

# Beginning Farmer Training Programs Catalog

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## 1. The Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design (APCRD)

[apcrd.org](http://apcrd.org)

APCRD currently offers two Permaculture Design Certificate (PDC) courses per year on the island of O‘ahu, Hawai‘i: Extended PDC: This course is designed for locals with their busy schedules in mind. Classes meet either bi-weekly on alternating weekends (three-month duration) or for one weekend per month (six-month duration). These courses commence in winter (Jan/Feb) and end spring or summer. Two week intensive PDC: An immersive experience where students live in community for 14 days at a Permaculture demonstration site on O‘ahu. This course is structured in three sessions of four days on / one day off, and offers locals and visitors alike a unique opportunity to experience O‘ahu in a profound new way. Certificate from APCRD upon successful completion of the course requirements.

Contact Information:

Hunter Heavilin

808-391-8687

[huntersh@hawaii.edu](mailto:huntersh@hawaii.edu)

## 2. Future Farmers of America (FFA)

[hawaiiffa.weebly.com](http://hawaiiffa.weebly.com)

FFA is an intra-curricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. It is one of the three components of agricultural education. Today, the National FFA Organization remains committed to the individual student, providing a path to achievement in premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education. Hawai‘i currently has 13 active chapters with a total of 150 FFA members. The chapters are at Pāhoa HS, Honoka‘a HS, Kea‘au HS, Konawaena HS, Waiākea HS, McKinley HS, Waipahu HS, Kaua‘i HS, Lahainaluna HS, Moloka‘i HS, Kalani HS, Leilehua HS, and Mililani HS.

Contact Information:

Mike Barros

[michael\\_barros@hawaiidoe.org](mailto:michael_barros@hawaiidoe.org)

## 3. GoFarm Hawai‘i

[gofarmhawaii.org](http://gofarmhawaii.org)

GoFarm Hawai‘i is a University of Hawai‘i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) certificate program. GoFarm Hawai‘i’s mission is to increase the amount of locally grown produce and strengthen Hawai‘i’s food economy by increasing the number of skilled, knowledgeable farmers. GoFarm Hawai‘i is currently the most comprehensive farmer training program in the state, offering hands-on training in production and business, focused on developing new, sustainable, commercial farmers for Hawai‘i. Students have access to subject-matter experts and on-going business consulting services. Students gain production skills by applying lessons on a small plot of land that they manage. Advance phases incorporate business skill lessons through classroom training and assignments, field trips, and business plan development. Qualified graduates have incubation options at most locations. GoFarm Hawai‘i classes are open to all adult learners. Classes are offered on O‘ahu, Hawai‘i, Maui, and Kaua‘i. GoFarm Hawai‘i also offers a certificate program at the Waiawa Correctional Facility

on O‘ahu. The classroom and in-field training is designed to teach skills that can be used to gain future employment in the agricultural industry.

Contact Information:

Janel Yamamoto

[info@gofarmhawaii.org](mailto:info@gofarmhawaii.org)

#### 4. **Hawai‘i 4-H**

[ctahr.hawaii.edu/4h](http://ctahr.hawaii.edu/4h)

4-H is a program for Hawai‘i youth ages 5-19. 4-H programs in the state are delivered by Hawai‘i Cooperative Extension Service as part of the land-grant mission of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. There are more than 3,200 youth reached in the program across the islands each year. Youth participate in community clubs, school programs, and military 4-H clubs on O‘ahu that support our military families. Youth participate in subject-matter areas such as science, citizenship, healthy lifestyles, and agriculture. 4-H volunteer leaders provide the positive learning environment for youth to learn and grow into productive citizens while they acquire life and leadership skills.

Contact Information:

Jeff Goodwin, Ph.D., State 4-H Program Leader

[jeffg3@hawaii.edu](mailto:jeffg3@hawaii.edu)

#### 5. **Hawai‘i Farmers Union United Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program**

[hfuuhi.org/chapters/haleakala/education/farm-apprentice-mentoring-fam-program/](http://hfuuhi.org/chapters/haleakala/education/farm-apprentice-mentoring-fam-program/)

The Farm Apprentice Mentoring (FAM) program is a signature program of HFUU and HFUF, its Foundation, a 501(c)3. FAM integrates Hawaiian cultural practices of sustainability and land management with a whole systems approach to agriculture. FAM program modules are delivered by certified instructors from the UH Maui College Office of Continuing Education (OCET), the Sustainable Living Institute of Maui (SLIM), and 30+ qualified farmer mentors from across the Island of Maui. Each of the classes is followed by an on-farm immersion as information learned in the classroom is applied on a working farm. Upon completion of Phase 1, apprentices who have satisfied levels of attendance and learner outcomes receive a Certificate of Professional Development from the UH-Maui College OCET.

Contact Information:

Phyllis Robinson

[pfierrob@aol.com](mailto:pfierrob@aol.com)

#### 6. **Hawai‘i Institute of Pacific Agriculture (HIP Ag)**

[hipagriculture.org](http://hipagriculture.org)

The Hawai‘i Institute of Pacific Agriculture (HIP Ag) provides agriculture and nutrition education to students grades K-20 in North Hawai‘i. HIP Ag operates a market garden and two food forests that are low input and high output. HIP Ag currently offers the following farmer trainer programs: Mahi‘ai High School Internship: A 6-week summer internship for high school students who want to expand their knowledge in agriculture through land and project-based learning alongside our farm team. Students will learn skills in market gardening and agroforestry and receive a weekly stipend and a daily healthy, local lunch. Farm Apprenticeship: A one year program for post-secondary students on HIP Ag’s farm in exchange for a stipend, room, and board. This program is for those who want to increase their knowledge and technical skills in order to pursue a career in agriculture. Participants learn through hands-on engagement, readings, and weekly educational sessions. Each apprentice receives training on food safety, market gardening, permaculture, Korean natural farming, agroforestry, beekeeping, crop

design, planting, harvesting, herbal medicine, and value-added food processing. Apprentices leave the program with a certificate of completion, which can be leveraged to attain a job within the agricultural sector or to access agriculture loans to start their own operation.

Contact:

[institute@hipagriculture.org](mailto:institute@hipagriculture.org)

808-889-6316

## **7. Ho‘ōla Farms**

[www.hoolafarms.org](http://www.hoolafarms.org)

Located outside Hilo, Ho‘ōla Farms provides natural agricultural training and hands-on experiences for veterans and their families, along with the community, in hopes of creating a more sustainable future and well-being for all. Our program combines a proven agricultural training program for commercial production with essential health and human services to support veterans in their entrepreneurial ventures and personal lives. Our goal is to increase the number of veterans seeking and securing educational, employment, and entrepreneurial opportunities in the food and agriculture sector. We think it helps when we include support accessing crucial health and wellness services as well.

Contact Information:

Emily Emmons

808-494-2613

[emily@hoolafarms.org](mailto:emily@hoolafarms.org)

## **8. Kahua Pa‘a Mua**

[www.kahuapaamua.org](http://www.kahuapaamua.org)

Kahua Pa‘a Mua is enhancing communities through economic, conservation/preservation, social and educational programs for youth and adults. Their flagship projects are the Natural Farming Learning Lab and Palili ‘O Kohala. Areas of mentorship focus on natural farming inputs, NF crops, animal husbandry, and construction. Participants in the animal husbandry program will be taught breeding techniques, care, and maintenance of swine stock for production in pork markets.

Contact Information:

David Fuertes

808-884-5838, 808-889-5391

[dcfuertes@aol.com](mailto:dcfuertes@aol.com)

## **9. Kahumana Organic Farms and Cafe Volunteer, Intern, and Apprenticeship Programs**

[www.kahumana.org/](http://www.kahumana.org/)

Alternative Structures International (dba Kahumana Organic Farms) is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization operating on 50 acres in Lualualei Valley in Wai‘anae. Kahumana Organic Farms provides multiple social and community programs, such as an Organic Farm and Café, partially staffed by members of its disability and homelessness programs; a Commercial Kitchen, serving over 1,500 meals a day to over 35 schools and youth-based organizations; and its Learning Center, providing outcome-based services for people with developmental disabilities. Kahumana Organic Farms’ is a commercial farm that supplies over fifty restaurants and hotels, attends several farmers markets, operates a farm hub, a farm-to-table cafe, a retreat center and farm tours. Based on availability, Kahumana operates work trade programs for volunteers, interns, and apprentices. The Kahumana crew currently supports positions for three volunteers, four interns, four apprentices, and about ten full-time employees. The farm is looking for

people who want to be part of the Kahumana ‘Ohana and who are seeking to learn skills of growing, sharing, and eating Hawai‘i grown foods.

Contact Information:

Christian Zuckerman

808-542-9565

[czuckerman@asi-hawaii.org](mailto:czuckerman@asi-hawaii.org)

#### **10. Kāko‘o ‘Ōiwi, Māhuahua ‘Ai o Hoi Internship**

Contact Information:

Nick Rappun

808-371-5325

[nick@kakooiwi.org](mailto:nick@kakooiwi.org)

#### **11. The Kohala Center Beginning Farmer-Rancher Development Program**

[kohalacenter.org/farmertraining](http://kohalacenter.org/farmertraining)

The Kohala Center’s Beginning Farmer-Rancher Development Program is dedicated to training new farming families on Hawai‘i Island and inspiring island youth to consider careers in agriculture. The program provides training and networking to aspiring and beginning commercial farmers and ranchers through 14 Sessions (84 hours) of classroom instruction, hands-on demonstrations, and farm visits. The program is based in Honoka‘a with satellite locations developing in 2017 in Ka‘ū and South Kona. Course instruction by CTAHR/UH Hilo/USDA researchers, extension agents, and other subject-matter specialists.

Contact Information:

Melanie Willich

808-887-6411

[mwillich@kohalacenter.org](mailto:mwillich@kohalacenter.org)

#### **12. Kulani Correctional Facility Sustainable Horticulture Program: Hydroponic Food Production**

This is a comprehensive certificate program with classroom instruction and hands-on training of the methods and practical application of hydroponic food production. This intensive course covers the fundamentals of hydroponics as it pertains to food crop production and provides the student the hands-on training in building a working A-frame and bucket hydroponic system. The hydroponic systems that are erected during this course become part of the working hydroponic system at the Kulani Correctional Facility that provides a regular supply of lettuce and tomatoes to the correctional center’s cafeteria.

Contact Information:

Richard Cowan, Apprenticeship Program Coordinator

Office of Continuing Education and Training, Hawai‘i Community College

808-934-2692

[rcowan3@hawaii.edu](mailto:rcowan3@hawaii.edu)

#### **13. Malama Kaua‘i – Kauai Ag Internship Program**

[malamakauai.org/mk](http://malamakauai.org/mk)

Our Summer Ag Internship Program includes hands-on gardening and farming service projects, field trips to various agricultural sites, guest speakers and workshops, and more! Participants will be exposed to a wide variety of career options, mentors, and future job opportunities for exploring the agriculture

career field. In addition to a stipend, students who complete the internship program will also receive a recommendation letter and internship evaluation. Six-week and eight-week programs are available.

Contact Information:

Megan Fox  
808-828-0685

[megan@malamakauai.org](mailto:megan@malamakauai.org)

#### **14. Ma‘o Organic Farms Youth Leadership Training and Farm Apprenticeship Program**

[maoorganicfarms.org](http://maoorganicfarms.org)

MA‘O is an acronym for mala (garden) ‘ai (food) ‘opio (youth) or youth food garden and affirms our belief that when we reconnect and restore the relationship between the land and the people, we are able to return abundance, prosperity and resilience to youth, to their families, and to the community. MA‘O offers a variety of communal and education programs for our community, from keiki to kupuna, with two primary training programs for adults - the Youth Leadership Training (YLT) internship program and the Farm Apprenticeship. The YLT is a 2-year internship for full-time college students who work part-time on the farm and receive a tuition waiver and monthly stipend. The multi-year Farm Apprenticeship program is open to those with a baccalaureate degree who want to deepen their farming and entrepreneurial skills, includes full-time farm employment and a structured training program; the program duration depends on pre-existing farming skills (minimum starting wage of \$15/hr. and benefits provided). While the YLT program follows a regular, academic schedule-based calendar, the Apprenticeship admits new participants on a rolling basis.

Contact Information:

[info@maoorganicfarms.org](mailto:info@maoorganicfarms.org)

#### **15. Pacific Gateway Center**

[pacificgatewaycenter.org](http://pacificgatewaycenter.org)

Pacific Gateway Center (PGC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to empower immigrants, refugees, and low-income in building skills so they may access opportunities to achieve self-sufficiency. PGC’s key operations include social services, economic development, education, and training with integrated strategies and interventions that address the critical needs of our targeted populations.

Contact Information:

Tin Myaing Thein  
808-851-7010

[myaing2@pacificgatewaycenter.org](mailto:myaing2@pacificgatewaycenter.org)

#### **16. Pono Grown Farm Center**

[ponogrown.org](http://ponogrown.org)

Pono Grown hosts a 3-6 month on-farm residential internship program. The residential program is hosted on a 15 acre organically managed farmstead in upcountry Maui near the town of Makawao. Our diverse system of vegetables, tree crops, chickens, bees, nursery, water harvesting, and solar power offers a unique environment for learning and understanding how everything is interconnected. We want everyone who comes here to use what they learn to better the world in their future work. In addition to farm based skills, we incorporate greater themes of nurturing a sustainable lifestyle and community living. We host classes and workshops on a variety of topics related regenerative agriculture and enhancing Hawai‘i’s natural and cultural resources.

Contact Information:

Evan Ryan

808-269-9356

[evan@ponogrown.org](mailto:evan@ponogrown.org)

#### **17. UH Hilo, College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management (CAFNRM)**

[hilo.hawaii.edu/academics/cafnrnm](http://hilo.hawaii.edu/academics/cafnrnm)

CAFNRM's goal is to prepare students for a broad and full understanding of basic factors involved in production, management, processing, distribution, marketing, sales, and services in the field of agricultural sciences. CAFNRM offers the Bachelor of Science degree (B.S.) in four areas of specialization: animal science (which includes a production option and a pre-veterinary option); aquaculture; tropical horticulture, and tropical plant science and agroecology. Beginning August 2020 the B.S. Agriculture specializations will be in agroecology; animal health and management (including a pre-vet track); and aquaculture. To provide a well-balanced education, a good portion of a typical curriculum consists of College of Arts and Sciences courses as well as CAFNRM courses.

Contact Information:

Bruce Mathews

[Bmathews@hawaii.edu](mailto:Bmathews@hawaii.edu)

#### **18. Waimea Nui Regional Community Development Initiative**

[hstrial-wwaimeahomestead.homestead.com/Waimea-Nui-Project.html](http://hstrial-wwaimeahomestead.homestead.com/Waimea-Nui-Project.html)

The Waimea Nui Regional Community & Economic Development Program is a beneficiary-driven, shared community effort. The purpose is to create the fundamental infrastructure needed to build a vibrant, self-sufficient community grounded in traditional Hawaiian values. A future project, the Pu'ukapu Community Ag Park will consist of 246 parcels, each consisting of a 5,000 sq. ft. area to farm, available to the community for lease. This Ag Park, with its smaller farm plots, will function as a jumping-off point for new farmers to gain experience in an area with educational resources and mentors; when they become successful at growing their crops, they can graduate to larger parcels of land available through the other landowners.

Contact Information:

Mike and Tricia Hodson

808-887-0969

[info@wowfarms.com](mailto:info@wowfarms.com)

#### **19. Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization: Wahiawa Farmer Development Program**

[sites.google.com/a/wahiawacbdo.org/public-site](http://sites.google.com/a/wahiawacbdo.org/public-site)

Currently the program is more field directed and most of the formal class time has been removed. Participants are given a 1,500 square foot plot and guided along the way from seed to market. The program was originally sponsored by the Wahiawa CBDO in partnership with the Agribusiness Development Corp and the City and County of Honolulu. The original program had seven modules and a six-month field-training component.

Contact Information:

Jensen Uyeda

808-622-4185

[juyeda@hawaii.edu](mailto:juyeda@hawaii.edu)