



Agricultural Resources Bulletin: March 5, 2015

NEWS

THE KOHALA CENTER RURAL AND COOPERATIVE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Photo © Anjanikū Chong

Aloha kākou,

The Kohala Center's Rural and Cooperative Business Development Services team is dedicated to strengthening Hawai'i's rural and agricultural businesses. Upcoming opportunities and events include our weeklong agriculture internships for high school students, available farm land for lease in Hāmākua, a Seed Exchange in Honoka'a this weekend, and more. Please visit our website at kohalacenter.org/business for more information about our services, upcoming events, microloan programs, and other resources.

Mahalo,
Nicole, Melanie, Anna-Lisa, Derrick, Anthony, and Zoe
Rural and Cooperative Business Development Services
The Kohala Center

OPPORTUNITIES:

High School Agriculture Internship Program

Applications are now being accepted for the spring cohort of our High School Agriculture Internship Program. The internships offer paid stipends to Hawai'i Island high school students interested in learning more about farming, ranching, food production, and sustainability. Interns take field trips to island farms, gain hands-on experience in organic and natural farming methods, and learn more about career opportunities in agriculture. The program runs March 16–20 (during spring intersession) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with each day beginning and ending in Honoka'a. For more information and to apply, visit koha.la/farminterns. The application deadline is Wednesday, March 11.



Farm land for lease in Hāmākua

The [Hāmākua Agricultural Cooperative](http://hamakuaagcoop.com) has some of the lowest farm land lease rates in the islands at \$200 per acre per year, long-term leases that don't expire until 2033, and irrigation water from the Hāmākua Ditch. Lessees are part of a diverse and cooperative community of farmers who benefit from shared access to a post-harvest facility, sales at the co-op's three farmers market booths, and discounted prices on soil amendments. For more information, contact Lori Beach at 808-775-1107 or visit the co-op's website at hamakuaagcoop.com.

Hawai'i Water Workshops

The Hawai'i [Commission on Water Resource Management](#) is holding a series of public workshops across the islands to inform communities about the Commission's current effort to update the statewide [Water Resource Protection Plan](#) and to welcome input from residents about water resource issues that are important to them. All workshops are from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and will include a short slideshow about the Plan, after which smaller groups will talk in more detail about specific water resource issues in their communities. Light refreshments will be provided. [View the flyer](#) for workshop dates, locations, and for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

[Teachers Teaching Teachers: Systems Thinking in School Gardens and Beyond](#)

Facilitated by Dr. Koh Ming Wei, Pacific Resources for Education and Learning

March 7, 2015

9 a.m.–Noon

Kalaniana'ole School Garden, 27-330 Old Māmalahoa Hwy, Pāpa'ikou ([map and directions](#))

Free and open to all community members, with an emphasis on K-8 teachers. Participants will learn and practice “systems thinking” skills and acquire tools that will be applied to learning gardens and other curriculum designs. We will practice making the implicit connections within and between systems in the garden explicit, for authentic assessment and exciting learner outcomes. Presented by the [Hawai'i Island School Garden Network](#). For more information and to register, contact Donna Mitts at dmitts@kohalacenter.org or 808-936-2117.



[Basic Seed Saving for Home Gardeners](#)

Presented by Linda Larish through The University of Hawai'i at Hilo's College of Continuing Education and Community Service (CCECS)

March 7, 2015

9 a.m.–Noon

Room 116, 891 Ululani Street, Hilo ([map and directions](#))

Are you an avid home vegetable gardener? Would you like to save seeds from your favorite varieties of vegetables or develop varieties of your own? This class will equip you with the ability to recognize the type of flowering and reproductive cycle of the vegetables you are growing and teach you how to collect process and store your own seed. You will learn about strategies to maintain seed purity and viability. Gardeners can play a role in the preservation of their favorite heirloom varieties or develop vegetable varieties that are adapted to their own microclimate. For more information about the class and to register, visit <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/academics/CCECS/BasicSeedSaving.php> or call CCECS at 808-974-7664.

[Honoka'a Seed Exchange](#)

Presented with support from the [Hawai'i Public Seed Initiative](#)

March 8, 2015
12:30–4:30 p.m.

Honoka'a People's Theatre, 45-3574 Māmane Street, Honoka'a
([map and directions](#))

Community members are invited to share and take home seeds from neighbors and experienced seed-savers from Hāmākua. There will be free seeds and catalogs from suppliers such as Baker's Creek, Johnny's Seeds, Territorial Seed, and Southern Exposure Seed Exchange. Hawai'i Public Seed Initiative coordinator Lyn Howe will give a presentation on seed-saving and answer questions from the community about seeds and gardening. This is a potluck event, so attendees are asked to bring their own bowls and utensils (and a dish to share if you can). To prevent the spread of invasive species and disease, this is a NO SOIL event: all vegetative material (huli, cuttings, slips) will be subject to inspection before being allowed to enter the theater. For more information please contact Marielle Hampton at 808-430-1876 or honokaaseedexchange@gmail.com.



Agroforestry for Hawai'i Farmers and Ranchers

Presented by The University of Hawai'i at Hilo's College of Continuing Education and Community Service (CCECS) in collaboration with Hawai'i Tropical Fruit Growers

March 14–April 11, 2015

The course runs for 5 Saturdays, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. (30 hours total). Classes may also be taken individually. UH-Hilo College of Ag Building (CAB), Room 102 and adjacent Greenhouse ([map and directions](#))

This five-session course explores the concepts and practices of agroforestry that are most appropriate for farms and ranches on Hawai'i Island, including useful agroforestry plants, animal-based management strategies, and diversified farm design. For more information about the course schedule, topics covered, and how to register, visit <http://hilo.hawaii.edu/academics/ccecs/Agroforestry.php> or call CCECS at 808-974-7664.

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