

# Agricultural Leadership Program

## QUOTATIONS FROM CLASS X

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*The thing I got most value from ALFH seminars is the ability I gained to improve my participation in meetings. This includes all types of meetings from work-related planning sessions to staff meetings, community meetings such as Farm Bureau or 4-H, it made a difference. Whether I am a participant, facilitator or running the meeting I have made great strides in listening, legitimizing, expressing my views and coming up with a plan or solution. It has changed my ideas/views on topics and I have been less critical of people. I tend to judge them less on a personal basis and try very hard to grasp their point of view.* **Harry Cambra**

*Hawaiian agriculture faces many challenges, but none as threatening as our inability to organize into a cohesive force and single voice. The Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii's 18-month training program gives industry and community leaders the necessary tools to facilitate public meetings and bring people together on important issues that affect all members of their communities. During the course of the program, class members experience a comprehensive tour of Hawaii's agricultural enterprises gaining insight into the challenges and opportunities faced daily by agricultural producers on all islands. This wide-ranging exposure to Hawaiian agriculture and the subsequent industry perspective is only available to those fortunate enough to be selected for this incredible program. If you are a farmer, rancher, landscaper, or agricultural business person; the best investment you will ever make is the time you spend as a student in the Agricultural Leadership Program.* **Mark Cummings**

*The experience of the Ag leadership training as part of Class X was invaluable to me and well worth the cost in time and money. The time commitment, though great, was almost always a welcome break in my busy life. The focus of each seminar gave us opportunities to look at problems and solutions in the industry from many different angles and perspectives. What I have learned in the last 18 months about agriculture in our state and our country has enhanced my professional growth in countless ways. Additionally, the new friends and alliances that I have formed with colleagues and fellow ag leaders has been a wonderful asset to my work.*

*For someone interested and involved in agriculture in Hawaii in any way, this program is probably the best way to learn about the issues and the players. The program has given me a renewed interest and dedication to the preservation of agriculture and to making it sustainable, especially in Hawaii. I feel the training allowed me to grow personally as well as professionally in ways I am still discovering. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to participate in such a wonderful program.* **Diana Duff**

*The Agricultural Leadership Program has been an exceptional experience personally and professionally. The experience and knowledge I have gained through this program have provided me leadership tools to work effectively with the agriculture sector and rural communities. The national trip, field trips, contacts and friends I've made throughout this journey will not be forgotten and the skills I've acquired will be implemented which will provide a positive change in agriculture for the State of Hawaii.* **Ranae Ganske-Cerizo**

*The Ag Leadership Program provides a great opportunity to citizens of our State who work in agriculture. The Program provided me with a statewide perspective of the agricultural industry in Hawaii and the many challenges it faces in fast changing times. We toured a large*

*variety of agricultural operations. We also met with many governmental agencies and learned about the legislative process at both the state and national levels. We were provided extensive training to enhance and improve our own leadership and group skills so that we would become more effective leaders. In the beginning, the Program was a big commitment. But, every time we met I was grateful for the opportunity to participate. This whole experience was valuable beyond words.* **Marla McCasland**

*The value of my experience in Ag Leadership training has been in broadening my exposure and experience in agriculture in Hawaii and the U.S. The National Trip was especially useful in understanding the work and impact of our Congressional delegation in Washington, D.C. Interacting with our host colleagues on the state visit (North Carolina) was illuminating and enriching. The session devoted to strategic planning was especially helpful as a practical learning experience for leading meetings but, more importantly, as a vehicle for honing my leadership skills.* **John McHugh**

*I have both a broader and deeper understanding of current agriculture and the people farming, ranching, and improving their communities because of this program. I have a stronger network of friends and contacts that help me do my job better because I can ask questions of people who have practical experience trying to solve similar problems. I have seen and spoken with a greater diversity of people working their fields, farms, nurseries, orchards, and improving their communities and those that provide Hawaii's agricultural and community entrepreneurs services and goods. The value of this program to my job is worth many times the time and dollars it costs to be a participant.* **Kevin Kinvig**

*Having been born, raised and employed by the sugar industry for 39 years, my exposure to other agricultural endeavors had been limited. The Program has opened my eyes to other opportunities and difficulties in agriculture in terms of varieties of crops, industry/farmer commitment and political support.* **Steven Raymond**

*This program has been one of the highlights of my life! I have gained self-confidence and appreciate all the contacts that have been made possible for me. The most exciting session was at the legislature at our own state capital. I just had no idea of all that goes on....* **Liz Ronaldson**

*The ALFH program helped me to experience the various agricultural perspectives as well as it gave me a greater appreciation of the many challenges and opportunities ahead of our agricultural industry. This program also allowed me to see first hand the many projects that the Farm Bureau supported statewide. The ALFH program is definitely an experience that I encourage all industry leaders to go through.* **Alan Takemoto**