

Hawai'i Public Seed Initiative: Train the Trainers 2013

The Hawai'i Public Seed Initiative held its "Seed Production Basics for Farmers and Gardeners," workshops on Kaua'i in November, 2011 and on O'ahu, Maui, Molo-ka'i and Hawai'i Island during 2012. 180 seed enthusiast gardeners, farmers, and students from throughout our 5 Hawaiian Islands attended these workshops.

These 2-day workshops were designed to create a practical working knowledge of seed growing, botany and biology, plant selection, seed harvesting, cleaning, and saving. Each workshop included hands-on fieldwork with a focus on growing lettuce and tomato to seed, as well as taro propagation, so participants could practice harvesting, selecting, cleaning, and storing fresh seed. Strategies were discussed to account for differences in elevation, weather patterns, and rainfall. Participants developed ideas for creating seed networks in their local areas.

Presenters included representatives from CTAHR, Regenerations Botanical Garden, Kaua'i and individuals on each island with expertise in the field of seed saving. The Kohala Center provided valuable support and helped to make these workshops possible.

The focus of the second year program for 2013 will be a "Train the Trainers Course" consisting of an advanced 3 day workshop. This workshop will be designed to continue to broaden seed

saving skills, will begin to cover crop selection and on-farm breeding programs, and will help with the design of working models for seed networks on each island. Full scholarships will be offered to 2 to 4 applicants from each island. Applicants will be chosen based on their commitment to furthering seed knowledge on the island where they live. Applicants must have either attended one of the "Seed Basics for Farmers and Gardeners" workshops or have previous seed saving experience. Individuals interested in applying can contact seedproject@kohalacenter.org. The



application will be available in January 2013 on the [Hawai'i Public Seed Initiative Website](#).

The Hawaii Public Seed Initiative (Howe et al., 2012) was established in Hawaii in 2010 after the completion of the Hua ka Hua-Restore Our Seed Symposium held in Kailua-Kona, with the aim of improving community seed programs around the islands to increase local agrobiodiversity, and to help promote self-sufficiency and food security in the state.

The two-day workshops conducted in 2011-2012 and "Train the Trainers" workshop in 2013 are made possible with funding from a Ceres Trust grant awarded to The Kohala Center.

References

Howe, L., N. Redfeather, and H. Valenzuela. 2012. [The Hawaii Public Seed Initiative](#). Hanai' Ai/The Food Provider. Sustainable Ag Newsletter, CTAHR, March-April-May. 6 pp.

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