

CTAHR - Office of Research / 808.956.4142

## Table of Contents

- Welcome to Our Research Newsletter
- What's Happening in the Research Office
- Grants and Contracts
- New Funding Opportunities
- Taking Care of Our Research Stations

CTAHR Office of Research  
3050 Maile Way  
Gilmore Hall 202  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
USA

Phone: 808.956.4142

Fax: 808.956.9150

E-Mail:  
research@ctahr.hawaii.edu

## Welcome to Our Research Newsletter!

This is our introductory issue of *CTAHR Research News*. The purpose of this newsletter is to amplify communication between the CTAHR Office of Research and you. Our target audiences are the employees of CTAHR as well as our stakeholders on all of Hawaii's islands. We hope to put this brief out once a month and encourage you to make suggestions on how we might make this newsletter even better. In future issues we will be highlighting the efforts of researchers, and research teams, departments and cooperators.

There are a number of items that may be of important to you and using this newsletter we will get this information to you as quickly as possible. I also want to use it to explore grant opportunities, celebrate your accomplishments, and share what I am hearing in the field and in

local and national meetings. We have a lot of catching up to do, so let's get started!



*Interim Associate Director of Extension, Harold Keyser (left) and AD of Research, CY Hu (right), get a taro patch-side coaching session from Kauai-based extension agent, Roy Yamakawa (April 2005).*

## What's Happening in the Research Office

Over the past eight months, I have had the privilege to meet most of our faculty, many on a one-on-one setting. I have gained a great appreciation for our research capacity and the challenges we face together. I have also met with many stakeholders, most of them praise the CTAHR contributions to their industry. Others feel, however, that we have more work ahead of us. It gives me tremendous pride to see our work recognized and it reminds me

that our greatest challenges are to meet the changing needs of our stakeholders.

During my meetings with our stakeholders, many expressed a desire to know more about CTAHR's research capacity, and the impacts of our research. Therefore, I have committed some resources to begin to document the impacts of our research programs, one at a time.

*con't next page*

---

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.ctahr.hawaii.edu](http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu)

---

We are re-vamping our website to provide descriptions of our research teams, programs, and their impacts. CTAHR is proud of our research teams and our extension programs. We're going to show the stakeholders who we are and what we are doing for them. This project is a college-wide effort; we'll let you know when to take a look and where to send your suggestions for improvement.

As CTAHR's Associate Dean and Associate Director for Research, one of my key roles is to foster a work environment where each faculty and staff member can be successful in obtaining competitive grants, and producing significant impacts for our stakeholders. Over time, and with your help, I hope that we can create a work environment that is dynamic, competitive and unrivaled in its service to our community.

Another of my jobs is to handle some level of resource allocation. Currently, we are working to implement a new budget model to distribute our limited research upkeep funds (\$462,410). This model considers the true cost of our research operations for all of CTAHR's units, and distributes funds equitably. We will continue to modify this budget model, which allows more transparency in resource allocation. Soon, we will also implement new mechanisms to allocate our limited Hatch program funds (\$154,500). We are also evaluating our processes in distributing our USDA Special Grants, such as the TSTAR program. TSTAR will provide up to \$3.7 million in research funds to

our faculty this year, making TSTAR the single largest research fund in our portfolio. Recently, we conducted a listening session to solicit your inputs on the review process and RFP revision for TSTAR. Thank you to the sixteen faculty members who attended the August 16 meeting. Your valuable suggestions will be incorporated into this year's RFP and review process. Additionally, we hosted two meetings for our faculty and staff to meet Chris Helm, the new interim director of the UH Office of Research Services (ORS). We provided Chris with feedback to consider as he works to improve ORS's services to our faculty.

One of the most valuable resources our office handles is CTAHR's research stations. CTAHR has 16 branch stations located on four islands. Currently, more than 60% of our research upkeep funds (\$281,410) are used to support our branch stations. Regrettably, even at this level of funding, we are just barely able to keep up with minimal repair and maintenance to meet the code compliance. Deferred maintenance that previously was neglected will receive first priority to avoid more expensive repairs down the road. Working with our county administrators we have identified and prioritized the most critical items (see related story in this issue). We will systematically work to update our branch stations, to make critical repairs and improvements, and to meet our faculty's need for quality research infrastructure.

*con't next page*

## Quiz Yourself

Do you know what year the Hawaii Agricultural Experimental Station was established?

Do you know how many new faculty members joined CTAHR since January 1, 2001?

Do you know how many extramural grants and contracts CTAHR has received thus far this fiscal year, as of September 1, 2005?

Do you know which CTAHR faculty member during the last fiscal year brought in the greatest dollar amount in extramural grants and contracts?

A second issue into which we invested a lot of time and effort is our draft Plant Germplasm Distribution Policy and Procedure. Release of new plant materials has been a challenging issue for CTAHR in the last several years, and an issue of high concern for our stakeholders. Doug Vincent is leading the effort to draft a new policy. We have posted the draft on CTAHR website for comments at:

<http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ctahr2001/Research/germplasm.html>. We

encourage you to review the document, as it is in its final review stage. We will officially release the Germplasm Distribution Policy once it has passed the university legal affairs office review.

As the world grows smaller, and island communities become more densely populated, I foresee the college's greater reliance on

multidisciplinary research teams to tackle the problems important to tropical agriculture and urban communities. At the same time, our research portfolio must maintain a balance between basic and applied science, and be relevant to our mission and stakeholders. We will need everyone's experience, and expertise to carefully maintain this delicate balance.

This newsletter, and our other efforts, signify our commitment to creating a work environment that is conducive to high-quality, high-impact research. Please take a moment after reading our first edition and let us know how we can improve the next issue. I hope you enjoy our newsletter. If you see me in the halls, or on campus, or out on your station, please take the opportunity to tell me what you think about it. *I'm eager to hear from you.*

## Grants and Contracts

In this section we hope to provide you with hot tips on how to successfully obtain grant funding and hot leads to new funding opportunities. Doug Vincent, Brian Turano of the CTAHR Office of Research, and Sharee Pepper of the Agricultural Development in the American Pacific project (ADAP) office are always on the look out for grant opportunities for you. Please contact any of them for assistance.

### Grants/Contracts News

#### *UH names new ORS Director*

UH Office of Research Services has a new Interim Director. Mr. Chris Helm was appointed as Interim Director, Office of Research Services on July 1, 2005. The Office of Research Services is the official UH point of contact for all grants and contracts. Mr. Helm recently visited

CTAHR to hear comments and concerns about ORS's role within the college and its level service to the faculty and researchers. Chris has made improving the service in the Office of Research Services his top priority. We wish Chris a fond, "*Good luck and Mahalo.*"

*con't next page*

## Quiz Yourself Answers

The Hawaii Agricultural Experimental Station was established in 1901, six years before the college was established.

CTAHR welcomed 32 new faculty members to our staff since January 1, 2001, when Dean Hashimoto joined our college.

60 Extramural grants and contracts have been received by CTAHR this fiscal year, totaling over \$5.7 million.

During the last fiscal year, Dr. Goro Uehara, of TPSS, and the Principal Investigator for USAID Soil Management CRSP, brought in \$2.94 million to CTAHR.

### ***ORS announces new fringe benefit rates***

On July 28, 2005, new composite fringe benefit rates were announced. The composite rates are as follows: Faculty – 38.67%; Staff – 36.42%; Grad Assistants – 9.00%; Casual Hire – 2.6% and Student Help – 1.15%. Go here for more information: <http://www.hawaii.edu/ors/rates.html>. As a rule of thumb, we usually recommend including slightly higher percentages in your grant proposal, especially multi-year proposals to account for changes over the life of the proposal.

### ***New “Grants” Season Approaching***

As the new federal fiscal year approaches and new budgets are approved for the funding agencies, it's time to begin planning for the new “grants” season. Just as we're hopeful for the new season of Rainbow Warrior Football or the Wahine Volleyball, it's time to set new and greater goals for finding new funding sources for your research or extension activities. You recognize that writing grant proposals takes time and often, persistence, so, begin your planning early for the upcoming year. Exceptional grants aren't written over a weekend; or without proper planning. Now's the time to begin planning for future funding opportunities. *You can begin your search for new funding here:*

**IRIS – Illinois Research Information Service** is a subscription service with a robust search engine to find both federal and non-federal funding opportunities in every field from agriculture to zoology. The University of Hawaii is a subscriber to this service and it only requires a

“hawaii.edu” e-mail address to obtain access. Go here for IRIS:

<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/iris/>

### **Community of Science – COS**

More than an excellent search engine for funding opportunities, through the COS “workbench”, you can create your own online CV, establish personal search criteria for funding opportunities and receive e-mail notification of new funding opportunities. This is a subscription service and requires a “hawaii.edu” e-mail address to establish an account. To search for grant opportunities specific to your interests go to <http://www.cos.com/>

**FedGrants.gov** – Daily postings, in a standard format, of recently opened grant opportunities. While most of these are from Federal Agencies, private sector grants are included.

### ***New Funding Opportunities***

#### **TSTAR**

Deadline for Letter of Intent:  
October 3, 2005.

Proposals due: November 5, 2005.

[http://www2.ctahr.hawaii.edu/t-star/pacific\\_basin.htm](http://www2.ctahr.hawaii.edu/t-star/pacific_basin.htm)

#### **Hawaii Department of Agriculture**

Agriculture Research Program,  
FY 2006

Deadline: October 16, 2005

[http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/vincent/HDOA/HDOA\\_RFA\\_2005.pdf](http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/vincent/HDOA/HDOA_RFA_2005.pdf)

#### **Professional + Producer Grant Program**

Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program.  
Deadline: December 12, 2005

[http://wsare.usu.edu/grants/docs/cfp\\_pp\\_06.pdf](http://wsare.usu.edu/grants/docs/cfp_pp_06.pdf)

## Taking Care of Our Research Stations

One of the most valuable assets CTAHR has, besides you, is our research station system. Admittedly, the stations are not in the best of shape due to deferred maintenance and we probably have more stations than we can cost-effectively maintain. In order for us to begin the methodical process of upgrading our most valuable stations, the county administrators and I met recently and came up with this “high priority” action listing. These issues are pretty generic throughout the system, but in some cases, the issue does not apply to a particular station. If you have any thoughts on this list (there are 18 more items on our list), please share them with me. The top three items are on the fast track. Some of these efforts require procedures and policy changes, some funding, and some, both. We will keep you informed on these.

- 1) Lack of funds for short-term repair and maintenance to meet code compliance
- 2) Our research sites are NOT showcases for CTAHR and UH
- 3) Need to review our current stations to see if they meet current or future client and CTAHR needs
- 4) Lack of management training for station managers
- 5) Lack of septic tanks on some stations limit the number of visitors, such as school children
- 6) OSHA and farm safety issues not being adequately addressed which can lead to safety problems and compliance violations
- 7) Currently disposing chemicals into cesspools which are no longer allowed
- 8) Lack State and Federal Labor Law posting requirements and the required posters
- 9) Confusion of what can be sold off CTAHR facilities and who should be handling the transactions
- 10) Lack of a mechanism to get the results of CTAHR field-station research projects out to clients
- 11) Use data and Plot Allocation Form (PAF) difficult and requires up to 5 signatures
- 12) No progress report is required by the renewal of the Plot Allocation form
- 13) No policy on “making money” on stations or charging researchers site use fees
- 14) Lack of a policy for the use of our stations by non-CTAHR entities
- 15) Administration missing the opportunity to show station staff how valuable they are to CTAHR and our clients
- 16) The cost of station labor is not factored into the cost of seed production

## Mahalo for reading to the end ....

We realize that was a lot to read, and appreciate you staying with us until the end. In the next issues, we will have more photos and stories about your work. If you would like to be featured in a story, please let me know.

Aloha,

*CY*

CTAHR Office of Research  
3050 Maile Way,  
Gilmore Hall 202  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Honolulu, HI 96822  
USA

Phone: 808.956.4142

Fax: 808.956.9150

E-Mail:  
research@ctahr.hawaii.edu