

Agricultural Leadership Program

» CLASS XVIII BROCHURE «

Meet the members of ALP Class XVIII



Program Background

The Agricultural Leadership Program (ALP) is the signature training program of the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawai'i (ALFH), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1982. ALP is a multi-disciplinary statewide program that brings together promising leaders from Hawai'i's diverse agriculture sector. ALP focuses on developing knowledgeable, multicultural leaders who have the skills necessary to find solutions to current issues that challenge agriculture, natural resources and communities at local, state and national levels.

ALP offers participants an in-depth look at Hawai'i's diverse agricultural system through in-person **site visits** that explore challenges and opportunities associated with agricultural operations; provide insights into the supply chain, transportation and value-added activities; and increase exposure to government policymaking and implementation. Participants take part in **workshops** that focus on leadership and skill development as well as **network building** activities. These three components combine to help participants develop the knowledge, tools and relationships to be more successful in their professional and community endeavors.



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Ramsey Kanoa Brown

VP of Diversified Agriculture

Pono Pacific Land Management, LLC, O'ahu

Ramsey was born and raised in Honolulu, earning his Bachelor of Arts in Mechanical Engineering with a Minor in Power Generation from the California Maritime Academy. Passionate about sustainability, Ramsey worked in the energy efficiency sector for 10 years before becoming the Vice President of Diversified Agriculture for Pono Pacific. In this role, Ramsey is primarily responsible for the operation of the 468-acre Kuilima Farm at Turtle Bay Resort. The USDA GAP-certified farm connects the community and Hawai'i's visitors to local farming, growing a wide variety of produce that is proudly served at Turtle Bay Resort and sold through several grocers. Under Ramsey's leadership, the team is working to expand access to land and markets for more farmers. His experience includes farm development under a conservation easement, diversifying revenue streams including production and agritours, and managing tenant farmers. Ramsey loves Jesus and enjoys leading in his church. He also serves on the board of the O'ahu Agriculture and Conservation Association. Ramsey stays active dancing hula, trail running, and surfing with his wife, Lauren.



Juli Janice Burden

Research Assistant

Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center, O'ahu

Juli Burden earned a Bachelor of Science in Tropical Agriculture and Environment with a concentration in Environmental Soil Science from the University of Hawai'i, and a Masters of Science in Agroecology from UH Mānoa, specializing in agriphotovoltaic systems. Since 2012, Juli has worked as a research technician at the Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center (HARC) where she has gained experience with a wide range of crops, with a particular specialization in coffee agronomy. More recently, Juli became a Research Assistant, where her primary focus has shifted to researching the nexus of water conservation, increasing local food production, and helping O'ahu meet our renewable energy needs in agriphotovoltaic systems. She tests and maintains different types of crops in megawatt-scale photovoltaic farms in Mililani. One of Juli's hobbies includes managing a 1.5-acre diversified agroforestry coffee orchard in Maunawili where she focuses on improving quality through sustainable nutrient management and advanced post-harvest processing techniques. She has also been an avid film photographer since her teens, specializing in color, black & white, street, and abstract photography.



Justine P. Kamelamela

Pana'ewa Hub, Site Manager

Kea'ahuli O Pana'ewa, Coordinator

Keaukaha-Pana'ewa Farmers Association, Hawai'i

Justine is a Native Hawaiian Homesteader. She was born and raised on the southwest side of O'ahu and currently resides with her 'ohana in the Pana'ewa Agricultural Homesteads on Hawai'i Island. For five years she has served as the Site Manager at the Pana'ewa Resilience and Agricultural Innovation Hub (Pana'ewa Hub) and recently as the Coordinator of Kea'ahuli O Pana'ewa, an agroforestry and climate dashboard project in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. In her spare time Justine enjoys farming with her 'ohana, hand appliqué, and Hawaiian quilting.



Jin-Wah Lau

Farm Coach

Go Farm Hawai'i, Kaua'i

Jin-Wah Lau was born in California and moved to O'ahu after graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts from the University of California, Santa Barbara. While studying flora, she fell in love with weeds and is still impressed by their ingenuity, recovery, and persistence. She has worked with the Maui and then Kaua'i Invasive Species Committees, the Hawai'i Department of Forestry and Wildlife and the National Tropical Botanical Garden. Jin-Wah earned an Associates of Science in Tropical Agriculture and Plant Biosciences from Kaua'i Community College (Kaua'i CC), studied plants at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and completed a Masters of Science in Tropical Plant Pathology. Jin-Wah has taught Agriculture for the Kaua'i CC Office of Continuing Education and Training and managed The Farm at Kaua'i CC. Jin-Wah serves as Farm Coach for GoFarm Hawai'i where she manages and teaches at the Kaua'i site. Jin-Wah loves to conduct kitchen experiments to sneak farm food into favorite foods to win over her son's palate. Jin-Wah seeks to educate aspiring farmers so that small farms are so ubiquitous that the current generation will redefine their comfort foods with Kaua'i grown.



William Kaha'e Lee

Asset Manager

Kamehameha Schools, Hawai'i

Billy was born and raised in Kona and a proud graduate of Kealakehe High School. He obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Hawaiian Studies from UH Mānoa. Billy is currently an Asset Manager for Kamehameha Schools (KS) in Kona where he oversees a blended portfolio including various agricultural, commercial, conservation, and cultural/educational leases. Prior to joining KS in 2015, he worked as a research consultant on various projects with KS, Townscape Inc, The Kohala Center, and the University of Hawai'i (UH) Mānoa. While not at work, you can find him surfing, fishing, farming, and spending time with friends and family.



Molly Mamaril

Community Innovation Connector

O'ahu Economic Development Board, O'ahu

Molly Noelaniokakai Gismervik Mamaril serves as the Community Innovation Connector for the non-profit O'ahu Economic Development Board. She was born in Honolulu, raised in Minneapolis and returned to Hawai'i in 2012 after feeling drawn to explore her family's heritage. Molly holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication and Journalism from the University of St. Thomas and Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environmental Management from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. She has enjoyed working in conservation management, 'āina-based education and evaluation, and community public health. She believes that the foundation for a thriving Hawai'i is healthy land and people, grounded in aloha. She loves podcasting, learning the stories of places and people, and traveling to Scandinavia with her family.



Christian Amancio Mathias

Senior Agronomist

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., O'ahu

Christian was born and raised on O'ahu. He graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa with a Bachelor of Science in Tropical Plants and Soil Sciences from the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. While attending UH he worked as a student assistant helping with projects that studied Integrated Pest Management strategies for crop production and native plants in Hawai'i. After graduating he worked as a summer student at CABI's Swiss Centre on biological controls for invasive species. Since returning to Hawai'i, Christian has worked in the seed corn industry at Pioneer Hi-Bred in Waialua. In his current role he oversees field operations. When not at work he enjoys spending time with family and friends, being outdoors, and working out.



Kimia Sadeghi

Business Development Manager

Meadow Gold Dairies Hawai'i, O'ahu

Born in Waimea, Kimia's passion for agriculture grew watching her father overcome challenges in dairy farming. She graduated in Business from Babson College, and when her father bought Meadow Gold from bankruptcy in 2020, she returned to Hawai'i to help revive it. Since joining Meadow Gold, she launched initiatives upholding values of supporting locals, serving the community, and sharing Aloha. Her goal: stewarding Meadow Gold's legacy and revitalizing Hawai'i's agricultural industry. Beyond work, she's passionate about reimagining education and enjoys surfing, reading, and learning new skills.



Faun Skyles

Director of Supply Chain Farm Link, Hawai'i, O'ahu

Faun has over twenty years of experience working in sustainable and equitable food systems. She served as the Specialty Grocery Buyer for Oakville Grocery in Napa Valley, the founder of Los Gatos Gourmet, and the Store Manager at San Francisco's beloved Bi-Rite Market. During her tenure at Bi-Rite Market, she ran a whole animal butchery program and served as their Recruiter, developing their second chance hiring program.

Her background is rooted in farming and ranching and she holds degrees from Diablo Valley College and the California Culinary Academy. Faun's connections to Hawai'i are deeply personal—her father's native Hawaiian heritage traces back to He'eia, and her mother's upbringing was on the Big Island. Four years ago, she started paddling outrigger canoes, which ignited a strong desire to return home to be closer to family and use her skillset to make a meaningful impact on the food system.



Justin Teixeira

Farming Operations Manager Mahi Pono, LLC, Maui

Justin Teixeira works at Mahi Pono as the farming operations manager. He spent six years in the United States Air Force where he received a lot of leadership and organizational training. Justin has been working in ag since he was 14 years old harvesting pineapple during the summer and after school. His career goals are to create a modernized and sustainable agriculture business by introducing new scalable crops and techniques to agriculture in Hawai'i. As a hobby, Justin enjoys coaching and supporting youth boxing.



Austin Tom

Diversified Agriculture and Small Livestock Manager Kualoa Ranch, O'ahu

Austin was born and raised in Kailua, O'ahu and earned his bachelor's degree in Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems from the University of California, Santa Cruz. During his time at university, Austin worked in a diverse set of agricultural operations, ranging from aquaponics and hydroponics, to market gardens and livestock ranches. Post Undergrad, he moved back home to begin his own farm on O'ahu, Punalu'u Pastures, where he specialized in raising pastured poultry and egg production. After owning and operating a successful egg business for 3 years, he decided it was time to pursue a new venture. Austin currently works for Kualoa Ranch and manages the small livestock and diversified agriculture operations in Ka'a'awa Valley.



Bronson Blane Yadao

Orchard Manager

Kaua'i Coffee Company, LLC, Kaua'i

Bronson Yadao was born and raised on the North Shore of Kaua'i. He graduated from Kapa'a High School in 2005 and the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources in 2010 where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Tropical Plants and Soil Sciences. After working at The Marimed Foundation as an Ag Teacher and Lyon Arboretum as a Research Assistant on O'ahu, Bronson returned to Kaua'i in 2013 to head the Irrigation and Crop nutrition team at Kaua'i Coffee Company, LLC. Bronson currently manages the orchard operations spanning over 2,800 acres on the Westside of Kaua'i. He wants to continue to establish Kaua'i Coffee as a premiere brand in Hawai'i's market and beyond. He feels a strong sense of pride and responsibility of being a steward of the land that so many have farmed before him. He is a second generation farmer as well as a second generation ALFH member. Bronson is an alumni member of Leadership Kauai, Class of 2020 and an active member of the Kaua'i Farm Bureau and Hawai'i Coffee Association. In his spare time he enjoys free-diving, golfing and riding motorcycles. He shares his life with his wife and their 4 cats, two tortoises, a rooster and a puppy.



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