EVENT SUMMARY
Grow more Food: Plant Propagation Workshop: July 7-8, 2017
Location: Oahu Urban Garden Center
Address: 955 Kamehameha Highway, Pearl City Hawaii 96782

Objective:

The objective of the Plant Propagation Outdoor Expo was to increase awareness and adoption of edible crop production by advancing growers’ abilities and competencies in the area of plant propagation. Using the hands-on teaching demonstration approach and heavy visuals, Oahu County Cooperative Extension aimed to assist growers and the general public in advancing the cultivation of food in our island state to address Governor Ige’s goal of doubling the food supply by 2020.

Summary:

We reached approximately 470 participants over the two-day event, which included farmers, agricultural professionals, master gardeners, new farmer programs, Urban Garden Center volunteers, community volunteers such as the Boy Scouts, and the general public.

Researchers and Extension faculty (Melzer, DeFrank, Nakamura Tengan, Zee, Radovich, Wang, Ogata, Uchida, Nazario-Leary, Grezebik, Nagano, Matsumura, Wong, Silva, Nakatsuka, Kanehiro, Uyeda and Sugano) supported the event by showcasing their various projects and programs. Programs included, Clean plant (scion wood) program, air layering- larger trees, UH CTAHR Farm to Food, Sustainable and Organic Agriculture, Sustainable Pest Management Lab, ADSC Seed Lab Program, Master Gardener Program-Plant Doctor, etc. Extension agents from Oahu, Maui and Hawaii County were in support with their statewide programs as well.

External program partners contributed to make this a multi-agency event. Murakami Farms & East County, Hawaii Farm Bureau provided education about papaya hybridization and Hawaii Farm Bureau services. Dr. Maureen Fitch and the staff of the Hawaii Agricultural Research Center (HARC) provided a hands-on exercise on vegetative propagation of papaya cuttings. Hawaii Department of Agriculture, USDA Farm Service Agency, Oahu RC&D, West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District, Hawaii Farm Bureau, Hawaiian Earth Products, Smart Yields, EM Hawaii, BEI Hawaii, Halawa Xeriscape Garden, Pearl City Bonsai Group, and FCS, and various programs from UH CTAHR such as Agribusiness Incubator Program (AIP), Go Farm Hawaii, 4H Hawaii, and the Office of Communication Services hosted educational booths for participants to learn about the many public, and private agricultural programs currently available. Participants had a chance to sign up for state, federal and nonprofit programs and ask questions face to face.
The Urban Garden Center’s Air Layering and Grafting Hui did an outstanding job offering 1 hour, hands-on workshops to participants in an outdoor setting. One hundred thirty-nine (139) grafting participants and 133 air layering participants received a brief overview of the respective plant propagation technique and were able to apply these fundamentals in the outdoor classrooms. The Second Saturday’s Plant Sale Hui indicated that plant sales increased with this combined event and new faces came through the facility. Those new to the Urban Garden Center (UGC) had an opportunity to see the various gardens and programs offered at UGC.

Post event surveys indicated that 100% of participants indicated the event met their expectations. Ninety percent of participants rated the event as outstanding with the remaining 10% rating it as good. One hundred percent of participants agreed that the event content was relevant and meaningful; information was presented in a clear and easy to understand manner; event was well planned and organized; and that they would recommend this workshop to a friend or colleague. All participants surveyed indicated that they learned something new that could contribute to local food production in Hawaii.

Three percent of participants did not find the educational setting conducive to learning. Based on Friday’s comments we purchased more chairs and added a microphone to the air layering section. For future outdoor events added chairs and a microphone could help improve this area.

Comments included (some hand writing wasn’t legible):

So much expertise!; the staff was the best; list of good/bad candidates for air layering that we could take home; a little more chair would have been great, but overall very educational and fun. Thank you; chairs and a microphone would have been nice; presenter should have a microphone; Richard, Steve and Lance-Great presenters. Learned a lot Thank you.; super; good workshop; I have never grafted and provided the basic information to attempt my first graft; liked the ...got to try it; seats would be recommended; hard to see grafting class; very helpful; thank you; that was a very good workshop for farmers; hats off to you and your team for putting on a practical and useful workshop for farmers in the community; congratulations for a job really well done; many GoFarm students attended and thought it was great!; from what I observed and from many comments I heard, it was a success with no major glitches and many clients came away satisfied by the program; it was also very nice to see the participation of our Extension Agents from the other counties.

The event was coordinated by a planning committee made up of UGC volunteers and Oahu County, Cooperative Extension faculty and staff. Event set up and demonstration preparation was conducted with the help of Station managers, agricultural technicians from 4 Oahu stations and volunteers. The event generated a total of $2,082 in registration and fruit donations from Murakami Farms. These funds will go toward cost recovery and Oahu County upkeep.

Photos from event here: https://www.pinterest.com/suganoj/2017-plant-propagation-outdoor-expo/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/ctahr/sets/72157685895408936/