DLNR - Division of Forestry and Wildlife for providing resources as well as to the National Project Learning Tree office for continued support of Hawai'i PLT.



### **Calendar of Events**

#### **Events and Deadlines:**

September 7, 2018: Forest Stewardship project proposals and management plan drafts due to Tanya Rubenstein, Cooperative Management  
Forester: [tanya.rubenstein@hawaii.gov](mailto:tanya.rubenstein@hawaii.gov) or phone: (808) 587-0027

September 10: Waianae Chapter HFUU Meeting - 6:00pm potluck

September 10, 6pm: Waimanalo Chapter HFUU meeting - Ai Love Nalo. West Oahu SWCD presenting Together We Farm Program

September 11, 6:00pm: South County Farm Bureau meeting - HARC Lower Kunia - Annual Membership Drive

September 11, 4pm: Agenda notifications due for the August 28 West Oahu SWCD meeting: WestOahuSWCD@gmail.com

September 17 and 26: Prek-8 Project Learning Tree Workshop. Contact Michelle Gorham to register. WestOahuSWCD@gmail.com

September 21-23: Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers Meeting [Register](#)

September 22, 10am-12pm: Small Scale Pesticide Application Demonstration [Register](#) Event will take place at the Poamoho Field Station

September 27, 2-4pm: Banana Macropropagation workshop [Register](#) Event will take place at the Poamoho Field Station

October 16-17: Oahu Pesticide Risk Reduction Short Course - **Register by September 18** - [Register here](#)

[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](#)



Funding opportunities:

[Project Learning Tree: GreenWorks! Grant](#)

Due September 30, 2018

PLT, a national PreK-12 environmental education program, is offering GreenWorks! grants up to \$1,000 to schools and youth organizations for environmental service-learning projects that link classroom learning to the real world. Students implement an action project they help design to green their school or to improve an aspect of their neighborhood's environment.

[Kaulunani: Urban and Community Forestry Grant](#) -

Due November 1, 2018

Kaulunani has awarded grants to hundreds of non-profit groups, schools, community organizations, parks, museums and arboretums. We fund proposals to support urban and community forestry projects and Arbor Day tree giveaway programs across the State.

Grant are awarded for projects that respond to a need identified in our [Forest Action Plan](#) (Urban-Issue 4). Most grant awards range between \$500-\$14,999.

[USDA Technical Assistance And Training Grants](#)

Due September 8, 2019

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is accepting applications for an additional

application window for the Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program (TAT). For FY 2018, RUS received a budget appropriation of \$40 million for the TAT Program. In response to the application filing period of October 1, 2017, to December 31, 2017, as outlined in 7 CFR 1775, Subpart B, § 1775.10 (a), the Agency received 28 applications that will not use up all of the appropriation. [This Notice will make available the remaining funds under the TAT Program, for either a national water and wastewater infrastructure application assistance and project development program or a national apprenticeship/workforce development program.](#)

NRCS EQIP and

Due October 19th. Contact Brandon Todd for more details.

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**West Oahu SWCD's Next Meeting:** September 25, 2018 at 12:30pm. Agenda items due on September 11, 2018.

**Location of all meetings:** Nutrien Conference Room (formerly Crop Production Services), 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 Fronza

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. Submit articles and information to WestOahuSWCD@gmail.com. Mahalo to our editor, Cindy Pinick with HARC.

Our work is powered by your donations, funding contributions and grants. Your tax deductible donation can be made online (click button below and scroll down to "West Oahu SWCD"). Make checks payable to O'ahu RC&D: West Oahu SWCD.

**Your Donation Supports Sustainable Farming**

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