



Ka Lono Pua

"The Flower News"

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Cooperative Extension Service Oahu

County

New Beginnings for a New Year

Although we are well into the new year, it is a good time to evaluate what you did last year and consider how to improve things. Everyone knows the world is changing quickly and to stay competitive you have to adapt. You only have to look at the recent spate of bankruptcies to know what happens when you don't.

Learning new ways of doing things, or finding new products, or new uses for your present crops are methods of coping with the increased competition. If you have found a good niche that is profitable, be always on the lookout for a new one. Others seeing success will try to move in too, and you will have to compete or find a better place.

One of the best ways to learn about new opportunities is by attending some of the conferences, seminars, and trade shows held in the state and nationally. It is often costly, but the cost of staying in place is certainly higher.

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- ◆ New Lei Book Arrives Soon
- ◆ 'Black Out' Lily Wins Best In Show
- ◆ Ag Leadership Foundation Recruiting
- ◆ Compost Expert Makes Presentations
- ◆ New Employers Web Site.....and more

Future Happenings

- Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb 13 Compost Production & Disease Suppression Seminar, 6 p.m.
- Feb 17 Presidents' Day
- Feb 19- 23 Northwest Flower and Garden Show, Seattle, WA
www.gardenshow.com
- Feb 23-25 SAF Pest Management Conf. Orlando, FL, (703) 836-8700
www.safnow.org
- Feb 26- Mar 1 S. California Plant Tour Days
www.planttoursdays.org (760) 431-2572
- Mar 12-13 Landscape Industry Show, Long Beach, CA
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Apr 5 – 19 CA Pack Trials
- Apr 8-10 Fourth National IPM Symposium/ Workshop, Indianapolis, Indiana
- Apr 18 Good Friday
- Apr 20 Easter Sunday
- Apr 23 Administrative Professionals Day
- May 1 Lei Day
- May 5-9 Mid Pac Hort Show and Conf., Hilo

‘Black Out,’ an Asiatic Lily Wins Best in Show

‘Black Out,’ an Asiatic lily entered by All Seasons Flowers LLC in Nipoma, Calif., won Best in Show at Society of American Florist’s (SAF) Outstanding Varieties Competition during its 118th Annual Convention. The large, burnt-red flowers are a unique color and have good vase life. “It has such a different color — not a pure red or orange,” says All Season’s Cees Dobbe. “It’s a very strong performer with good vase life and very large blossoms for an Asiatic.”

It generally has three buds per stem and the flowers are not totally upright. In addition, the flowers are clustered at the top and very consistent from stem to stem.

Other winners include:

Best in Class Other Cut Flowers: ‘Balance’ alstroemeria from Golden Flowers

Best in Class Decorative Foliage: ‘Jester’ leucadendron, Kula Vista Protea

Best in Class Cut Rose: ‘Red Mikado’ standard rose, Dole Fresh Flowers

Best in Class Cut Chrysanthemum: ‘Anastasia’ chrysanthemum, Esmeralda Farms

Best in Class Potted Flowering Plant: ‘Laguna’ dianthus from California Florida Plant Co.

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A terribly jealous woman used to submit her husband to a regular inspection every evening. The smallest hair discovered on his coat would lead to the most frightful of scenes. One night, finding nothing, she burst into tears and cried, "Even bald women now!"

*-Parts Pups*

## **Ag Employers Have a New Web Site**

Are you swamped by the myriad of laws and regulations regarding your workers? Agricultural, horticultural, and other small business employers have a new web site to help them comply with federal labor laws and regulations. This new tool is provided by Mid American Ag and Hort Services, Inc. (MAAHS), which is a consortium of associations, organized to provide regulatory compliance assistance. Since funding was provided by Indiana, USDA and Ohio State University, the web site also has information on Ohio and Indiana laws and regulations. Hawaii’s laws and regulations are not included.

The site is located at: [www.midamservices.org](http://www.midamservices.org). It includes links to the portions of numerous federal sites that tell employers what they need to know. It was found that the “drop-down” windows do not work, but the specific links and search mode do.

Topics covered include temporary guest-worker programs such as H-2A, H-2B, and H-1B along with the Migrant and Seasonal Ag Worker Protection Act and social/language issues associated with the employment of foreign labor.

Additional topics include minor labor, wage-hour, OSHA, housing, posting, Family Medical Leave Act, immigration, pesticide record keeping requirements, Worker Protection Standard requirements, discrimination, proper respirator use, affirmative action, new hire reporting, and worker’s compensation.

When a search on Hawaii was made, a list of the annual weighted average hourly wage rates for field and livestock workers for each state was found. Hawaii’s was the highest for 2002 at \$9.25/hour, second were Oregon and Washington at \$8.60.

## Compost Preparation and Disease Suppression

Dr. Harry Hoitink, professor in the Department of Plant Pathology at Ohio State University and at the Ohio Agricultural Research Development Center, will give two seminars on compost production and its use to suppress diseases.

Dr. Hoitink has studied the conversion of solid waste into beneficial composts for more than two decades. Crucial disease suppressive organisms have been identified and the principles for promoting these organisms are now better understood.

He has explored how the chemical composition of soil organic matter affects the abilities of specific microorganisms to induce plant disease resistance. He has also developed new technologies for controlled inoculation of compost to achieve pathogen control. His work in the biological control of soil borne pathogens in composted pine bark-amended container media, has led to the discovery, patenting and licensing of *Chryseobacterium gleum* 299 and *Trichoderma hamatum* 382.

On Wednesday, February 12, 2003 there will be a morning seminar at 10:00 - 11:00 am in Gilmore 306 on U.H. campus. Gilmore Hall is located at 3050 Maile Way across from the new addition to Hamilton Library.

On Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup> a meeting for growers and related business people will be at 6 p.m. The meeting will also be in Gilmore Hall, Room 306. The building will be locked but there will be someone at the door to unlock it as participants arrive. Enter Gilmore from the main door, which leads to the second floor.

If any grower or business would like Dr. Hoitink to visit their operation, please contact Janice Uchida immediately. We are scheduling field trip sites for Thursday, February the 13th. (juchida@hawaii.edu or 956-2827)

## New CTAHR Publications Include Lei Flower Book

By mid-March arrival is expected for the new book: Growing Plants for Hawaiian Lei – 85 Plants for Gardens, Conservation and Business. See page 5 for more information and order form.

Other for-sale publication fliers and order blanks can also be found at: <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ctahr2001/PIO/ForSalePubs.html> or by calling the local CES office or the Publications and Information Office publication request line at (808) 956-7046.

## Free CTAHR Publications

The publications listed below by their subject category are now available for downloading from the CTAHR free publications Web page. Go to <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ctahr2001/PIO/FreePubs.asp> or by calling your local CES office.

“Anthurium thrips damage to ornamentals in Hawaii” by Arnold Hara, Christopher Jacobsen, Ruth Niino-DuPonte, IP-9, 4 pp., Color

“Banana rust thrips damage to banana and ornamentals in Hawaii” by Arnold Hara, Ron Mau, Ronald Heu, C. Jacobsen, R. Niino-DuPonte, IP-10, 4 pp., Color

“Blossom midge in Hawaii--a pest on ornamentals and vegetables” by Arnold Hara, Ruth Niino-Duponte, IP-11, 3 pp., Color

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Two scientists stood in front of an open door on which a sign read: "Recombinant DNA Lab." Seated amid the lab's high-tech equipment was an old witch stirring a bubbling caldron. Said one scientist to the other, "She's from the old school, but she really knows her stuff."

-Omni

Ag Leadership Foundation Recruits New Class

Recruitment Begins . . . The CTAHR Ag Leadership Program and Ag Leadership Foundation of Hawaii are in the process of recruiting our next class - Class X. You can request recruitment packets from Donna Ching at 956-2255 or by e-mail at: donnac@hawaii.edu.

As in the past, the Foundation is looking for people who have already demonstrated a commitment to lead. Over the years the focus has broadened beyond agriculture and extended to fill the need to train community leaders to facilitate the development of sustainable communities. This expanded focus is reflected in the recruitment material where we now have two categories for applicants. Category I includes those applicants engaged in agriculture or support industries and businesses. Category II includes those applicants who contribute (as an employee or volunteer) to activities associated with rural community development or sustainability.

While the Foundation Board continues to be committed to a strong curriculum, it also acknowledges the need to attract agricultural and community leaders who are busier because they shoulder more responsibility during these challenging times. As a result, we have revised the Program.

The revised program is composed of a series of 9 seminars (instead of 11) held during a 16 month period (instead of a year and a half) and a national trip. Because attendance at all seminars and the national trip is mandatory, the participant is making a commitment of 42 days. The tuition for the Program is \$2,000. We will be giving partial scholarships to qualified applicants. Applications are due March 15, 2003.

The foundation needs people who will benefit from the program and who will make significant contributions to the industry or their communities after they have graduated.

Orientation meetings are being planned across the State in February. These meetings will enable potential applicants to talk to our alumni and board members about the program. We will also have a short power point presentation that will give the applicant a good idea about the experiences of the previous class. The meeting on Oahu will be on:

Wednesday, Feb. 12th from 7:00-8:30 p.m.
Farm Bureau Off. at 2343 Rose St., Honolulu
For more details, contact Donna Ching (956-2255).

“Ka Lono Pua” Goes Electronic

Because the cost of mailing out “Ka Lono Pua” is high in regards to printing, producing and posting, we will happily e-mail copies to those that have access to e-mail.

If you would like to receive “Ka Lono Pua” by e-mail, contact us so we can add your address to our listings. If you don’t have e-mail or we don’t know what it is, you will continue to receive a regular copy of “Ka Lono Pua.”

If you have any questions or suggestions, give me a call at 622-4185, Tuesdays and Thursdays or e-mail me at mersino@hawaii.edu.

Mahalo!

Edwin F. Mersino
County Extension Agent
Agriculture Program

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“I couldn’t wait for success...so I went ahead without it.”  
-Jonathan Winters



- Where can I get the new Lei Flower Book?
- What is the Ag Leadership Program and how do I enroll in their upcoming class?
- Where can I learn about disease suppression using compost?
- What are the new SAF winning cut flower varieties?
- Where can I go to learn about government regulations for employers?

The answer to these and many other questions can be found inside