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Interim Dean/Director

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N

made in Mānoa

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—producers turned to CTAHR experts for help. The industry needed to find ways to disinfect plants of “quarantine” pests, including fire ants, nectar caterpillars, scales, plant-parasitic nematodes, mealybugs, and coqui frogs and eggs.

Arnold Hara and team members Ruth Nīnui-DuPonte, Marcel Tiuang, Charles Nelson, Susan Cabral, Kiri Soki, 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 safe place, I don’t know what we would do,” said Martinez. “We would definitely be hurt.”

Ninety percent of our plants are sent to California. CTAHR’s quick response enabled Hawai‘i’s ornamental industry to continue shipping products into the mainland and exporting to California, Guam, and Japan. Within two months of the expert 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.”

Out of Luck, but Not Out of Hope

T

he 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, 401 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/.
Made in Mānoa

New papaya-based products ranging from dressings to sauces to chocolates bear the 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.

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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.

Bouska’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. “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 employers, employees, and community members.”

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

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, nectar caterpillars, scales, plant-parasitic nematodes, mealybugs, and coqui frogs and eggs.

Arnold Hara and team members Ruth Núñez-Dupont, Marcel Tsiang, Charles Nelson, Susan Cabral, Kris Aoki, Jon Katada, and Andrew Kawahara 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 insects 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 solution, the nursery owner, 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 ornamental plants industry to continue shipping products into the mainland and exporting to California, Guam, and Japan. Within two months of the expert ban, our floral and foliage industry was thriving again. Today, the new treatments are standard practice in Hawai‘i.

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This last topic was the focus of a recent CDF report, the fourth on homelessness since the center began investigating the issue in 2006. The 2009 Homeless Services 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 CDF 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.

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