



Hawaii imports 85-90 % of its food supply

S/H Office of Planning, Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism (2012)



SUSTAINABLE AND ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA
COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

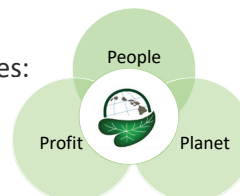
Our Background

Hawaii has a centuries-old tradition of sustainable food production. Pre-contact Hawaiian agricultural systems were closely linked to the natural environment to ensure long-term productivity and support hundreds of thousands of people in these Islands. During the many changes that have since taken place in Hawaii, the University of Hawaii has endeavored to maintain agriculture's link with the ecology and biological cycles of our island home. For 90 years, CTAHR and its many partners worked to develop and improve agricultural technologies pertinent to all growers. The Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) since its inception in 2008 continues to carry-on Hawaii's sustainable agricultural tradition through the 21st century.

Across Hawaii, farmers and ranchers are experimenting with different ways of producing agricultural products, novel approaches which aspire to bring social, economic and environmental well-being to both farm families and to the rural communities in which they live.

Our Statewide Program Focuses on Three Equally Important Challenges:

- To provide a more profitable farm income;
- To promote environmental stewardship; and
- To promote stable, prosperous farm families and communities.



Advancements in Sustainable and Organic Agriculture in Hawaii:

- Proliferation of Beginning Farmer training programs across the state, i.e. New Farmers Network on Maui, GoFarm Hawaii- statewide, *Moloka'i Native Hawaiian Beginning Farmer Program*, and Ku I Ka Mana (Kohala Center Beginning Farmer Program) utilizing sustainable and organic agricultural practices.
- The 2014 Organic Production Survey conducted by the USDA NASS provides evidence of grower adoption of sustainable agricultural production practices such as organic mulch/compost, green/animal manures, no-till or minimum till, maintained buffer strips, water management practices, biological pest management, maintaining beneficial insect or vertebrate habitat, selecting planting locations to avoid pests, releasing beneficial organisms, choosing pest resistant varieties, and planning plantings to avoid cross-contamination.
- The 2016 Certified Organic Survey (USDA NASS, 2016) shows that there are 113 certified organic farms in Hawaii.
- Hawaii's organic fruit and vegetable production is increasing in acreage and valued over \$13.4 million dollars (USDA NASS, 2016) compared to \$7.6 million in 2008.
- Agricultural chemical companies are carrying a wide array of crop production products in their inventory which includes organic fertilizers and reduced risk crop protection chemicals.
- Through a collaborative partnership with WSARE, agricultural professionals across the state receive continuing education opportunities on new advancement in sustainable and organic agriculture practices.
- Since 1988, WSARE has invested 5.5 million dollars in sustainable agriculture research and education in Hawaii.
- External, non-government agencies are increasing their educational programs to include sustainable and organic practices and advocacy.
- Organic certification cost share program provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the National Organic Program (NOP). Qualified applicants can receive up to \$750 per certification.
- Hawaii passed Act 258, (2017) which establishes an Organic Food Production Tax Credit for Hawaii's farmers, ranchers and producers. Qualified expenses for the production and expenses related to organic food production will be credited up to \$50,000.
- The 2018 Hawaii State Legislature added three new permanent positions to the University of Hawaii at Manoa's annual budget which includes two tenure track Extension Agent positions and an administrative support position in Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program.

<https://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu/soap/>

Celebrations of UH Community Education



CE90  **4-H100**

Cooperative Extension / 4-H Youth Development