

Kona Cooperative Extension – Events and Announcements Newsletter

Volume 15, March 2020

Dear Growers and Friends,

Request regarding Poha/Cape Gooseberry:

Researchers are interested in conducting gene sequencing on [Poha](#) (*Physalis peruviana*), a fruit fairly common in Hawaii, that is also becoming popular in New York. They would like to better understand where the Hawaiian lineages come from as historical records seem to indicate they got here in the early 19th century. They are also interested in what poha diversity is found within Hawaii's collection of plants.

If you are interested in assisting UH and New York-based researchers by providing poha seed material from your property, please contact:

Poha – CTAHR Publication

<https://bit.ly/39mgZ86>

Michael Kantar

mbkantar@hawaii.edu

(808) 956-2162

Follow-up interest in Leucaena 'KX4-Hawaii' planting material:

Thank you to all who responded to my grant project farm collaborator request. The proposal was submitted, and we will now need to wait for a response from the grant agency on whether or not the project will be funded.

Although we could only accept a limited number of collaborators, several requests came in for interest in this sterile, hybrid Leucaena, 'KX4-Hawaii'. So, I am creating a list of farmers interested in planting this nitrogen-fixing plant for shade, windbreak and/or mulch purposes. This list is not a part of the grant, but UH faculty/staff may be able to propagate materials for interested growers. There will likely be a fee per plant, but at this point in time, I don't know this cost.

Learn more about Leucaena and 'KX4' below:

Presentation about Leucaena hybrids (Idol and Brewbaker) - <https://bit.ly/2vAidhu>

Journal article about 'KX4' (Brewbaker) - <https://bit.ly/2lipS6Y>

If you are interested in potentially purchasing plant materials of Leucaena 'KX4-Hawaii', please fill in a form at www.hawaiicoffeeed.com/kx4 (preferred) or email me (andreak@hawaii.edu) your:

- Farm location (City, Island)
- Email and/or phone number
- Number of plants you are interested in purchasing
- Reason for planting 'KX4'? (ex: shade, windbreak and/or mulch, etc.)
- What type of tree(s) are you attempting to shade, protect from wind, and/or provide mulch to with 'KX4' trees?

Project personnel and I cannot guarantee plant materials nor plant materials for all who express interest, but we can definitely try.

-Andrea

UH CTAHR Cooperative Extension Offices was closed on the following days:

Thursday, March 26th, in observance of Prince Kuhio Day

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

Needs Assessment for Agricultural Economics, Finance, and Business in Hawai'i 2020

Aloha,

We are recently-hired extension agents with the University of Hawai'i – Mānoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). Sarah works in the area of agricultural economics and Shannon works in the area of agricultural finance and business.

We are requesting your participation in a short survey to help us gain a better understanding of needs related to Hawai'i's food and agricultural system as well as your needs as a part of that system. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete. The results of this needs assessment survey will be used to help us develop programs throughout the state related to agricultural economics, finance, and business that can better help you.

If you are involved in food or agriculture in the state of Hawai'i, please take this survey by going to the following webpage <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MD9TYFK>. Please complete this survey by March 18.

If you have questions about this needs assessment please call or email:

Sarah Rehkamp
Assistant Extension Agent
Agricultural Economics
808-969-8221
srehkamp@hawaii.edu

Shannon Sand
Assistant Extension Agent
Agricultural Finance
808-969-8217
srsand@hawaii.edu

Mahalo!

Sarah Rehkamp and Shannon Sand

March 2020 E-Calendar of Events

The Kuha'o Business Center will be closed on
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020
in observance of Prince Kuhio Holiday

Starting a Business in Hawaii

Monday, 3/9/2020 - 9:00 am - 11:00 am
Molokai Kuha'o Business Center
No cost but must register at <http://go.hawaii.edu/reG>

No Cost Business Advice

Monday, 3/9/2020
Please call the Kuha'o Business Centr at (808)553-8100 to schedule a 45-minute appointment between the hours of 11:15 am and 3:45 pm.

Applications Now Available for Molokai Farming Cost-Reimbursement Program

Deadline to apply is Monday, June 1, 2020
For more information or to register visit <http://bit.ly/2Ib71KU>

Vendor applications now available for the 7th Annual Hawaiian Airlines Made in Maui County Festival

Considered Maui County's largest products show, this year's event will be held at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center in Kahului and will be open to the public on Friday, November 6, 1:30 pm to 6 pm; and Saturday, November 7, 8 am to 4:30 pm. Qualified wholesale buyers and distributors will also be invited to a special "Buyers Preview" on Friday, November 6 to talk with vendors one-on-one about their products.

For more information visit <http://bit.ly/2VA2p98>

Food Labeling and Food Safety Plans

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

9:00 am - noon

Hale Iako, Suite 119, NELHA (OTEC) Campus

73-970 Makako Bay Drive

Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

Fee: \$20

To register or for more information visit <http://bit.ly/3anDHgl>

Attendees can sign up for a personal consultation after the class

Many food entrepreneurs in Hawai'i offer a variety of products but are unaware of the many regulations required in food labeling. The Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA) requires most manufacturers to comply with new nutrition labeling and food safety plans and there are also existing food regulations which businesses need to be aware of. The State Department of Health is requiring all food manufacturers to have at a minimum, a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Plan. This class will provide practical tips and information on:

- Label Content Requirements
- How to prepare a Food Safety Plan
- Basic Food Safety Plan Elements

Update: O'ahu PSA Grower Training Special Reduced Rate

Friday, March 13, 2020

9:00 am - 5:00 pm (Registration 8:30 am)

Pearl City Urban Garden Center

Special Reduced Rate of \$50, with thanks from sponsorship from the City and County of Honolulu

For more information or to register visit <http://bit.ly/2waXUqL>

Hawaii County FSA Updates

Flash flooding has caused severe damage in the Pahala and Windward areas of the County. Farms and ranches suffering severe damage may be eligible for assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) administered by the Hawaii County Farm Service Agency (FSA) For land to be eligible, the natural disaster must create new conservation problems that, if untreated, would:

- be so costly to rehabilitate that Federal assistance is or will be needed to return the land to productive agricultural use
- is unusual and is not the type that would recur frequently in the same area
- affect the productive capacity of the farmland
- impair or endanger the land

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost-share levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures. Eligible socially disadvantaged and beginning farmers and ranchers can receive up to 90 percent of the eligible cost of restoration. No producer is eligible for more than \$500,000 cost sharing per natural disaster occurrence. The following types of measures may be eligible:

- removing debris from farmland
- grading, shaping, or releveling severely damaged farmland
- restoring permanent fences
- restoring conservation structures and other similar installations

Producers who have suffered a loss from a natural disaster may contact the local FSA County Office and request assistance today through March 13, 2020.

To be eligible for assistance, practices must not be started until all of the following are met:

- an application for cost-share assistance has been filed
- the local FSA County Committee (COC) or its representative has conducted an onsite inspection of the damaged area
- the Agency responsible for technical assistance, such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), has made a needs determination, which may include cubic yards of earthmoving, etc., required for rehabilitation

For more information about ECP, please contact the Hawaii County FSA Office at 808-933-8381 or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/hi

25th Annual HCA Conference

The Hawaii Coffee Association proudly presents

**HCA 25th ANNUAL CONFERENCE and
12th Annual State of Hawaii Cupping Contest,
3rd Annual Barista and Brewing Competition**

July 30 - August 1, 2020

Ala Moana Hotel

Oahu, Hawaii

For more information visit <http://bit.ly/2PyDC1k>

2020 Hawaii Cacao Survey

Aloha Hawaii cacao farmers, hobbyists, chocolate manufacturers, chocolatiers, supporters and colleagues,

Below is a link to the 2020 Cacao Survey, covering the cacao harvest from January to December, 2019, and plans for future plantings. Since 2010, this annual survey reports the growth of our cacao to chocolate industry.

To complete the 2020 survey visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/hicacao>
Responses will be accepted through March 16th.

Please find the results of the 2019 Hawaii Cacao Survey at
<https://sustainableagriculturehawaii.weebly.com/cacao.html>

The survey mailing list is growing, but there are folks not on the list yet, **so please forward this email or simply the link above to any members of the cacao to chocolate industry.**

The survey is anonymous and information from individual responses is held confidentially. The summary of the survey will be sent to the DOA and shared at the Hawaii Chocolate and Cacao Association annual meeting in 2020 (www.hawaiichocolate.org). A copy will be sent to others on request by email elihu@hawaii.edu

Mahalo for your participation,
Dave Elliott and Eli Isele

Cornell: Spending time in nature reduces stress, research finds

New research from an interdisciplinary Cornell team has found that as little as 10 minutes in a natural setting can help college students feel happier and lessen the effects of both physical and mental stress.

The research, published Jan. 14 in *Frontiers in Psychology*, is part of a larger examination of “nature therapy” and aims to provide an easily-achievable dosage that physicians can prescribe as a preventive measure against high levels of stress, anxiety, depression and other mental health issues college students face.

Read the whole article here at <http://bit.ly/2weXBcC>

Although the study only examined the effects on college aged people, these results may not be limited to those between 15 & 30 years old.

USDA Offers New Hurricane Insurance Endorsement for Crop Year 2020

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Risk Management Agency announced today a new crop insurance endorsement, Hurricane Insurance Protection – Wind Index (HIP-WI). HIP-WI covers a portion of the deductible of the underlying crop insurance policy when a county, or county adjacent, is within the area of sustained hurricane-force winds. HIP-WI provides coverage for 70 different crops and is available in counties in the vicinity of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic, as well as Hawaii. The past few hurricane seasons have shown that more coverage is needed in these areas and that prompt payment for losses is important not only for the impacted producers, but also for their rural communities.

Read more at <http://bit.ly/2wY5vJN>
