

Program Sponsors

The Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii was established in 1982 to facilitate the development of leaders focused on sustaining and enhancing 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.

Additional financial support for Class XII participants was provided by Alu Like, Hawaii Florist and Shippers Association, Maui County Farm Bureau, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the National Farmers Union.

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AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP Program

Class XII
July 2008 – December 2009
Roster of Participants

Sponsors:



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



**Agricultural
Leadership
Foundation of
Hawai'i**

The Need for Leadership

Agriculture continues to be one of the largest sectors in Hawaii. Rapidly changing technological and global demands have forced the diversification of the agricultural sector. As a result, our 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.

Sector diversification means individuals with varied backgrounds and a wide range of interests must work together. 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 we must 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 society. Meeting challenges and seizing new opportunities for Hawaii's agricultural sector and rural communities will significantly improve the quality of life for both residents and visitors.

The Agricultural Leadership Program

The Agricultural Leadership Program is a resource for leaders trying to contribute to a better future for Hawaii's agricultural sector and rural communities. The Program seeks out participants with diverse backgrounds and interests who have demonstrated a commitment to lead and who wish to broaden their knowledge and enhance their leadership skills.

The Program's core curriculum includes:

- collaborative decision making
- facilitative leadership
- strategic thinking
- planning and group process skills

Participants will:

- form a network of associates they can call upon when they need assistance
- expand their horizons beyond their own industry or community
- 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 three or four day seminars and a 14-day national trip held over a period of 16 months. Seminars are held around the State and focus on local and state issues. On the national trip one week is spent in Washington, D.C. studying national and international issues impacting the agricultural sector and rural communities. The second week is spent studying agricultural and rural community systems in a state selected by the class.

Class XII Bios



Luisa F. Castro

Assistant Water Quality Coordinator, CTAHR, Cooperative Extension Service, 875 Komohana Street, Hilo, HI 96720. Luisa coordinates federally-funded pollution risk assessment and public education projects. She produces and delivers water quality and pollution assessment education materials through workshops, trainings, public presentations and electronic media. She also coaches farmers on adopting good agricultural practices to promote farm food safety.



Laurie Goodwin

Hawaii Outreach Manager, Syngenta Seeds, 7050 Kaunualii Hwy, Kekaha, HI, 96752. Laurie's job with Syngenta includes cultivating and supporting business, community and government relations through outreach and education. She obtained a B.S. majoring in Agronomy from the University of Guelph. She has been an accredited member of the Certified Crop Advisor group for over eight years and is the current Chairperson of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association's Outreach committee.



Marissa Harman

Land Asset Manager, Kamehameha Schools Land Assets Division, 78-6831 Ali'i Drive, Suite 234, Kailua, Kona, HI 96740. Marissa is involved in the planning and management of Kamehameha Schools' agricultural and conservation lands on Hawai'i Island. KS agricultural leases cover a wide range of crops and a variety of growing conditions. She has a B.A. in Liberal Studies – Hawaiian Preservation and a M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning.



Mark Lopes

Manager, Harvesting and Field Preparation Department, Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Co., P.O. Box 266, Puunene, Maui, HI 96784. HC&S's principal businesses are the growing and milling of

sugarcane on 36,000 acres on Maui; production of raw sugar, molasses, and specialty sugar; and the generation and sale of electricity. Mark has worked for HC&S for 26 years. He lives in the upcountry area with his son and recently obtained his business degree from the University of Phoenix.



Kylie Matsuda

Managing Director, Kahuku Farms, P.O. Box 36, Kahuku, HI 96731. A 4th generation farmer, Kylie hopes to continue her family's farming legacy by diversifying its offerings through Agtourism activities and value added products. As a graduate of the Travel Industry Management School at the University of Hawaii, Kylie's primary goal is to create a sustainable model of agriculture through education and the business of growing fresh local food.



Thong-Teng Neo

Manager, Asia Pacific Flowers Inc, P.O. Box 1121, Hilo, HI 96778. Asia Pacific Flowers, founded in 1977, is one of the oldest and largest commercial cut and potted orchid nurseries in Hawaii. Neo is from Singapore and has traveled and worked in different Asian countries before moving to Hawaii 6 years ago. Currently he is the President of the Orchid Growers of Hawaii, a statewide orchid association.



Eden Marie Peart

Organizer, Hawaii Farmers Union / Owner-operator Kawaiholehole Farm, P.O. Box 1863, Honokaa, HI 96727. HFU is the newest subdivision of the National Farmers Union, America's oldest general farming organization. Eden is engaged in establishing HFU and community food sovereignty initiatives. Utilizing her background in agricultural production and teaching / school librarianship she is developing her 14 acre farm to include food production, value-added ag products, habitat restoration and an enrichment program for foster youth.



Irene Plunkett-Mina

Co-owner, Kahanu Aina Sprouts, 1768 Kalawi Place, Wailuku, HI 96793. Irene is a biological farmer who assists other farmers in promoting fresh island produce in the marketplace. She also promotes and works to increase soil fertility in Hawaii through education, outreach programs, seminars and conferences. Irene serves as an officer of Maui Aloha Aina Association and is a member and special events coordinator for the Maui County Farm Bureau.



Mike Shimatsu

Roast Master, Kauai Coffee Co., P.O. Box 530, Kalaheo, Kauai, HI 96741. Kauai Coffee grows, processes and roasts coffee. The business focuses on the sale and marketing of green (unroasted) coffee and the sale of roasted coffee. Mike manages the production, operation and maintenance requirements of the roasting plant. He is a member of the Kauai Farm Bureau and the Hawaii Coffee Association (for whom he has conducted cupping and grading workshops).



Ron Weidenbach

Co-Owner, Hawaii Fish Company, P.O. Box 1039, Waiialua, HI 96791. Ron manages a multi-species aquafarm on the North Shore of Oahu and is President of the Hawaii Aquaculture Association (i.e., State aquaculture industry association). He has B.S. and M.S. degrees in Natural Resource Management from the University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources, and was formerly a Fishery Biologist with the University of Miami, the University of Michigan and the East West Center.



Sabrina White

Assistant Manager, Ponoholo Ranch, Ltd., P.O. Box 2647, Kamuela, HI 96743. Sabrina is a 3rd generation rancher on her family-owned, commercial cow/calf operation with Angus and Charolais as the predominant breeds. Memberships include the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Hawaii Cattlemen's

Association, and Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. She is a graduate of Colorado State University with a B.S. in Animal Science, Industry Concentration.



Randy Yokoyama

Operation Manager, Monsanto Company, Box 609, Hanapepe, Kauai, HI 96716. Randy has a B.S. in Landscape Horticulture from Rutgers University. He is married to Suzanne and has a son named Braeden. He has worked for Monsanto for 14 years where he grows mostly seed corn. Randy is currently the board Treasurer for the Kauai County Farm Bureau and a former board Secretary of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association.

Mission statement for Class XII of the Agricultural Leadership Program

Recognizing that the desire for the highest common good is shared by most people living in Hawaii today, Class XII has a deep commitment to local agricultural production, natural resource conservation and protection of Hawaii's distinct and unique environment.

- We resolve to share our commitment by enhancing agricultural conservation practices and by educating the community about the importance of using our natural resources respectfully and responsibly.
- We will lead by example to perpetuate our values of integrity, natural resource conservation and support of local agriculture.
- We pledge to be a model of natural resource conservation for other business sectors.
- We will promote agriculture in a collective and informed way while continuing to honor Hawaii's agricultural heritage.
- We resolve to be accountable for commitments we make and work towards collaborative decision-making on agricultural issues.

