

Koa CAN grow at Low elevation. Ohia updates, Pesticide Safety - field demo and equipment raffle. The tighty whitey challenge - get your school involved today!

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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.

Together We Farm Workshop: Pesticide Safety

Safe pesticide application protects our environment and community. Organic producers, conventional producers, farm owners, etc. benefit from training in the proper calibration and use of pesticide application tools.

In this hands-on workshop, participants will learn:

- Non-chemical pest management methods (rotations, cover crops, IPM, etc.)
- How to select pesticides for targeted pests
- Calibration and application for 1/128 handgun sprayer
- Backpack sprayer calibration demo
- Future trainings with CTAHR and friends

English: January 20, 2019 from 3-6pm at DuPont Pioneer Waialua. Register here: https://togetherwefarm_safety.eventbrite.com

Thai: January 25, 2018 4-7pm at West Oahu SWCD offices. Text Michelle to participate: 808.729.1676

Experts on site include Jensen Uyeda with CTAHR and Esther Medrano with HDOA.

Each participant will receive:

- Kits with tools to support pesticide safety (measuring tools, calibration guides, Gloves, eye protection, etc.)
- Raffle ticket for give-away: backpack sprayer and handgun sprayer
- Dinner
- Eligible for CEU credits (pending confirmation from HDOA)

Titled "Together We Farm", this is the third of 4 workshops in a series designed to build farmer capacity for sustainable land and ag practices. Farmers guided the development of the workshops, which include on-farm learning, demonstrations, guidance from research experts, resource kits to execute what was learned, and complimentary on-farm support.

Special mahalo to our funding partners including Hawaii Department of Agriculture, DuPont Pioneer, Hartung Brothers, Inc., Corteva, Nutrien, Bayer, Ulupono, South Oahu County Farmer's Association, and D.R. Horton.



Are you an innovator interested in \$70,000?

An initiative was recently announced to advance Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) research. The 'Ōhi'a Challenge is collaborative and aims to "harness emerging science, technological innovations, and the ingenuity of people around the world" for the betterment of Hawaii's forests.

This challenge is currently open to all U. S. citizens and has a prize purse of \$70,000. On www.savetheohia.org, anyone can submit a proposal for a project that provides solutions that identify infected trees early and minimize the spread, with the goal of saving Hawai'i's iconic 'ōhi'a tree. Applications are currently open until **February 2019**. To read more about the challenge or to apply [click here](#).

The innovative challenge is hosted by "The Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Native Hawaiian Relations, Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, and National Invasive Species Council (NISC) Secretariat are working in partnership with Conservation X Labs.

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Learn more:
www.savetheohia.org



The Tightly Whitey Challenge

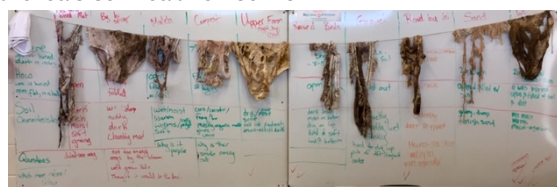
Inspired by the South Dakota FFA, West Oahu SWCD and Castle High School Natural Resource and Agriculture Teacher Carlos Seaverson hosted a tightly whitey challenge.

Students first learned about soil health, soil composition, and the importance of soil and water conservation. Following the discussion, students were presented with a challenge: select a site to "plant" the tightly whitey and make a hypothesis for the question "How will the underwear decompose in the selected site and why?"

Castle High School has a remarkable 7 acre farm. Students had the opportunity to plant the undies in a variety of places including lo'i kalo, sand pits, raised beds and compost piles. They took the knowledge learned throughout the semester and during the presentation to arrive at a hypothesis. It was encouraging to hear them reflect on their understanding of decomposition, soil density, accessibility or air, water, and sunlight, prevalence of macroorganisms and microorganisms, and more.

West Oahu SWCD visited three weeks later with each of the 5 classes to guide students as they interpreted results and discussed findings.

The original Tightly Whitey Challenge: <https://www.the-farmer.com/story-tightly-whities-test-reveals-soil-health-9-150275>



Are you interested in scheduling a school presentation for 2019? Contact Michelle at WestOahuSWCD@gmail.com or 808.729.1676



Free Tree to Re-Tree Hawaii: Koa giveaway and Residential Tree Planting Workshop

This holiday take a break in nature with Re-Tree Hawaii, our Botanical Garden wilt resistant Koa giveaway. Plant the koa at home to remember a loved one with a dignified living legacy, enjoy shade on a sunny day, and restore your land. Learn how to plant and care for your koa at our Re-Tree Hawaii, residential tree planting workshops. All registered participants will receive a wilt-resistant koa tree. Participants will hear tips to keep soil healthy and the koa alive and strong for generations. We look forward to you joining us at this family friendly and carbon positive event.

To register call 808.729.1676 or visit Eventbrite and search "Re-Tree Hawaii"

Brought to you by West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District, Kaulunani, and the City and County of Honolulu.

Foster Botanical Gardens: [Register](#)

Friday December 21, 2018 from 10am – 12:00pm – ReTree Hawai'i

Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens: [Register](#)

Saturday December 22, 2018 from 10am – 12:00pm – ReTree Hawai'i



Farm to Keiki is a brand new Farm to School lesson and recipe book written for

Hawaii's teachers and families. The 182 beautiful color pages make it easy to teach children healthy cooking, how to eat locally grown foods, how to grow a garden and about Hawaii's cultures and environment. The recommended age group is for children 3-9 years old.

The new Farm to Keiki website is also now viewable online with links to the book's activities and recipes. It will also be a hub for all things Farm to Early Care and Education. Free Farm to Keiki trainings will be offered on each Hawaiian Island in 2019! Interested in the book or workshops? Visit Farm to Keiki at www.farmtokeiki.org and find us on social media Instagram: @farm2keiki and Facebook: Farm to Keiki



Calendar of Events

Events and Deadlines:

December 11, 2018 - 12:30pm - West Oahu SWCD December meeting.

December 11, 5:30 pm - Mana-up Cohort 3 info session More here:
<https://manauphawaii.com/apply/>

December 11, 2018 - 6pm - South County Farmers Association meeting. Lower HARC

December 15: Kamehameha Schools Farmer Survey (more below) [Link](#)

December 21, 2018: Foster Botanical Gardens Re-Tree Hawaii - Residential Koa Tree Planting workshop [Register](#)

December 22, 2018: Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens - Residential Re-Tree Hawaii Workshop, [Register](#)

[Hawaii Farm to School Calendar](#)



Funding opportunities:

FARMERS: win one of two \$100 gift certificates to Home Depot by taking a 5-minute survey! Deadline to enter is December 15, 2018. Click here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N6SR8W3>. The survey results will assist Kamehameha Schools with its agricultural programs and land uses to support food production and processing. Mahalo for your time!

2019 Youth Garden Grant

Any nonprofit organization, public or private school, or youth program in the United States or US Territories planning a new garden program or expanding an established one that serves at least 15 youth between the ages of 3 and 18 is eligible to apply. The selection of winners is based on demonstrated program impact and sustainability. The top 5 programs will be awarded grant packages

worth \$2,100. Grant packages worth \$500 will be awarded to 20 additional programs. Applications are due December 17. [Learn more here.](#)

West Oahu SWCD's Next Meeting: December 11, 2018 at 12:30pm.

Location of 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 Fronda

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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