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IMPACT REPORT Q3

THIRD QUARTER



Of Innovation,
Collaboration,
and Compassion



**College of Tropical Agriculture
and Human Resources**

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

*The founding college of the
University of Hawai'i, established 1907*

www.ctahr.hawaii.edu

1907

THIRD QUARTER

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College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources **Of Innovation, Collaboration, and Compassion**



“Using our collective resources and human capital to greater advantage is a strategic way for CTAHR to achieve its vision.”

Sylvia Yuen
Interim Dean/Director

Having recently been appointed interim dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), I am humbled and honored to join the 17 men who have directed the college since its founding in 1907. Did you know that our college and the university itself were at first synonymous, and that the first president of the university, John W. Gilmore, was an agronomist? We have a long and illustrious history, and the challenge is to honor that while at the same time moving forward with our state.

The fact that I’m the first female to serve in this leadership position in CTAHR symbolizes the changes and collaborations that are becoming increasingly visible at all levels of the college. These include the partnerships of faculty and staff who are working across disciplinary fields and units, as well as the college’s growing partnerships with federal and state agencies and community groups in both agricultural and human resources sectors. Using our collective resources and human capital to greater advantage is a strategic way for CTAHR to achieve its vision: *to actively help Hawai‘i diversify its economy, ensure a sustainable environment, and strengthen its communities.*

As another area of community-building and sustaining, in addition to its quarterly *Impact Report* CTAHR will be reaching out via *Alumni & Friends* e-bulletins. Subscribers will learn more about our college’s programs, people, and partnerships in a monthly newsletter that will be delivered directly by email, so contact ctahrnotes@ctahr.hawaii.edu to sign up today!

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'S. Yuen', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sylvia Yuen
Interim Dean/Director

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Made in Mānoa

New papaya-based products ranging from dressings to sauces to chutney bear the brand name Kulanui, which means “university,” but Kulanui is more than just a brand—it’s an innovative UH program that fosters student awareness, inspiration, and opportunity.

The idea of Kulanui occurred to Wayne Fujishige, director of UH Mānoa’s Auxiliary Enterprises, over 20 years ago, and Wayne Iwaoka, food scientist in CTAHR’s Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences Department, played an instrumental role in making Kulanui products a reality. Working with local papaya farmers, Iwaoka challenged his students to come up with alternative uses for culled papaya fruits—considered a waste product—and encouraged them to figure out the best and most efficient ways to do it, considering costs of ingredients, processing, labor, and other expenses. Iwaoka’s objective was to provide a “safe” place for his students to make mistakes, correct them, and move forward with their projects.

What resulted from the CTAHR students’ research and development were papaya curry salad dressing and papaya curry barbecue sauce. Since then, the Kulanui program has spread from CTAHR to other parts of the UH system. A lip balm and a healing balm were developed from beeswax by Professor Lorna Arita-Tsutsumi and students at UH Hilo’s College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management. Products developed by Kaua’i Community College students are also in the works.

Iwaoka’s efforts to promote sustainability and reduce waste led to positive public-private relationships, reinforcing CTAHR’s already active collaboration with Hawai’i farmers and vendors. He says, “I strongly believe that our goal as university educators should be to develop the ‘whole’ student—to help them acquire skills, develop constructive attitudes, and learn how to use the knowledge of the discipline to work effectively in teams, resolve conflicts, solve problems, and make decisions, so they will prosper as future employees, employers, and community members.”

A portion of the proceeds from Kulanui’s products goes toward funding future student-based projects throughout the UH system.

More information can be found at www.uhrainbowtique.com/kulanui/.



HNEAS students Kacie Ho, Kara Yamada, and Jennifer Shido (from left) in the midst of new product development in CTAHR’s food lab.



Kulanui products created by former HNEAS students can be found at select UH bookstores and Rainbowtique outlets.

Photo provided by Rainbowtique

Spa Treatment for Flowers and Plants

Hawai'i's flower and foliage industry generates upwards of \$15.5 million dollars each year. So when contamination by pests and alien species threatened the industry's exports—as it did for 60 days in 2009—growers turned to CTAHR experts for help. The industry needed to find ways to disinfect plants of “quarantine” pests, including fire ants, nettle caterpillars, scales, plant-parasitic nematodes, mealybugs, and coqui frogs and eggs.

Arnold Hara and team members Ruth Niino-DuPonte, Marcel Tsang, Charles Nelson, Susan Cabral, Kris Aoki, Jon Katada, and Andrew Kawabata developed several treatments to disinfect flowers and foliage before shipping. Their innovations included designing a mobile container that bathed nursery products in a hot-water spray. The team traveled statewide to teach growers to identify pests and use the treatments to eliminate them.

In one case last fall, a Big Island nursery had sent a \$6,000 shipment to California, only to have it rejected and destroyed because inspectors found a single coqui frog. Nursery manager Enrique Martinez contacted Hara for help. Since then, his nursery uses the container at least three times a week. “If it weren't for that container, I don't know what we would do,” said Martinez. “We would definitely be hurting, because 90 percent of our plants are sent to California.”

CTAHR's quick response enabled Hawai'i's ornamentals industry to continue shipping products interisland and exporting to California, Guam, and Japan. Within two months of the export ban, our floral and foliage industry was thriving again. Today, the new treatments are standard practice in Hawai'i.

Despite the temporary ban on our flowers and foliage, there was a silver lining. “There was an increase in demand for Hawai'i foliage after the ban,” said Hara, “because while our products were not passing inspection, vendors ordered from other places and realized that Hawai'i's flowers and plants are of superior quality.”



Photo: UH Creative Services

Arnold Hara and Charles Nelson (from right) accepting UH's nomination for the Governor's Team Award. UH President M.C. Greenwood, Board of Regents Chair Howard Karr, and Vice Chair Dennis Hirota made the presentation.



Photo: Susan Cabral

Plants bound for California are first hot-water-treated at the nursery by Mark Akiyama (left) of California Hawaii Foliage Growers, Inc., observed by Arnold Hara (right) and Margarita Hopkins, Hawai'i County Department of Research and Development.

Out of Luck, but Not Out of Hope

The more you consider CTAHR's Center on the Family, the broader its scope seems to become. So much of our lives takes place in the context of *family*, symbolized in Hawai'i by our emphasis on 'ohana. It's not surprising, therefore, to find COF investigating and disseminating information on subjects that affect families—such diverse topics as incarcerated parents, drugs in schools, demographics of the elderly, and utilization of services for the homeless.

This last topic was the focus of a recent COF report, the fourth on homelessness since the center began investigating the issue in 2006. The 2009 *Homeless Service Utilization Report* looks at two types of programs, shelter and outreach: those organizations that offer temporary beds or rooms, and those that help the homeless where they live, in parks, on beaches, on the streets. The information is then used by policymakers, program managers, and advocates to best allocate limited resources and make the hard choices needed to help one of the Islands' most vulnerable populations.

The report offers sobering statistics in plenty: for instance, 30 percent of those accessing shelter services were employed at least part time; in Maui County, 26 percent were employed full time. Just over a third of the recipients of shelter program services were minors (up to age 17); more than half of those were under age 6.

The information COF reveals is being put to good use. The 2009 report finds that compared with 2006, 601 new units of transitional housing and 260 new emergency shelter beds have become available. This brings the total to 1,185 units and 785 beds, a significant increase.

There's no question that homelessness is a continuing and distressing problem, one that we need to continue combating with all the resources at our disposal. The Center on the Family will continue to provide those who allocate the resources with information essential to moving toward compassionate solutions.

The report can be found at <http://uhfamily.hawaii.edu/>.



The 2009 Homeless Service Utilization Report offers sobering statistics.



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