

## Program Sponsors

The Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii was established in 1982 to facilitate the development of leaders to sustain and enhance Hawaii's agricultural sector and rural communities. To achieve its mission, the Foundation created the multi-disciplinary Agricultural Leadership Program. While the Foundation is best known for this Program, over the years other programs (e.g. Rural Community Leadership) and educational outreach (e.g. Ag Day and Ag Conference) have also been sponsored by the Foundation.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources is committed to the preparation of students and all citizens of Hawaii for life in the global community through research, instruction and extension programs supporting tropical agricultural systems that foster viable communities, a diversified economy and a healthy environment. The college has provided support for the Agricultural Leadership Program since its inception. Currently, the coordinator of the Program is an extension specialist in the college.

### For more information contact:

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**University of Hawaii at Manoa**  
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# Agricultural Leadership Program

Roster of Class XI Participants  
July 2006 – November 2007

Coordinator:  
**Donna R. Ching, Ph.D.**  
*Extension Specialist in Agricultural Leadership*  
2515 Campus Road, Miller 110  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822  
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## The Need for Leadership

Agriculture continues to be one of the largest sectors in Hawaii. Yet, sector transformation must take place to meet rapidly changing technological and global demands. A diversified agricultural sector is evolving and it is closely linked to the development of sustainable rural communities. Today's agricultural and rural community entrepreneurs have a unique opportunity to address our State's need for a healthy balance between our food supply, energy efficiency, the environment and a strong economy.

The people involved in Hawaii's agricultural sector and rural communities are dedicated and highly productive. Independent farmers and rural entrepreneurs have extremely varied backgrounds and form a diverse group with a wide range of interests. The lack of coordination in sector-wide planning, the difficulty of achieving sustainability and the lack of opportunities to study and become articulate in public affairs issues are challenges to overcome.

The future success and strength of our agricultural base and rural communities depend on highly qualified, effective leaders. These leaders must begin the process of bringing people together to address key issues.

The economic vitality of agriculture and rural communities has reverberating effects throughout our entire society. Meeting the challenges and seizing new opportunities for Hawaii's agricultural sector and rural communities will significantly improve the quality of life of Hawaii's residents and visitors.



## The Agricultural Leadership Program

The Agricultural Leadership Program is a resource for talented women and men who want to contribute to a better future for Hawaii's agricultural sector and rural communities. The Program looks for participants with diverse backgrounds and interests who have demonstrated a commitment to lead and want to broaden their knowledge and outlook and enhance leadership skills.

The Program's core curriculum includes: collaborative decision making, facilitative leadership, strategic thinking and planning and group process skills. The Program also works to develop a network of leaders who are committed to using what they have learned to facilitate the development of sustainable rural communities. Through this Program, participants: (1) form a network of associates they can call upon when they need assistance, (2) learn to take a wider perspective beyond their own industry or community and (3) see that challenges and opportunities cross industry and community lines and can be better addressed when dealt with collaboratively.

The Program is composed of a series of eight seminars and a 14-day national trip held over a period of about 16 months. The 3 or 4-day seminars are held around the State about every six weeks and focus on local and state issues. On the national trip, a week is spent in Washington, D.C. studying national and international issues that have an impact on the agricultural sector and rural communities. The second week of the national trip is spent studying agricultural and rural community systems in a state the class selects.



**Kamaui Aiona**

Garden Director, Kahanu Garden of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 95, Hana, Hawaii, 96713. Kamaui manages this Hawaiian ethnobotanical garden and Piilanihale Heiau, a 500 year old

Hawaiian temple on the garden property. He has a bachelor's degree in Hawaiian Studies and Natural Sciences and an M.S. in Botany. His primary goal is to maintain a harmonious balance between the garden operations and the appropriate management of the heiau.



**Tova Callender**

Agricultural Systems Modeler & Educator, Maui Land & Pineapple Co., 4900 Honoapiilani Hwy, Lahaina HI 96761. Raised in Canada, Tova has a B.S. in Environmental Biology from McGill University and a master's of

Environmental Science and Management from UC Santa Barbara. She is thrilled to be coordinating sustainable agriculture research, fostering youth's interest in farming and facilitating sustainability initiatives at ML&P.



**Susan M. Keller**

Administrator for Kauai County Farm Bureau, P.O. Box 297, Kilauea, HI 96754. Sue has a B.S. in Agriculture from UH-Hilo and an M.S. in Pomology from UC-Davis. She worked for CTAHR as a Research Associate for 14

years. Sue is also a wife to Randy and mom to Ginger (9). Sue believes in the purpose of the Farm Bureau: to represent, protect and advance the social, economic & educational interests of the agricultural sector.



**Robert Lu'uwai**

Manager, Factory Operation for Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co., P.O. Box 266, Puunene, Maui, Hawaii 96784. HC&S's principal businesses are the growing and milling of sugarcane and the generation and

sale of electricity. Robert earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Oregon State University. He currently serves as the commodore for the Ma'alaea Boat and Fishing Club, director for the Ma'alaea Ebesu Kotohira Jinsha Church and a member of Protect Kaho'olawe Ohana.



**Stephen H. Onaga**

Manager, Purchasing & Inventory for Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co., P.O. Box 266, Puunene, Maui, Hawaii 96784. HC&S's principal businesses are the growing and milling of sugarcane (for raw sugar, molasses, and Maui Brand

specialty sugar) and the generation and sale of electricity. Steve earned a B.A. in Finance from the University of Hawaii. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Museum and was past President.



**Mike Poteet**

Assistant Agronomist, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, 99-193 Aiea Heights Drive Suite 300, Aiea, HI 96701. Mike earned a B.S. in Agriculture from Austin Peay State University and an M.S. in Soil Science from Penn State. He is

responsible for making agronomic recommendations and conducting field experiments for Hawaii's two sugar plantations. Mike's research interests include drought-tolerant crops and oilseed crops. He is a member of the Agronomy Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America.



**Lani (Medina) Weigert**

Co-owner and Marketing, PR Director for Ali'i Kula Lavender, 1100 Waipoli Road, Kula, Maui, Hawaii 96790. After working in the travel industry for 28 years, Lani helped create Ali'i Kula Lavender, as Maui's Premier Lavender Farm. Lani

oversees all marketing and public relations. She is a member of the Maui Farm Bureau, founding member of the State Ag Department's Seal of Quality program, and Co-chair for Maui Economic Development Board Membership committee.



**Kawika Winter**

Director, Limahuli Garden and Preserve, PO Box 808, Hanalei, HI 96714. Kawika runs a one thousand acre botanical garden and nature preserve that is managed by the non-profit organization, National Tropical Botanical

Garden. Limahuli's goal is to restore the ecological and cultural integrity of the ahupua'a of Ha'ena. Some of the major projects at Limahuli include native forest restoration, lo'i restoration, and traditional fishery management.



**George "Keoki" Wood**

Livestock Operations Manager, Parker Ranch, 67-1435 Mamalahoa Hwy., Kamuela, Hawaii 96743. George is married to Lisa a D.V.M in Kamuela, with two children, John (19) a freshman at C.S.U. and Justina (16) at Hawaii

Prep. He graduated with a B.S. in Agricultural Economics from Washington State University. Memberships include the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Hawaii Cattlemen's Association, Hawaii Cattle Producers Cooperative, Hawaii County 4H Club and Saint Joseph's Catholic Mission Church.

**Calendar/Curriculum for Class XI**

Date	Place	Topic
<b>Seminar 1</b> August 3-6, 2006	Hawaii	Understanding Group Process and the Power of Collaboration
<b>Seminar 2</b> Oct. 26-29	Oahu	Ag Conference and Learning to Lead Collaboratively Workshop
<b>Seminar 3</b> Dec. 8-10	Maui	Ag Tourism, Marketing, Value Added Products
<b>Seminar 4</b> Jan. 19-21, 2007	Kauai	Traditional Ag in Hawaii, Community Empowerment
<b>Seminar 5</b> March	Oahu	State Legislature
<b>Seminar 6</b> April 27-29	Maui	Land and Water Use, Grow Your Own Food
<b>Seminar 7</b> July 13-15	Oahu	Strategic Planning, Transportation and Distribution
Sept. 15-29		National Trip
<b>Seminar 8</b> Nov. 15-18	Hawaii	Graduation

**Mission Statement for Class XI of the Agricultural Leadership Program**

Hawaii has always been a unique place of wonderful opportunities and difficult challenges. Influenced by the current climate of Hawaii's agricultural environment, Class XI of agricultural leaders has committed to the sustainable stewardship of our agricultural sector and communities. This mission was drawn from specific behaviors chosen by the Class. We agreed to:

- Promote food and energy self-sufficiency for Hawaii;
- Promote agricultural practices that enhance natural resources for future generations;

- Seek strategies to increase the economic viability of sustainable agriculture;
- Promote cooperation and active involvement within the agricultural sector and all sectors to effect positive change;
- Educate non-agricultural elements of the community to increase support for the agricultural sector;
- Encourage consumers to purchase local produce;
- Empower communities to grow their own food.