



**Agricultural
Leadership
Foundation of
Hawai'i**

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MEDIA RELEASE

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**Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawai'i
New Presidents Message: Team Work and Kokua are Key**

March 7, 2008. When sugar was “King” many of the challenges faced by agriculture were addressed by the cane industry. Over the past 15 years, as one plantation after another closed down, we began to see just how huge that contribution was. Today we are faced with crumbling agricultural infrastructure including farm roads, energy delivery, and irrigation systems. The deterioration of the irrigation infrastructure is especially troublesome. A bumper sticker I see from time to time says it all: “No water, no agriculture. No agriculture, no food. Any questions?” However, because of past leadership ALFH is well positioned to address those challenges.

The ALFH program assists in building community capacity to deal with short term and long-term agricultural bottlenecks in Hawaii. The need for strong, active/proactive, and visionary leadership is greater than ever. But, we are currently faced with two internal challenges that will test our ability to survive. The first is the need to update our program and search for a replacement for our beloved Donna Ching. The second is the performance of our investments in the present economy. Like all invested in the stock market, our financial cushion is rapidly deflating. So what do we do?

I invite all ALFH alumni, Board members, family, friends, and community to join with me in addressing our challenges head on. As a matter of fact, I view these challenges as opportunity. The opportunity is that this is our time, place, and responsibility to step up and act upon the training we have received. Now, more than ever, team work and kokua is the key to “beating back” these challenges and emerge from the process as a stronger, group that will be better positioned to respond quickly to the challenges of the future.

I look forward to my tenure as president of ALFH. I think we are serving a critical need in our community, industry, and State. My personal goal is to solidify the role ALFH plays in securing an agricultural future that is sustainable, robust, and attractive to our keiki. I thank you for the confidence you have placed in me and will do my best to live up to the expectations that we all have for a bright agricultural industry in the State of Hawaii.

Photo attached: John McHugh, Crop Care, LLC and President ALFH

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PROVIDING LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR HAWAII'S AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY

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