

## **Kona Cooperative Extension – Events and Announcements Newsletter**

Volume 8-2, August 2023

Dear Growers and Friends,

On behalf of the Kona Cooperative Extension and Kona Research Station faculty and staff, we would like to extend our heartfelt sympathies and deepest condolences to those lost to, displaced, and affected by the devastating fires on Maui and the Big Island.

Friends, families, and communities have come together as one to support those in need and those who have lost so much. While we still caution the need to vet individuals and organizations before donating, we wanted to share some resources that we hope will be helpful to those who had homes, businesses, and farming operations damaged or lost to the fires. In addition, the links below provide additional resources for food, water, shelter, clothing, other essential supplies, services, and more.

If your home or business was affected, consider taking these steps:

- Contact your home, vehicle, rental, and/or crop insurance agent immediately.
  - Even if your plants, trees, or livestock were not directly affected by the fire, let your agent know if your crop/livestock cannot be harvested or reached because of damage to equipment, inability to access farm/ranch, loss of water and electricity, etc.
  - Only if you can safely enter your farm/ranch, should you document damages with photographs and/or video to send to your agent and to keep on file.
  - Only if it is safe and you receive approval from your agent, should you begin clean-up. Wear the proper PPE to keep yourself and others safe while cleaning up.
- Call to cancel or suspend services for electric, water, telephone, cable, internet, pest control, and other recurring services.
- Real property taxes are due on 8/20/23. Notify the department if your home was damaged or is gone. Pay for your property tax before this date and ask for a reassessment as soon as possible as your tax amount may be reduced dramatically.

Resources:

- <https://www.mauicounty.gov/>
- <https://www.hapahi.org/blog/supportmaui>
- <https://www.civilbeat.org/2023/08/help-maui-fire-victims-heres-how-you-can-donate/>
- <https://www.hvcb.org/malama-maui/>

The sheer number of individuals, organizations, and businesses throughout the state, who are accepting and delivering donations to Maui is incredibly impressive. If you are on social media, you might find other outlets in which you can receive support, donations, and services, or volunteer your time and services, as well as send monetary, food, and supply donations to.

We carry our Maui family, friends, and colleagues in our thoughts and prayers. If there is something we can do to be of service to you, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,  
Andrea and Matt

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Visit <https://www.hawaiicoffeeed.com/events-and-announcements> for additional information on the following events, announcements and more.

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**UH-CTAHR Cooperative Extension Offices will be closed on the following days:**  
Friday, August 18th, in observance of Statehood Day

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**Important Announcement for Hawaii's Coffee and Orchard Crops Growers**

Andrea Kawabata will soon be out on extended family leave. Starting Aug. 16, Matt Miyahira will be stepping in as a Jr. Extension Agent to keep the coffee and orchard crops extension program running. While Andrea is on leave, please send email correspondence to Matt ([mnmiyahi@hawaii.edu](mailto:mnmiyahi@hawaii.edu)) and cc Andrea ([andreak@hawaii.edu](mailto:andreak@hawaii.edu)) to keep her in the loop. Matt can also be reached at 808-322-0164.

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**HMNA August Meeting**

Aloha,

The HMNA Board meeting will be tomorrow Tuesday August 15th at 10:30 am. Agenda is attached. See below for the video conferencing link.

Mahalo!

ZOOM INVITE BELOW:

Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84612170750>

Meeting ID: 846 1217 0750

View the agenda - <https://go.hawaii.edu/yAp>

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**Can't Make the WPS Webinar on the 16th? Join us on the 22nd of August - Maui and Online**

**Worker Protection Standard Seminar**

**Date: August 22, 2023**

**Time: 3-5 pm HST**

**Format: In-person and online via Zoom.**

**1.5 HDOA CEUs - Commercial 1a, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, and Private 1**

**Learn about the Federal Worker Protection Standard for agricultural workers and pesticide handlers.**

**To register, visit - <https://go.hawaii.edu/zAy>**

For questions, email Hannah Lutgen ([hannahcl@hawaii.edu](mailto:hannahcl@hawaii.edu)) or Rosemary Gutierrez-Coarite ([gr6@hawaii.edu](mailto:gr6@hawaii.edu)).

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**Pesticide Labels: Focus on Dilution Seminar - Maui and Online**

**Presenter: Mitch MacCleur, Hawaii Department of Agriculture-Maui**

Date: Tuesday, August 29, 2023

Time: 2-4 pm HST

Format: In-person and online

**2.0 HDOA CEUs - Commercial 1a, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, and Private 1**

Learn about pesticide labels, PPE, and simple calculations concerning pesticide use and dilution, square footage or acreage applied.

To register, visit - <https://go.hawaii.edu/ZAy>

For questions, email Hannah Lutgen ([hannahcl@hawaii.edu](mailto:hannahcl@hawaii.edu)) or Rosemary Gutierrez-Coarite ([gr6@hawaii.edu](mailto:gr6@hawaii.edu)).

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**GoFarm Hawaii and Oahu RC&D: Introduction to Growing Cacao Series Starting August 7**

Aloha,

We are excited to share that GoFarm Hawai'i and Oahu RC&D are partnering to bring you a 4-part series introducing cacao growing. This series includes visits to a cacao orchard to learn about establishment and cultivation, chocolate production facilities with cacao buyers, and to a cacao aggregator to learn about processing and fermentation.

1. August 7 @ 5:30pm - Intro Webinar (Zoom) - Learn about current trends in cacao production and meet local growers and experts.
2. August 12 @ 8:30am-12:30pm - Establishing a Cacao Orchard (Kamananui - North Shore Oahu)
3. September 9 @ 8:30am-12:30pm - Cacao Buyers and Chocolate Processing (Lonohana Chocolate - Kaka'ako + Manoa Chocolate - Kailua)
4. October 20 @ 8:30am-12:30pm - Cacao Harvesting and Processing (Mapele Fields - Kaneohe)

Cost: \$50 for full series.\* Space is limited. Register here - <https://go.hawaii.edu/3oy>

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**Informational Meeting For The HDOA Pesticide Disposal Program - Next Opportunity is Tues., Aug. 22**

Greetings,

This is Adam Williams, Project Manager for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's ("HDOA") Pesticide Disposal Program ("PDP"). Starting Tuesday, July 25, 2023, from 9am – 10am, the HDOA will be holding a series of zoom meetings to discuss the HDOA's PDP.

The PDP will provide an available, affordable, and environmentally accessible mechanism by which any agricultural entity, licensed pest control operator, landscape professional, pesticide dealer, and other commercial users of pesticides in the State can, for free, dispose of up to 250 lbs of canceled, suspended, unwanted, and unlabeled (“CSUU”) pesticides. **No enforcement action will be taken** against participants for disposing of CSUU pesticides.

The goal of the PDP is to promote a cleaner and safer Hawaii by reducing the amount of pesticides which could potentially impact human health or the environment.

We will be discussing:

- Acceptable and unacceptable materials;
- Who’s eligible to participate;
- Getting registered;
- The event date and time; and,
- Frequently asked questions.

Meeting Information:

Who: The Hawaii Department of Agriculture

What: Informational meeting for the pesticide disposal program

**When: every Tuesday from 9am-10am. Starting from Tuesday, July 25, 2023 to Tuesday, September 5, 2023.**

Where: Zoom

Why: to provide information on the HDOA’s Pesticide Disposal Program

**Zoom meeting link: <https://go.hawaii.edu/yoj>**

Or One Tap Mobile:

+13462487799,,82676848354# US (Houston)

+16694449171,,82676848354# US

Or Telephone:

Dial (for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Webinar ID: 826 7684 8354

Please contact me for any further questions. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Adam Williams (Environmental Health Specialist)

Hawaii Department of Agriculture Pesticides Branch

1428 South King Street

Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

Telephone number: (808) 973-9408

Pesticide Disposal Program: [hdoa.pdp@hawaii.gov](mailto:hdoa.pdp@hawaii.gov)

Email address: [adam.williams@hawaii.gov](mailto:adam.williams@hawaii.gov)

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**Open House, AgCurious Webinar, and Next GoFarm Cohort - Kauai**

Aloha,

We are recruiting for our next GoFarm cohort on Kaua'i and would love your help to reach potential farmers. We are hosting an Open House on July 1 and our AgCurious webinar on September 7. More details are shared below and on our website at [www.gofarmhawaii.org](http://www.gofarmhawaii.org).

Thanks for your support!

Mahalo,  
GoFarm Hawaii

**AgCurious Online Webinar: September 7 @ 5:30pm**

The first step to learn more about our beginning farmer training program and how to apply. Register here - <https://go.hawaii.edu/yox>. (Attendance is required to apply for AgXposure/AgXcel.)

**AgXposure: October 5 - November 2**

Learn from local farms and get exposure to farm work (Wednesday evenings (online) and Saturdays).

**AgXcel: November 16 - June 1**

Learn farm production and business skills from our coaching team during Thursday evening (online) and Saturday field classes. Plant, manage, and market your own 7-week CSA vegetable production at our farm site in Lihue.

More info available at <https://gofarmhawaii.org/agcurious-faqs/>.

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**33rd Annual HTFG Conference – Security Starts with the Soil**

Oct 05, 8:00 AM – Oct 07, 2:00 PM

Blaisdell Center, 777 Ward Ave, Honolulu HI 96814

The theme for this year's conference is Security Starts with the Soil, so food security and soil health will both be highlighted. The conference will include speakers from around the islands, as well as some international guests. Speakers will include farmers, government officials, and various fruit experts.

UPDATE: The venue for the conference is now the Blaisdell Center, at 777 Ward Ave in Honolulu. Tickets will be available soon! However, you can RSVP here (<https://go.hawaii.edu/yAu>) to let them know you're interested in attending.

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**Join Us! Mālama the Farmer, Caring for Yourself and Each Other – An AgrAbility Regional Workshop in Hawai'i**

October 17-18, 2023

Grand Naniloa Hotel

93 Banyan Drive, Hilo, HI 96720

#### Registration Fees

- Oct 17-18: \$225
- Oct 17 only: \$150
- Oct 17 Pau hana - \$50

Questions – please contact [tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org](mailto:tmckeel@goodwillfingerlakes.org) or [jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org](mailto:jbrath@goodwillfingerlakes.org)

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#### **Don't miss out on the EmPOWER Grant**

This grant program was designed for Hawai'i small businesses and nonprofits to make energy efficient upgrades more accessible. Whatever eligible kind of energy efficiency upgrade you're considering, it will reduce your electric bill, save energy, and help reduce your operating costs! Organizations may apply for a grant of up to \$6,000, depending on the equipment type, which may cover up to 100% of eligible project costs.

Visit [HawaiiEnergy.com/Empower](https://www.hawaiienergy.com/empower) for everything you need to apply!

Applications open – August 1<sup>st</sup> – September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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#### **Hawai'i Agrifood Summit**

Join leading experts on sustainable agriculture and aquaculture practices, along with global corporate leaders on industry trends and innovation, for THRIVE Hawai'i Agrifood Summit, Developing Sustainable Food, Agriculture, and Aquaculture Solutions for the Asia Pacific Region.

The two-day event on September 26-27 at the Hawai'i Convention Center will consist of keynote speeches, panel conversations, start-up pitches, and more.

Register before the end of August and take \$50 off registration fees. Use code: earlybird

Visit - <https://go.hawaii.edu/yAL>

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#### **Hawaii to Receive \$533,000 in Federal Specialty Crop Grant**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today awarded \$533,251 to Hawai'i under the 2023 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP). With this grant, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) will fund projects that enhance the competitiveness of specialty crop products and create new market opportunities for the state's specialty crop producers.

Specialty crops are defined by the USDA as fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops (including floriculture). Much of Hawai'i's diversified agriculture falls under this specialty crop designation. Eligible plants must be cultivated or managed and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetic gratification to be considered specialty crops.

Continue reading - <https://go.hawaii.edu/yAT>

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### **Hawaii Department of Agriculture Seeks Public Comments on Priorities for New Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program**

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is seeking public comments through Aug. 11, 2023, on funding priorities being developed for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program (RFSI). Hawai'i has been earmarked for \$3.2 million in block grant funding; however, the program requires HDOA to conduct outreach to stakeholders to determine the priorities for the state application.

The purpose of the RFSI program is to develop and administer state-coordinated initiatives to build the resilience of the state's food supply chain for food crops.

Continue reading - <https://go.hawaii.edu/5Ay>

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### **USDA To Provide Additional Financial Assistance to Qualifying Guaranteed Farm Loan Borrowers Facing Financial Risk**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced it will begin providing additional, automatic financial assistance for qualifying guaranteed Farm Loan Programs (FLP) borrowers who are facing financial risk. The announcement is part of the \$3.1 billion to help certain distressed farm loan borrowers that was provided through Section 22006 of the Inflation Reduction Act.

"USDA continues to make progress on our goal to provide producers access to the tools they need to help get back to a financially viable path and ultimately succeed as thriving agricultural businesses," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "The financial assistance included in today's announcement will provide a fresh start for distressed borrowers with guaranteed farm loans and will give them the opportunity to generate long-term stability and success."

Continue reading - <https://go.hawaii.edu/o3y>

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