Aloha kākou,

The Kohala Center’s Rural and Cooperative Business Development Services team is dedicated to strengthening Hawai‘i’s rural and agricultural businesses. One project we are currently undertaking is developing recommendations and solutions to overcome barriers faced by Hawai‘i’s value-added food producers. We invite you to review the preliminary recommendations and contribute your comments to this effort. Please visit our website at kohalacenter.org/business for more information about our services, upcoming events, microloan programs, and other resources.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Cottage Food Industry Working Group seeks public comments**
*Deadline for public comments is Friday, November 28*
The Kohala Center is seeking comments from the public on proposed regulatory changes that would impact homemade food operations in Hawai‘i. The proposed recommendations would ease restrictions on homemade food operations. We encourage you to review the recommendations and provide your feedback at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cottage-food-survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cottage-food-survey).

**The Pumpkin Primer: Key Ways to Grow Edible Heirloom Squash**
*Presented by Anna Peach, Squash and Awe*
Saturday, November 22, 2014
9 a.m. – 12 noon
This workshop will offer tips for successful squash growing in a school garden. Topics covered will include nutrient recycling, soil-building practices of creating fish emulsion and bokashi, natural pest control, seed selection, melon fly traps, water conservation, variety selection, companion planting, and pollinators. Anna has created an interesting squash-growing strategy that creates perennial plants from annuals by using a pruning and mulching technique. For more information and to register, contact Donna Mitts at [dmitts@kohalacenter.org](mailto:dmitts@kohalacenter.org) or 808-936-2117.