



The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service has worked with us in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to improve our drip irrigation systems, establish windbreaks, and incorporate cover crops in our production system. Cover crops are very helpful to protect and improve the soil. I have used many cover crops and mixes including daikon, sunn hemp, and different beans and grasses. They help aerate the soil deeply, especially the daikon.

Where do you market your products?

Currently we are selling at three farmers' markets across the island and providing a small number of weekly CSA boxes through Malama Kauai. We also have a fruit stand by the highway that we open five days a week where there are enough tourists on the island to justify it. In the past we sold to restaurants and hotels, but those have closed due to COVID. Between the pandemic and the wet weather, we have reduced our production so we grow just enough to sell.

Pricing:

Right now we are selling our produce at much cheaper prices than usual because the market is so limited. Selling cheap is better than letting it go to waste.

What does 'sustainability' mean to you?

Sustainability means agriculture that is permanent or able to persist all the time. This means being able to weather challenges and adapted to changes as they arise.



What advice you would give to other aspiring farmers?

Young people are very clever and learn faster than our older generation, but they don't have the experience that we do. If they are genuinely interested in farming, I think they can do even better than us because of technology. If they study hard, they will find ways to farm smarter and easier, while the older generation struggles to make changes beyond what they are used to and are slower to adapt or adopt new ideas. Farming is heavy work and uncertain, but young people have skills to use technology and access more information that can help them make good farm plans. Making good farm plans and seasonal harvest plans will allow them to expand markets and get a better price.

Not so many youth are interested in agriculture because of the economics, but farming is a great occupation. What we earn is sufficient to live on, and if you make a good life for yourself if you understand the market. Farmers grow the food that people eat all around the world. Without farmers there is nothing to eat, and people need to eat every day. You can't eat money. We work hard to make sure there is food for others. In this way farming is the most important work.