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mous. In Hawai‘i alone, this USDA-funded initiative provided annual support for 30–40 competi-
tive, peer-reviewed agricultural research projects. From 2005 to 2010, TSTAR projects employed 195 CTAHR students and 130 technical staff. The partnerships, which also included Guam, Ameri-
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sustain plant and animal production, increase the variety of high-quality produce for export, strengthen the areas’ agroeconomic base, and mitigate the impact of invasive species. Interim

Associate Dean Ken Grace comments, “TSTAR provided a way for us to quickly address agricul-
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Begun in 1988, the Agriculture Development in the American Pacific project (ADAP) focused on capacity building in the five Pacific land-grant colleges in American Samoa, Micronesia, Guam, Northern Marianas Islands, and Hawai‘i. Through ADAP these isolated colleges bought the very first fax machines and computers in their institutions, and thereduction of the PAGESAT technology increased communication and collaboration within and between the islands, Hawai‘i, and mainland resources. ADAP funded initiatives to improve health, well-being, leadership, accountability, and locally relevant information generation. Larger seed projects like the Paraverminarian Distance Education Project (with SPC-Fij and USP-Samoa) and Healthy Living in the Pacific Islands became significant, high-impact regional programs. ADAP program man-
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Sen. Inouye lent the college support with his presence and announcement of the award of a $25 million competitive grant for the Children’s Healthy Living Program through CTAHR to promote children’s health, and active play.

Crisis and Change

After Statehood, Sen. Inouye helped to guide Hawai‘i through the many resulting changes. The shift from plantation-based sugar and pineapple production to diversified crops reshaped the state’s agricultural landscape, and he provided crucial assistance for each stage of the conversion, helping displaced workers launch new agribusiness ventures, supporting research and development to identify novel products and markets, and promoting continued innovation in Hawai‘i’s established agricultural industries. He recognized and responded to the state’s unique pest and disease issues with legislation that ensured the continued availability of needed control measures, encouraged research on new plant varieties, and addressed the threats posed by invasive species.

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Working with Sen. Inouye’s office, USDA Agricultural Research Service secured funding for research into virus-resistant papaya, nematode-resistant pineapple, sustainable methods of fruit fly control, and other crop-related and environmental studies done by CTAHR’s researchers, and Sen. Inouye and his staff worked tirelessly to see that Hawai‘i received the federal support necessary for this important sector of our economy to thrive. Termite control research encour-
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In 1986 Sen. Inouye helped to make one of the most important contributions to Hawai‘i’s aquaculture industry, working with such CTAHR administrators and faculty as Dr. Chauncey Ching to establish the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture, jointly administered by UH and the Oceanic Institute and the first of 5 aquaculture regional centers in the U.S. Today, in an era of increasing concern about food security and eating Hawai‘i’s consumption of locally raised freshwater and saltwater seafood is higher than it’s ever been since Statehood, and CTAHR’s researchers and outreach specialists are at the forefront of that expansion.

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By the mid-1990s, the need for such a facility had become clear. Many of the buildings that had originally housed CTAHR had been repurposed, and displaced researchers were scattered throughout the campus, often working in small and unsuitable spaces. The department of Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences was divided among 7 buildings! Consultation and collaboration were more difficult, and laboratory facilities and sufficient classrooms for students were lacking. Much of the CTAHRohana needed a home.

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The building, dedicated in January 2000, now houses the offices, labs, and classrooms of the Molecular Bicorences and Biotechnology and Human Nutrition, Food and Animal Sciences departments, along with some members of Tropical Plant and Soil Sciences and O‘ahu County Extension. Here the Western Insular Pacific-Sustain Subcenter briefer project researches fast-growing feedstocks for plant-based energy, and here are test kitchens where students, under the mentorship of their professors, formulate, test, and create the value added local foods sold under UH’s Kualai brand. The CTAHR project is housed within its walls, as are labs and offices focusing on synthetic biology, the molecu-
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