GoFarm 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 Hawaiʻi's mission is to enhance Hawaiʻi’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
- 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 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.

GoFish Hawaiʻi Cohort 2
In collaboration with CTAHR SOAP and UH Sea Grant.

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

New Orchard Program
Piloted a 10 week Orchard Course on Oʻahu.

AgTechnician Program Cohort 5 Cohort 6
Graduated at the Waiawa Correctional Facility.

100+ Alumni and Collaborators
Attended a GFH Alumni event at the Hawaiʻi 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 Hawaiʻi.

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."
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
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.