



# Go Farm Hawai'i

## Annual Report 2022





# About GoFarm Hawai'i

GoFarm Hawai'i is a University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) Extension program, with statewide business advisory services and farmer training locations on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i Island.

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# GoFarm Hawai'i Mission



GoFarm Hawai'i's mission is to enhance Hawai'i's food security and economy by increasing the number of sustainable, local agricultural producers. We do this by offering those with an interest in agriculture a combination of knowledge, experience, and support to reach their full potential.









# Program Support

GoFarm Hawai'i secured the following  
grant support in 2022:

County of Hawai'i Dept. of Research  
and Development Innovation Grant

\$1,000,000 from American  
AgCredit/CoBank for graduate grants

Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture

Kamehameha Schools

County of Maui Office of Economic  
Development

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American AgCredit/CoBank

USDA NIFA Alaska Native-Serving and  
Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions  
Education Competitive Grants Program

USDA Rural Development

Additional private donations from  
local orgs, graduates, & supporters





# Program Highlights 2022







# Program Highlights in 2022:



**217**

**Students**

participated in  
GFH Beginning  
Farmer Training  
Courses (AgXposure  
on) for the year

**28**

**Farmers**

in the  
AgIncubator  
program

**52**

**Farms**

started or  
expanded by  
2022 graduates





# Additional Program Highlights in 2022:

**4 x \$25K**

Graduate  
Grants

Four graduates awarded \$25K to scale their farm businesses in Year 1 of the American AgCredit/CoBank matching grant program

**New  
Orchard  
Program**

Piloted a 10 week Orchard Course on O'ahu

**GoFish  
Hawai'i  
Cohort 2**

In collaboration with  
CTAHR SOAP and UH Sea  
Grant

**AgTechnician  
Program**  
Cohort 5  
Cohort 6

Graduated at the  
Waiawa Correctional  
Facility

**Value  
Added  
Product**

Graduates created value-added products including cookies, salve, dried fruit, tea, hot sauce, & beer

**100+**  
Alumni and  
Collaborators

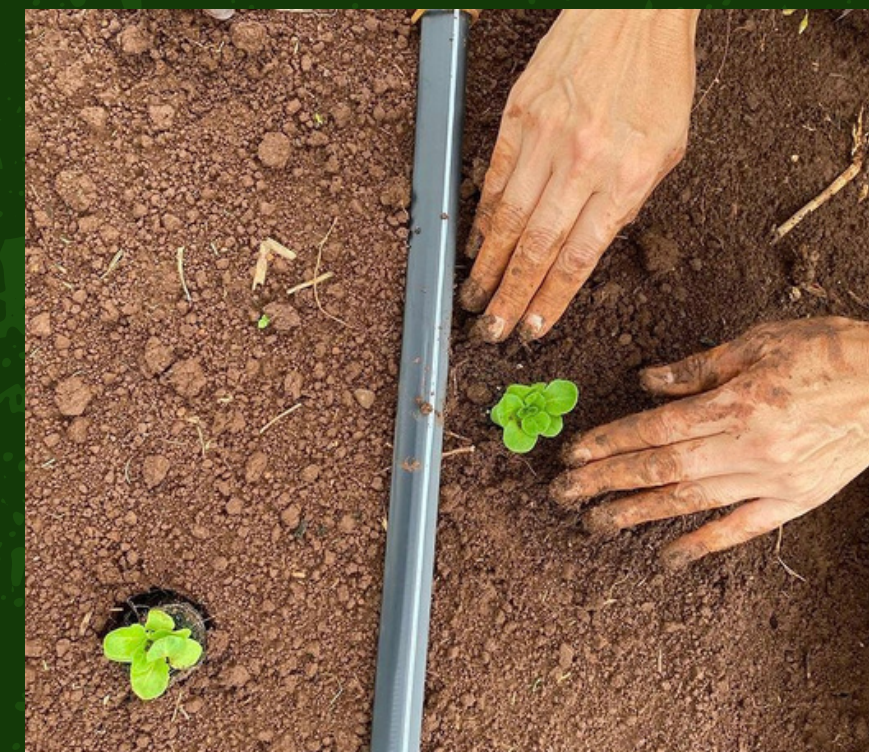
Attended a GFH Alumni event at the Hawai'i Ag Conference







# Plans for 2023







# Plans for 2023:

The GoFarm Hawai'i team is continually working on new ways to support farmers



**Invest in shared-use equipment and facilities to improve infrastructure**



**Continue work to support the development of land pathways for graduates**



**Offer an orchard course on Hawai'i Island starting Fall 2023**





# Plans for 2023:

The GoFarm Hawai'i team is continually working on new ways to support farmers



Work with CTAHR Extension to support immigrant farmers with business and production education



Relocate our Maui training site to add AgIncubator space



Strengthen the network at each site and throughout the program



Increase marketing support to graduates through education, support, and collateral development





# Participant Feedback

“

GoFarm is a life changing program for those seriously interested in growing food and developing a business. I went into the program feeling overwhelmed at my venture to farm, and left feeling confident and with a HIKI NO attitude.

“

I am very grateful that the program exists as it provides an affordable, hands-on opportunity to learn and understand what it means to farm locally in Hawai'i.

“

GoFarm is a great pathway to explore small-scale farming with minimal risk with progressive steps allowing you to decide how far you want to go with it.





# Participant Feedback



“

Cannot recommend it enough! It was an absolutely fantastic program and the best part is the inspiration to continue not only farming and producing but learning as well.

“

It has bolstered me with more confidence to keep moving forward.

“

Excellent overall especially the mix of hands-on production experience and lecture time spent on financial and business considerations. The opportunity to visit so many local farms and ask the farmers questions was so valuable.







GOFARM  
HAWAI'I

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

# Quotes & Testimonial





“

The GoFarm Hawai'i program demystified farming for me. The AgXcel Program educated me from day one with key, foundational skills and knowledge necessary to be a successful farmer in Hawai'i. I graduated from this program feeling empowered, with a very clear path and purpose in front of me.

A year later, I am leasing 24+ acres of ag land where I am actively putting my GoFarm business plan into play. The continued support from GoFarm Hawai'i allows me to make mission critical decisions more confidently.

The ACC Matching Grant offered by GoFarm is an unreal opportunity for alumni. As one of the 2022 grant recipients, the funding has proven to be vital for our farms' growth. This financial support removed massive barriers related to start-up infrastructure, enabling my farm to scale up in a way that ensures our profitability and sustainability for years to come.

-Sally Rizzo, Old Koloa Regenerative Farm





“



The GoFarm Hawai'i beginning farmer training program was instrumental in helping me become a successful farm business owner. The hands-on training and business mentorship provided gave me the knowledge and skills I needed to start and grow our now 35-acre organic farm (Hawai'i Banana Source) and food delivery business (Farm Link Hawai'i).

The American AgCredit matching grant we received was critical for us to finish the expansion of our banana wash-pack shed to handle increased production volumes in a food-safe manner and increase our efficiency to improve our margins. I am forever grateful for the support and resources GoFarm Hawai'i provided me during my journey as a beginning farmer.

-Rob Barreca, Farm Link Hawai'i/Hawai'i Banana Source







“

The networking and connections that come from being a GoFarmer are exceptional and exponential. Ongoing support, resources, continued learning, belonging to a greater movement promoting sustainable local agriculture and regenerative practices, and camaraderie are all continuous and serendipitous benefits.

The support of the GoFarm team has been phenomenal, especially in the branding and launching of our Value Added Products. Perhaps the biggest honor (and boost) came from being awarded the American Ag Credit/GoFarm Matching Grant this past fall.

Our project that received funding was to build the infrastructure necessary to move from the GoFarm AgIncubator plot to our property. We feel blessed to have this opportunity to continue to scale up into our even larger space with endless possibilities.

-Dan and Leanne Mahalak, Kaiwiki Food Forest



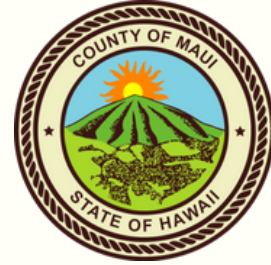
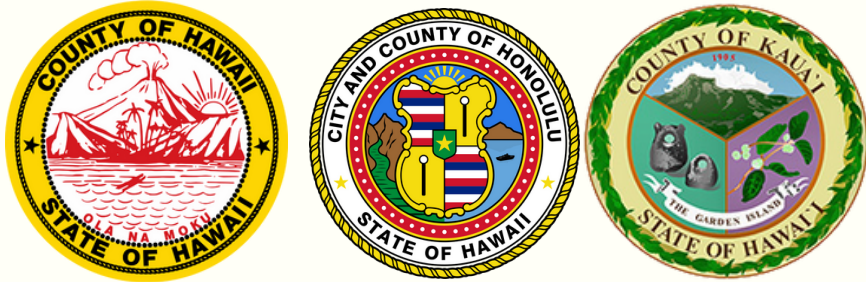




# Supporters & Partners



Kamehameha  
Schools®



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII\*  
MAUI COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII\*  
KAUAI  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII\*  
SYSTEM



State of Hawai'i  
Department of Labor &  
Industrial Relations



State of Hawai'i  
Department of Public  
Safety



HAWAII TOURISM



OAHU AGRICULTURE AND CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

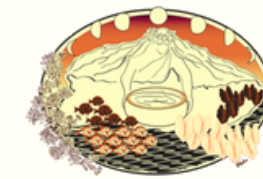


Sustainable and Organic  
Agriculture Program

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



Agricultural Leadership  
Foundation of Hawai'i



Sust 'āina ble Molokai  
Working to restore 'Āina Momona



HO'OLA FARMS  
Growing Hawai'i's Heroes

GoFarm Hawai'i's work is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture; the USDA Rural Development; the State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture; American AgCredit and CoBank; and Kamehameha Schools.