

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Janis Wong, media relations
The Kohala Center
jwong@kohalacenter.org
direct: 808-325-1114, office: 808-887-6411

Puana Ka 'Ike panel discusses kalo, GMO issues

KAMUELA, Hawai'i—November 13, 2009—Three experts will offer their perspectives on the issues revolving around *kalo* [taro] and genetically-modified organisms GMO in a panel presentation for the November *Puana Ka 'Ike* (Imparting knowledge) lecture series in Kona and Hilo.

Dr. Dennis Gonsalves, director of the Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center; Jerry Konanui, Association for Hawaiian Awa; and Dr. William Steiner, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, will speak from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, November 27, at the Keauhou Beach Resort Ballroom in Kona and in Hilo from noon to 1:30 p.m. Monday, November 30, at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo in University Classroom Building 127.

Gonsalves, a native of Kohala, is a plant virologist by training and led the research team that developed the virus resistant genetically engineered papaya in Hawai'i. Konanui, a member of the Hawaii State Taro Task Force representing the statewide Onipa'a Na Hui Kalo organization, has presented educational workshops and demonstrations on awa and taro research in Hawai'i and the South Pacific. Steiner has served as Dean for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management since 2005, developing new research thrusts into biofuel development, heritage foods development, and dairy sciences while developing the equine sciences program.

For more information on the panel presentation, contact Natalie Deisroth at 808-322-0088, ext. 100, or e-mail info@kohalacenter.org.

The Puana Ka 'Ike Lecture Series is presented in partnership with Kamehameha Investment Corporation/Kamehameha Schools, The Kohala Center, Kīpuka Native Hawaiian Student Center at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, and Keauhou Beach Resort. For more information, the lecture schedule, and previous lectures, visit <http://kohalacenter.org/puanakaike/about.html> and www.keauhouresort.com/learn-puanakaike.html.