

# Bridging the Food Safety 'GAP' in Hawai'i

## The Situation

Food safety has been a recent topic of concern in Hawai'i, particularly the agricultural sector. Many local farmers are required to comply with the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), a set of federal regulations requiring the adoption of specific farm food safety practices.

January 2020 was the final compliance deadline for all farm sizes. This deadline, along with official federal inspections that began in June 2019 for large farms and third-party audit requirements by some buyers, have placed additional urgency on farmers to incorporate food safety and good agricultural practices (GAPs) into their daily operations.

Food safety impacts on Hawai'i's general public, including notable rat lungworm disease cases in 2017 and other emerging food safety threats, are a continuous concern, necessitating critical farm food safety education.

## Cooperative Extension's Response

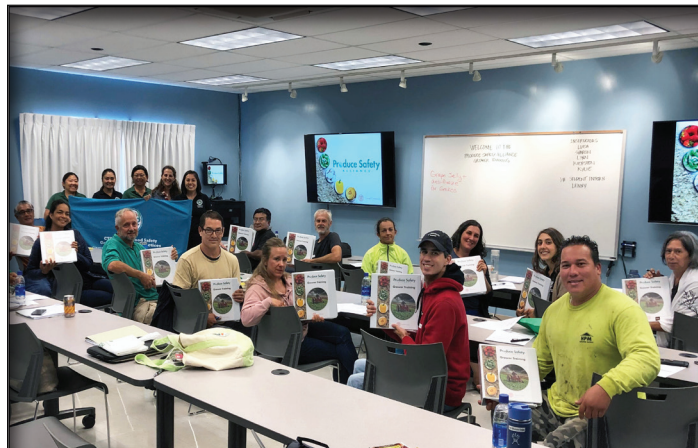
Since 2017, the CTAHR Farm Food Safety Team has prepared farmers for FSMA through federally approved training to educate growers on mandatory food safety practices. In collaboration with industry partners in Hawai'i and the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA), UH Cooperative Extension organized the first PSA Grower Training and Train-the-Trainer workshop in Hawai'i in 2017.

From 2017 to 2020, Extension conducted 19 grower trainings to address the food safety needs of agriculture



Slug Hunt Game

producers statewide. UH Extension faculty continues to work with national partners to provide current food safety information to Hawai'i growers.



PSA Grower Training

Outreach materials and videos for water testing, sanitizers, slug and snail management, and other topics have been developed and are available to the public on the [Farm Food Safety Team](http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ctahr/farmfoodsafety) website (manoa.hawaii.edu/ctahr/farmfoodsafety).



Portable Handwashing Station

Extension outreach at public events, such as covering topics like rat lungworm disease to promote healthy and safe gardening and farming practices to the community, have been conducted statewide.

## Food Safety 'GAP' - continued

### Impact and Outcomes

Through Extension-led grower trainings, the CTAHR Farm Food Safety Team has educated more than 300 farmers and agricultural professionals from across the state. This has a direct impact in growers satisfying a FSMA training requirement and learning the required practices mandated by FSMA.



**Slug Hunt Game**

Farmer adoption of these practices directly promotes the primary goal of safe produce for consumers. Public events, videos, and website resources have been utilized by local farmers and home gardeners, providing another form of information dissemination.

The CTAHR Farm Food Safety Team will continue to promote appropriate food safety practices and provide training materials to bolster community health and the agricultural sustainability of Hawai'i.



**Field Water Sanitizer System**

### For more information, please contact:

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