

Kona Cooperative Extension – Events and Announcements Newsletter

Volume 16-3, April 2020

Dear Growers and Friends,

How has the current COVID-19 situation impacted your farm, ranch and agriculture-related operation?

Please help us understand your situation, good and bad. We would like to hear from as many people as possible to get a better idea of how COVID-19 has affected Hawaii's agricultural industry and how Extension and CTAHR administration may be able to better help the agricultural community. Please participate in the survey below, put together by CTAHR Extension faculty.

Aloha,

The past few weeks have brought significant changes in the agriculture industry in Hawaii. With that in mind, CTAHR extension agents have created a short COVID-19 Agriculture needs assessment focusing on finding out the immediate needs of the agriculture industry in the state linked below. This information will be used to inform extension agents throughout the state about the current needs of producers. We understand a lot is going on; however, this survey should only take 5-10 minutes to complete, and your answers will remain confidential. Thank you for taking the time to fill out this survey, we greatly appreciate it. If you have any questions feel free to contact any of the members of the team.

This survey will close on April 28, 2020

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/COVID19AG>

Mahalo!

Shannon Sand, Amjad Ahmad, Joanna Bloese, Russell Galanti, Rosemary Gutierrez-Coarite, Randall Hamasaki, Jennifer Hawkins, Savannah Katulski, Andrea Kawabata, and Emilie Kirk, Hannah Lutgen, Stuart T. Nakamoto, Joshua Silva, and Kylie Tavares

Text me questions and photos

While we continue to try and flatten the curve, I've added a work cell number for growers to text me questions and photos. To best communicate via text:

- Provide your full name
- Send clear photos of the plant, plant part and problem you're experiencing
- Provide an explanation of the photos as best as possible
- Provide a phone number if you'd like me to call you back
- Send inquiries to 415-604-1511

Visit www.HawaiiCoffeeEd.com/events-and-announcements for updates and educational opportunities

On a near daily basis, Matt and I continue to post up-to-date ag-related and now, COVID-19-related articles, webinars, and other educational information at this website. Please visit this site and scroll through the latest postings to learn about and download information that may be important to your operation and situation.

-Andrea

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

Monday, May 25th, in observance of Memorial Day.

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

Presentation and Talk Story with Hawaii CBB Researchers - Online Zoom

Learn about what CBB researchers are doing and the results/products they are finding/creating. Each session will held on Thursdays in April and May from 4-5 pm.

Upcoming Speakers:

- Apr 23, 2020 04:00 PM Melissa Johnson (USDA PBARC)
- Apr 30, 2020 04:00 PM Luis Aristizábal
- May 7, 2020 04:00 PM TBA
- May 14, 2020 04:00 PM TBA
- May 21, 2020 04:00 PM TBA
- May 28, 2020 04:00 PM TBA

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/2RMfkSC>

Meeting ID: 660 453 843 Password: 7P3BF3

Past speakers:

Mark Wright (UH CTAHR)

Nick Manoukis (USDA PBARC)

Respectful Conversation

Video is encouraged

Mute microphone when listening; unmute to speak

Additional meeting information can be seen at <http://talkstorycbb2020.eventbrite.com>

Questions or comments, email Roseann Leiner at roseannl@hawaii.edu

Statewide COVID-19 Talk Story with Hawaii Farmers

Sunday, April 26, 4-5 pm via Zoom

Please join us for an informal talk story to discuss the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on your farm. The goals of this virtual gathering are for producers to share their experiences, discuss opportunities that have surfaced, and strengthen Hawai'i's agricultural industry through increased collaboration.

To sign up, please contact Nicole Milne at nmilne@kohalacenter.org or (808)987-9210. Zoom link will be emailed to confirmed registrants.

UH/HDOA Survey to Gauge Economic Impact of COVID-19

UHERO and Hawaii Chambers of Commerce Field New Survey to Gauge Economic Impact of COVID-19
UHERO and Chambers of Commerce across Hawaii are partnering to field a new survey to study the economic impact of COVID-19 on Hawaii businesses. The survey is being fielded in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii, Hawaii Island Chamber of Commerce, Kauai Chamber of Commerce, Kona-Kohala Chamber of Commerce, Maui Chamber of Commerce, and Molokai Chamber of Commerce. Businesses can visit <https://bit.ly/2xB4AiW> to take the survey, which measures changes in employment and employee wages, revenue, application rates for U.S. Small Business Administration loans and business outlook.

“The information from this survey will help UHERO analyze the impact of the COVID-19 shutdown on businesses and households statewide, and to better assess our existing projections,” said UHERO Executive Director Carl Bonham. “This type of geographic and industrially-detailed information is not available from any traditional data source in real time, and it will be invaluable to our ongoing work.” “We know that Hawaii businesses are suffering due to COVID-19 impacts. Accurate data on what businesses are experiencing will allow us to shape our continued response and put resources where the Sherry Menor-McNamara, President & CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii said. “This survey will also give us a foundation to plan for economic recovery and identify industries that need more assistance. Mahalo to our partners at UHERO for developing this valuable tool.”

Contact: Philip Garboden at 215-880-7715 or pgarbod@hawaii.edu
Businesses Can Take Survey at <http://hawaii.surveymshare.com/s/AYAG2AB>

USDA Marketing Service Grant Opportunities

Agricultural Marketing Service

Local Food Promotion Program (planning and implementation grants)

Synopsis 3 - <https://bit.ly/34DIsSx>

See the Local Food Promotion Program webpage for more information - <https://bit.ly/3erCTdh>

USDA

Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Specialty Crop Block Grant Program – Farm Bill

Synopsis 3 - <https://bit.ly/3epuPts>

Just an FYI. State governments are the only eligible applicants.

USDA

Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Regional Food System Partnerships

Synopsis 4 - <https://bit.ly/3er0fQ8>

See Regional Food System Partners Webpage - <https://bit.ly/3es1Gh1>

USDA

Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP)

Synopsis 1 - <https://bit.ly/2RIJO81>

Just an FYI – eligibility limited to state governments, public controlled institutions of higher education, and federally recognized Native American tribal governments

USDA

Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service

Farmers Market Promotion Program

Synopsis 7 - <https://bit.ly/2VbEqfj>

See the [Farmers Market Promotion Program Webpage](#) for more information

HDOA: Emergency agricultural loan program approved to assist those impacted by COVID-19

The Hawai'i Board of Agriculture today approved an emergency loan program for farmers, growers and ranchers across the state who are suffering economically due to the COVID-19 situation. The loan program is effective immediately.

Eligible farmers may now apply for emergency loans of up to \$150,000 at 3 percent interest. Loans of \$100,000 or less will not require credit denials from other financial institutions, which would normally be required for agricultural loans. The board also waived the three-year residency requirements normally required for agricultural loans.

To continue reading, visit <https://bit.ly/2xoiXr5>

Southwest Climate Hub Bulletin: April 2020

To view the full newsletter visit <https://bit.ly/2Klbjk9>

In this issue:

- COVID-19 Resources
- Drought Learning Network
- Redesigning Desert Agriculture for Climate Change
- Sustainable Southwest Beef Project
- Are Springs Coming Earlier in the Southwest
- LandPKS Mobile App: New Features
- Technical Resources on ATTRA Website Free of Cost
- Climate reporting for the Southwest
 - **Drought:** In Hawai'i, drought conditions have expanded slightly on the Big Island when compared to a month ago using the U.S. Drought Monitor Map Comparison Slider - <https://bit.ly/34Loxjl>

- For a more detailed drought summary, visit the U.S. Drought Monitor website - <https://bit.ly/3cmZK0l>
 - Announcements, Job & Funding opportunities & Webinars
-

Unemployment Benefits - Apply Now

What are unemployment benefits?

Unemployment benefits provide you with temporary income when you lose your job through no fault of your own. The money partly replaces your lost earnings and helps you pay expenses while looking for new work. The benefits, from taxes your former employer(s) paid, are not based on financial need. While you receive benefits, your job is to get back to work as quickly as possible.

COVID19: Governor Ige by proclamation has waived the 3-job search requirement.

How to apply for unemployment benefits

Apply for benefits online at: huiclaims.hawaii.gov. Due to COVID19 all unemployment offices are closed to the public. These steps will help guide you through the process.

Video Instructions:

- We have video for filing unemployment insurance online to learn more about setting up your user account and submitting a claim for benefits online. Hawaii Instructional Video for Filing Unemployment Insurance Online - <https://bit.ly/2VyipXC>
- We have video for filing weekly claim certifications. To learn more about filing claim certification at: Hawaii Instructional Video for Weekly Claim Certification Online - <https://bit.ly/2VzVxGX>

Dealing with fraud: We take fraud Misrepresenting or knowingly withholding information is considered fraud and you may be denied benefits for future weeks, have to pay back benefits you have received, and be subject to additional penalties.

Before you apply

Gather the information you'll need to complete the application:

- Your name, Social Security number, birthdate and contact information including an email address.
- Your complete work history for the past 18 months including:
 - employer name(s)
 - address(es)
 - phone number(s)
 - start and end dates of employment for each employer
- Your bank account and routing number

To continue reading visit <https://bit.ly/34CrmDm>

Coffee for Sale for USDA

COVID-19 has caused coffee sales to slow or halt for many businesses. SHAC has been in conversation with USDA to facilitate purchases of Hawaiian-grown products for government use. If you have roasted coffee that you would like to make eligible for USDA purchase, please contact suzanne@shachawaii.org as soon as possible. Include the total quantity you would like to make available, and the requested price. Also include the format (bag, pods, commercial packs). All information will be kept confidential.

Thank you!

Suzanne Shriner
Synergistic Hawaii Agricultural Council
808-365-9041
An Equal Opportunity USDA Cooperator

USDA Unveils Tools to Help Communities Address COVID-19 Pandemic

Good morning,

Attached is USDA news release from this morning announcing a one-stop-shop of federal programs that can be used by rural communities, organizations and individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 Federal Rural Resource Guide is a first-of-its-kind resource for rural leaders looking for federal funding and partnership opportunities to help address this pandemic.

The direct link is <https://bit.ly/2KaziSY>

Please do not hesitate to reach out with additional questions or suggestions on how we can be helpful and we will continue to provide updates as they become available.

Thank you,

Jen Burks, PhD
Senior Policy Advisor
Office of Senator Mazie K. Hirono
713 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510
Office Phone: (202) 224-6361

HDOA Reviewing Applications for COVID-19 Emergency Farmer Relief Program

The Hawai`i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is currently reviewing requests for assistance under the COVID-19 Emergency Farmer Relief Program which offers some financial assistance to qualified farmers, ranchers and producers who have experienced damage to their operations due to COVID-19. The funds for the program, totaling \$250,000, are being utilized from the State's barrel tax fund (Agriculture Development and Food Security Special Fund) which was made available through Gov. David Ige's March 4 emergency proclamation. Relief funds may be used to help utilize an oversupply of

agricultural products resulting from the decreased demand due to closures of restaurants, schools and other businesses.

Applications were accepted until March 27, 2020 and 333 proposals were received, requesting a total of more than \$1.2 million dollars. However, since the available program funding totaled about \$250,000, proposals are being reviewed and prioritized for distribution.

Under the emergency program, eligible applicants including individual farming operations may receive a maximum of \$2,000. Also, non-profit organizations, commodity groups, agricultural associations with 501(c)(3) status may apply for a maximum of \$10,000 in relief funds. The review and award process is expected to be completed next week and funds are expected to be distributed later this month.

“The overwhelming number of requests is an indication on how this crisis is severely impacting Hawai`i’s agricultural industries,” said Gov. David Ige. “This COVID-19 situation makes us all more appreciative of our local food producers and acutely underscores why increasing our state’s food security has been so very important.”

“We all need to make sure that our farmers, ranchers and other food producing operations can survive through and eventually recover from this crisis,” said Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser, chairperson of the Hawai`i Board of Agriculture (HBOA). “We ask that Hawai`i consumers continue to support our local farmers and food producers through direct and indirect sales at farmers’ markets and community-supported agricultural efforts. Buy local, it matters.”

In addition to the state funds, the Ulupono Initiative is contributing \$20,000 to specifically help Hawai`i’s hog farmers who now need to purchase feed due to the unavailability of food scraps from restaurants that have closed. This contribution was made possible through a grant from the Ulupono Fund at the Hawai`i Community Foundation.

To provide further financial assistance to agricultural producers, HDOA’s Agricultural Loan Division will seek approval next week from the HBOA to establish an Emergency Agricultural Loan Program. Upon approval, agribusinesses may apply for low-interest emergency loans, which waives some of the normal requirements for ag loans. In addition, farmers with existing agricultural loans may contact HDOA’s loan officers to work out a payment relief plan. When approved, information on the Emergency Agricultural Loan Program will be posted at: <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/agl/>

The department is also considering deferring rent payments for lessees currently in the state’s agricultural land programs.

CTAHR Notes Issue 443

To view the full newsletter visit <https://bit.ly/2K8aZov>

In this issue:

- Container Gardening in Small Spaces
- 4-H Focus on Health
- It Takes a Village
- Shaping Plants

- Feeding Moloka'i
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Hānai'Ai Newsletter

To view the full newsletter visit <https://conta.cc/3clhXmb>

In this issue:

- Sustainable & Organic Research & Outreach News
 - Publications & Programs
 - Organic Update
 - Western Region Sustainable Agriculture and Research Education Program (WSARE)
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