

AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM CLASS XVII

CLASS BROCHURE

The Agricultural Leadership Program (ALP) is a signature program of the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawai'i (ALFH), a non-profit organization with deep roots in Hawai'i. ALP is for promising leaders from Hawai'i's agricultural, natural resource management, and rural community sectors. The program combines strong leadership development content with exposure to organizations, agricultural operations and community networks to give participants the opportunity to understand the complex relationships that create challenges and demand innovating thinking and collaborative decision making by 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.

ALP Class XVII was set to begin in May 2020 but had to be postponed due to the pandemic. ALFH recognized the need to persevere in our quest to continue to empower ag leaders and so a re-envisioned program that includes a virtual component was developed. ALP Class XVII will run from November 2020 - November 2021. The program will continue to focus on network-building and will include leadership development workshops, skill-building sessions, guest presentations and virtual site tours, site visits with hands-on learning shared virtually, exploration in government processes, and group exploration in Hawai'i and beyond when possible.

In the following pages, you will meet ALP Class XVII and learn about their diverse backgrounds. ALFH is excited to include the leaders of ALP Class XVII into our 'ohana and we look forward to the differences they will make for agriculture and local communities in the future.

ALP is supported by annual contributions from program alumni and board members. Additional financial support for ALP Class XVII has been provided by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, the Ulupono Fund at the Hawai'i Community Foundation, American AgCredit and Corteva Agriscience.



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BIOGRAPHIES

SUSAN COLLINS

Bird and Bee Hawai'i

Owner

Hawai'i



Susan Collins is the owner of Bird and Bee Hawai'i, LLC apiary. She is also currently a librarian in the Hawai'i Public Library System. She holds a Bachelors degree in Social Work and Environmental Education; a Masters degree in International Education from Teachers College/Columbia University; and a Masters in Information and Technology Science. Susan grew up on a small farm in New Jersey. She taught environmental education in Nicaragua through the Peace Corps in 2001-2003 and in Panama in 2010. She currently lives on 5 acres with her husband and a menagerie of animals and apiary. Her goal is to educate others about the importance of honey bees and pollinators in the area of agriculture in Hawai'i.

VICTORIA MATSUMURA

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture

Environmental Health Specialist

O'ahu



Victoria "Tory" Matsumura has had a love of all things buggy since a young girl. She moved to Hawai'i in 2007 after completing her Master's Degree in Entomology from Purdue University. She began her career working as an entomologist at the Vector Control Branch at the Department of Health, where she met her future husband, Kevin. After a reduction in force in 2009, she left the HDOH to work in private pest control, where she worked as the technical director and entomologist for a large, locally owned pest control company. After three years of cockroaches, bedbugs, and many other urban pests, Victoria pursued dreams of working with pesticide regulations at the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. Tory loves regulatory work and has always wanted to pursue the ideal that there must be people to maintain balance between the ability to produce the food people need, and the protection of human health and the environment. In her free time, Tory loves spending time with her husband and two kids, cooking, learning home improvement, beautiful walks, and of course, enjoying a coffee and a nice conversation.

STEPHANIE MOCK

Kualoa Ranch

Sustainability Manager

O'ahu



Stephanie Mock was raised in Maryland and received her B.A. in Environmental Studies and International Development from Tulane University where she focused on environmental economics and conservation in international countries. She studied abroad in Accra, Ghana and also in Costa Rica with the Organization of Tropical Studies. She has backpacked around Southeast Asia extensively and was an English teacher in Phnom Penh, Cambodia for some time. During her travels, she picked up a love of scuba diving which initially brought her to Hawai'i in her aim of becoming a divemaster. The ocean may have enticed her to Hawai'i but the land is what has made her stay. For the past five years, Stephanie has worked hand-in-hand with local farms and ranches on conservation planning, soil health, marketing, agritourism, and sustainability planning. She currently serves as a board member of the Sustainable Tourism Association of Hawai'i. When she's not working, Stephanie is daydreaming of her next trip, brainstorming new value-added Hawai'i products, or laying outside reading a book.

BLAIR RICHARDS

Sensei Ag

Director of Sales and Business Development

O'ahu, Lana'i



Blair Richards was born in Washington State and relocated to Hawai'i in 2016. Blair started working in the agriculture sector as a seasonal employee for Charlie's Produce while studying at Washington State. He joined Charlie's full time where he enjoyed a successful 15-year career. He then became General Manager of Rogge Co., a division of Charlie's that specializes in providing goods & services to Alaska. Upon relocating to Hawai'i, Blair became Chief Operating Officer of D. Otani Produce, a family-run distribution company located in Honolulu. In 2018, he joined Sensei Ag as Director of Sales and Business Development. Blair's passion is to connect people with food - sharing the experience and journey with others.

LAURA RIEBER

No Spray Hawai'i

Farm Manager, Co-Creator

Hawai'i



Laura Rieber obtained a B.S. in Agriculture from the University of Hawai'i at Hilo with a focus on sustainability and agriculture business. She designed, created, and maintains a one-acre agroforestry operation along with her partner on Hawai'i Island. It produces most of their dietary needs as well as supplies the crops which support the small business they founded through value adding. She is a Master Gardener, Forest Steward, consulted both privately and for non-profits, as well as created various educational material for regenerative farming practices in the tropics helping to guide over 60 W.W.O.O.F. (World Wide on Organic Farms) volunteers. One of her current projects is the transformation of a one-acre "yard" surrounding a house on former sugar-cane land into a high-density, sustainable food forest with perennial edibles and a variety of fruit trees. A love for the land and a passion for knowledge combined with the desire to teach others is what drives Laura Rieber to continually grow within the agriculture sector.