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 events include grant writing workshops for USDA programs and statewide presentations by the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture. 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:

Farm land for lease in Hāmākua
The Hāmākua Agricultural Cooperative 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 two 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 hamakuagcoop.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Teachers Teaching Teachers: Seeds! Pollination, Diversity, and Basic Seed Saving
Facilitated by Ilana Stout
April 11, 2015 – 9 a.m.–Noon
Hawai‘i Community College, Forest Team Building (3393), Room 101
200 West Kawili St, Hilo (map)
Free and open to all community members, with an emphasis on K-12 teachers. This workshop will teach pollination biology, the value (and decline) of seed diversity, and basic seed saving skills. 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.

Grant Writing Workshops for USDA Grants
Presented by Dr. Stuart T. Nakamoto, Extension Economist, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
The University of Hawai‘i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to offer workshops that will help potential grant applicants understand, develop, and submit their Federal grant applications for the $30 million Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Programs. This effort is known as the Agricultural Marketing Service Technical Assistance (AMSTA) project.

Honolulu
April 7, 2015 – 4:30–9 p.m. ($6 for parking)
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, Agricultural Sciences Building, Room 219
1955 East-West Rd, Honolulu (map)

Kailua-Kona
April 15, 2015 – 3–8 p.m.
Kona Cooperative Extension Service, Conference Room
79-7381 Māmalahoa Hwy, Kealakekua (map)

Hilo
April 16, 2015 – 3–8 p.m.
Komohana Research and Extension Center
875 Komohana St (map)

Attendance is free but advance reservations are required by sending your name and contact information to snakamo@hawaii.edu or leaving a message at 808-956-8125. Please note if you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in a workshop.

Diversify Your Income with AgriTourism, Seal of Quality, and More
The Hawai‘i AgriTourism Association (HATA) and the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) are collaborating on an information-packed workshop about diversifying your income through agritourism, activities offered by the Market Development Branch, The Seal of Quality Program, merging data and your business, and an introduction to funding sources. All workshops start at 8:30 a.m. and end at noon. RSVP at least 48 hours in advance to hdoa.md@hawaii.gov. View the flyer.

Hilo
April 9, 2015
Komohana Research and Extension Center
875 Komohana St (map)

Kailua-Kona
April 10, 2015
West Hawai‘i Civic Center, Kona Council Chambers
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy (map)

Honolulu
April 16, 2015
HDOA Plant Quarantine Conference Room
1849 Auiki St (map)

Kīhei
April 24, 2015
Maui Economic Development Board, Malcolm Center Theater
1305 N Holopono St (map)

Topics include:

- Is AgriTourism Right for Your Farm?
  Presented by Lani & Pomai Weigert – Hawai‘i AgriTourism Association (HATA)
- Introduction of Market Development Branch
  Hideki Yamane, Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA)
• Hawai‘i Seal of Quality Program
  Yukashi Smith, Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA)
• “Merging NASS, HDOA and YOUR DATA: The First Step in Growing Your Business”
  Steven Wong, Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA)
• Introduction to Funding Sources: RFP to Writing a Proposal
  Sharon Hurd, Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA)