



**Agricultural Leadership**  
Foundation of Hawai'i

## **AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

### **CLASS XVI - 2018-2019**

The Agricultural Leadership Program (ALP) is the flagship program of the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawai'i, a non-profit organization with deep roots in Hawai'i. ALP is for promising leaders from Hawaii's agricultural, natural resource management, and rural community sectors. By combining strong leadership development content with exposure to organizations, agricultural operations and community networks, participants have an opportunity to understand the complex relationships that create challenges, which demand innovative thinking and collaborative decision making for leaders in Hawai'i. Through ALP, leaders develop the knowledge, relationships, tools and skills that will enable them to be more successful in their work and community endeavors. The training is designed for individuals who have already demonstrated a commitment to lead in their line of work or community activities.

Members of Class XVI will attend a series of seven seminars and a two-week national trip over an 18-month period that spans from May 2018 – November 2019. Content areas integral to agriculture in Hawai'i are imbedded in each seminar and participants design parts of the seminars to meet their specific interests. Leadership, conflict resolution and mediation as well as communication and facilitation skills are taught by Peter Adler, Ph.D., Donna Ching Ph.D. and other leadership trainers.

ALP is supported by annual contributions from program alumni and board members. Additional financial support for Class XVI participants has been provided by:

- State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture
- Ulupono Fund at the Hawai'i Community Foundation
- Kamehameha Schools
- DowDuPont™
- Additional supporters

## MEET CLASS XVI



**Jayme R. Barton**

**Kunia Research Station Farm Manager  
Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center, O'ahu**

Jayme was born in Oregon and lived in California and Nevada before moving to Hawai'i in 2004. She received a M.A. in Global Leadership and Sustainable Development with an emphasis in Environmental Policy from Hawai'i Pacific University. She began her career in agricultural research at HARC in 2009 and currently manages the Kunia research farm in addition to providing agronomic consulting services to businesses throughout the state and abroad. Her research has focused on renewable energy crop development, soil health and conservation practices, carbon sequestration potential, and developing sources of locally produced animal feed. Jayme lives with her husband and puppy as caretakers on the 108-acre farm in Kunia and enjoys sailing, traveling and spending time in the water.



**Gene Ross K. Davis**

**Acting Homestead District Supervisor  
Hawai'i Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Moloka'i**

Gene Ross was born and raised on Moloka'i. He is a third generation Homesteader living a rural lifestyle of farming and gathering. He continues to practice the old traditions of the Hawaiian culture and provides for his family through subsistence and sustainable farming. Gene Ross graduated from Moloka'i High School and attended Brigham Young University of Hawai'i, graduating with a B.A. in Biological Science. Governor Ige appointed him as the Hawaiian Homes Commissioner to represent Molokai to work statewide on Hawaiian Home Land issues. In September 2017, he became the Acting Department of Hawaiian Home Lands Homestead District Supervisor, overseeing and managing day-to-day operations of the District Office. Prior to that, he was with the Department of Agriculture for 17 years, as a Livestock Inspector II.



**Yarrow Flower**

**Land Asset Manager  
Monsanto Company, Maui**

Yarrow was raised in rural northern California and received a B.A. in Sociology from Humboldt State University. She has worked in agriculture and land use in Hawai'i for more than 13 years and currently manages land and water resources for Monsanto on the islands of Maui, Moloka'i and O'ahu. Her duties include strategic planning, managing tenant leases for local farmers, and supporting her company's values of sustainable agriculture. Yarrow is passionate about volunteering in her community and serves as a board director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hawai'i and she chairs the Maui County Civil Service Commission. She enjoys gardening & beekeeping, hiking, and spending time at home in Makawao with her husband and 3 dogs.



**Jonathan Ho**

**Acting Manager  
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture - Plant Quarantine Branch, O'ahu**

Jonathan was born and raised on O'ahu and received a B.S. in Plant and Environmental Protection Science from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. His work involves regulating the importation of plants, plant parts, non-domestic animals, and microorganisms into the State to protect Hawaii's agricultural and horticultural industries, environment, and natural resources, and to ensure human and animal health and safety. Jonathan enjoys spending his free time with his wife and son as well as collecting and propagating a wide range of ornamental plants.

## MEET CLASS XVI - Continued



**Brian Kau**

**Administrator and Chief Engineer  
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, O'ahu**

Brian was born and raised in Honolulu. He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering with areas of emphasis in geotechnical and environmental engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder. His position in the Department allows him to participate in policy making for the use of public land and water resources to promote the growth of diversified agriculture in Hawai'i. Brian is also a certified substitute teacher for a low-income public school and an avid diy'er. When not working, Brian enjoys spending time with his family, woodworking, reading, exercising, and eating at dives.



**Will Lydgate**

**Owner and Manager  
Lydgate Farms, LLC., Kaua'i**

Will was born in California to a family with agriculture on both sides: The Lydgates going back to Laupāhoehoe sugar plantation on Hawai'i island in the 1870s, and the Hibbs family who raised corn and soybeans since the early 1900s in Iowa. Will grew up with a latent fascination for plants and agriculture and a thirst to discover his family's Hawaiian history. Also, an accomplished musician, Will has a B.M. from Berklee College of Music in Boston and an M.M. from their Valencia, Spain campus. Will runs his family's cacao operation -- pioneers of ag-tourism in Hawai'i, and is helping to show growers the important keys to profitability contained in value-added sales. Will is an accomplished public speaker and his TEDx talk 'Changing the Way We Think About Chocolate' sheds light on the specialty chocolate movement, which is based on fine flavor in chocolate growing and post-harvest processing.



**Julia Nemoto**

**Farmer & Food Safety Planner  
Hawai'i Island**

Julia is originally from Munich, Germany and received a B.S. in Horticultural Engineering at the University of Applied Sciences Weihenstephan. She has production farming experience in Romania, Italy, France, Germany, and Hawai'i. Julia served as one of Hawaii's first FoodCorps service members at Māla'ai - the Culinary Garden at Waimea Middle School. She is currently assisting the Discovery Garden at Kohala Elementary School to develop a food safety plan. Her hope is that an increasing amount of healthy and locally sourced food can be made available in Hawaii's school cafeterias. Together with her husband, she is starting a cacao farm in Laupāhoehoe where they also grow a broad variety of fruits and vegetables.



**Richard "Buddy" Nichols**

**FSA Farm Loan Manager  
USDA Farm Service Agency, Maui**

Buddy is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmer of fruits, vegetables, row crops, and livestock. He has a B.S. degree in Animal Science and M.B.A. in Accounting. Buddy has served on numerous local, state, and national farm-related boards of directors in the cooperative, association, and private sectors. In addition to supporting farmers in Maui County through federal loans, Buddy ensures that his family farm in Colorado remains in operation.

## MEET CLASS XVI - Continued



**Olelo pa'a Faith Ogawa**  
**Chef, Life Coach, Educator**  
**Glow Hawaii, Inc., Hawai'i Island**

Olelo pa'a completed the Culinary Program at the University of Hawai'i in the 1970s and has since become a highly sought-after private chef. Olelo pa'a, a name bestowed upon her meaning "forever, the very spark of existence," is recognized as one of the most steady and vigorous voices in support of Hawai'i's produce and ranch farming communities. Over the course of greater than 40 years, Olelo pa'a has provided voluminous leadership skills to countless individuals seeking a better understanding of culinary excellence and how that can only be successful with a symbiotic relationship between farmers, ranchers and chefs. Olelo pa'a is recognized as one of Hawai'i's coterie of pioneering and progressive chefs placing the cuisine of the Hawaiian Islands on the world culinary map and has recently expanded her gifts by becoming a holistic life coach.



**Nick Reppun**  
**Farm Manager**  
**Kāko'o 'Oiwi, O'ahu**

Born and raised on O'ahu, Nick has already had a lifetime of agricultural experience. Growing up on a highly diversified family farm gave Nick an intuitive understanding of cultivating and caring for the land. After graduating from Occidental College with a B.A. in Visual Arts, Nick's creativity took root once again in agriculture, working on the family farm, running his own small nursery business, and later managing lo'i kalo for Papahana Kuaola, a Native Hawaiian educational non-profit. Nick's life then took him to New Hampshire, where for two years, he and his partner established and managed a diversified farm program for Sanborn Mills Farm, growing mixed vegetables, raising sheep, and making maple syrup. After spending 6 months travelling the US learning from and working with other farmers, Nick took up the position of Farm Manager for Kāko'o 'Oiwi. His current work focuses on wetland kalo production and agroforestry as part of a diversified system of agricultural, ecological and cultural restoration in He'eia.



**Dana Sato**  
**Director, Asset Management (O'ahu)**  
**Kamehameha Schools, O'ahu**

Born on Wake Island, rooted on Maui, and living on O'ahu, Dana earned a B.A. in Political Science from Gonzaga University and a Juris Doctorate from the William S. Richardson School of Law. She is a licensed real estate attorney with nearly 30 years of experience. Dana joined Kamehameha Schools as a Senior Counsel supporting Kamehameha Schools' statewide 'āina teams. In her current position, she oversees a team that manages the Schools' agricultural, conservation, and residential lands on the islands of Maui, Molokai, Kaua'i and O'ahu. Dana's passion is helping people to be successful and when it comes to 'āina and agriculture, she's always looking for opportunities to help farmers get to the "next level." Dana also serves as a director on the board of the Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center. On most Saturdays, you will find her volunteering at Keiki O Ka 'Āina's Board & Stone classes, where she is helping to "build families" through cultural learning.

## MEET CLASS XVI - *Continued*



**Sarah Styan, Ph.D.**

**Founder  
SMNS, LLC, Kaua'i**

Sarah was born and raised in Massachusetts, growing up on her family's small fruits nursery, Nourse Farms, Inc. Sarah has a BS in Plant Science from Cornell University, M.Sc. in Crop Science specializing in Plant Breeding from Wageningen Agricultural University in the Netherlands, and a Ph.D. in Horticulture from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. In 2019 Sarah founded SMNS, LLC and is starting a non-profit to develop a Kaua'i Community Science Center in Waimea. She worked the last 17 years as a Scientist for Corteva Agriscience™ Agriculture Division of DowDuPont™, also in Waimea. Sarah worked at the Research Division of Ferry Morse Seed Company in San Juan Bautista, California for three years and she also worked as a post-doc at USDA-ARS Fruit Lab in Beltsville, MD prior to returning to Hawai'i and starting with then Pioneer on Kaua'i in 2002. Sarah lives in Hanapēpē with her husband and 15-year-old daughter. She enjoys spending her free time with her family, gardening, and outrigger canoe paddling.



**Jonathan Tanouye**

**Production Manager  
Green Point Nurseries, Inc., Hawai'i Island**

Born and raised in East Hawai'i of the Big Island of Hawai'i, Jon received a B.S. in Agriculture, specializing in Tropical Horticulture from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. After graduation, Jon joined his family owned and operated nursery, Green Point Nurseries, located in Hilo, where he currently oversees production. As a third-generation nursery person, he hopes to continue the family business by promoting and sharing Hawai'i Floriculture with Hawai'i, the U.S., and the world. He also currently serves as the President of the Orchid Growers of Hawai'i.



**Drew Wilkinson**

**Associate, Propagation  
TerViva, O'ahu**

Drew grew up in West Palm Beach, Florida and graduated from Florida State University with a B.S. in Biology and Earth Science Education. He moved to Hawai'i in 2008 and began studying and practicing permaculture design, installing edible landscapes, and volunteering as a lead designer with Permablitz Hawai'i. Drew works for TerViva and manages a nursery on the North Shore of O'ahu propagating a tree crop called Pongamia. This nitrogen fixing tree can grow on degraded land and produce a high yield of seed pods, which are rich in oil and can be used as a source of renewable energy and animal feed. Drew has a passion for surfing and cooking farm-fresh local meals with friends.

**Presented by**

**Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawai'i**

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