

Organic Certification: The Basics

Organic growers should be certified by an accredited third party agency. Certification is an assurance to consumers, retailers and brokers of organic produce that the produce marketed as “certified organic” has been grown under standards set by the National Organic Program. Growers with less than \$5,000 in annual organic sales are exempted from the certification requirement, but are encouraged to file an affidavit of NOP compliance with a third party certifier.

Certification costs will vary, but a significant portion of the cost may be reimbursed by federal cost share program managed by the Hawai'i department of Agriculture. More information see: <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/add/md/organiccostshare/>

To begin the certification process, contact one of the certification agencies operating in Hawaii for an application (See table below).

An important part of your application is describing your organic system plan (OSP). For assistance in developing your OSP, contact your local UH Cooperative Extension Office <https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/site/Map.aspx>

For more information on certification, see: www.ams.usda.gov/services/organic-certification



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Table 1. List of USDA accredited third party certifiers operating in Hawaii. Compiled from: USDA National Organic Program List of certified USDA organic operations (<https://organic.ams.usda.gov/Integrity/>). Accessed 03/01/17.

Certification Agency (listed in alphabetical order)	Website	Phone	Number of operations certified in Hawai'i	Percentage of operations certified in Hawai'i
A Bee Organics	abeeorganic.com	(760) 731-0155	2	1%
CCOF Certification Services	ccof.org	(831) 423-2263	6	4%
Ecocert	ecocert.com/en	+33(0) 5 62 07 34 24	1	<1%
International Certification Services	ics-intl.com/index.html	(701) 486-3578	96	60%
Onecert	onecert.com	(402) 420-6080	1	<1%
Organic Certifiers	organiccertifiers.com	(805) 684-6494	42	26%
Oregon Tilth Certified Organic	tilth.org	(503) 378-0690	6	4%
Quality Assurance International	qai-inc.com	(858) 200-9704	1	<1%
Quality Certification Services	quality-certification.com	(608) 848-6455	1	<1%
Stellar Certification Services	demeter-usa.org/stellar- certification/	(541) 929-7148	3	2%
TOTAL			159	100%