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IMPACT REPORT
Q1

FIRST QUARTER



People,
Place,
Promise



COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

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

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1907

FIRST QUARTER

Q1

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
People, Place, Promise

Help Where We Need It

We all know the tremendous good CTAHR does on the local, national, and global level, and it is something we can be proud of. But we also should be reminded that we are not doing it alone. In 2014, almost 5000 volunteers—nearly ten times the number of faculty and staff in the college—contributed a total of 186,922 hours to helping the college help others. Volunteer Recognition Day is celebrated on April 20, and we are doing our part to thank and honor the many volunteers who help to make CTAHR and our communities great. Henceforth, we plan to devote the first quarter's Impact Report every year to celebrating the many and various contributions and achievements of our volunteers. We begin with four stories from four islands: on Kaua'i, former president of the Kauai Farm Bureau Roy Oyama still has his finger on the pulse of everything ag-related, but his passion is 4-H, his mission to introduce children to agriculture early. On Hawai'i Island, three generations of women are active in Family and Community Education, a service group established by Cooperative Extension that has been making life better for families for more than 65 years. On O'ahu, volunteers at the Urban Garden facilitate all aspects of this one-stop outreach and education center for homeowner landscapers and backyard gardeners, from grafting trees to selling seedlings. And on Maui, Master Gardeners-turned-beekeepers provide education on pollinators, help the UH Honeybee Project collect data on varroa-free hives, and harvest honey to keep their program self-sufficient—sweet!



"In 2014 almost 5000 volunteers contributed nearly 190,000 hours to helping the college help others."

Aloha,

Maria Gallo

Maria Gallo, Ph.D.

Dean and Director for Research and Cooperative Extension

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The Farmer on the Garden Isle

Roy Oyama finds farming relaxing, he recently commented. Maybe, compared with his other ag-related achievements and activities, it is. Owner of Oyama Farms, Roy is also past president of the Kauai Farm Bureau, the Kauai Farmers Association, and the Kauai Farmers Association Development. He's a past or present member of the Kauai County Water Department Board, the Hawaii Agricultural Foundation Board, West Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District Board, Hawai'i 4-H Foundation Board, and the Hawai'i and Kaua'i 4-H Livestock Boards.

Most recently celebrated, along with his family, for important contributions to agriculture at last year's Kaua'i Farm Fair, Roy has also been honored with 4-H Hawai'i's "Gifts to the Alii" presentation, given to those who symbolize the highest type of leadership in Hawai'i, at the 2007 4-H Aha'olelo conference. Even more impressively, he was recognized by the Kauai Museum as a Living Treasure in 2005 for his agricultural achievements.

He's done a lot to merit these awards. A staunch supporter of everything ag-related, he offers extra produce from his farm to those in need, helped to organize a conference on sustainable agriculture in the Islands, was instrumental in establishing the Kaua'i Farmer's Market, and helped to revitalize the state's papaya industry after it was decimated by the ringspot virus.

Chief among these activities may be his association with 4-H. A member in his youth, Roy has volunteered for the organization for some 45 years, first as a leader of the Kaua'i 4-H Livestock Club and later serving on the Livestock Committee and 4-H Foundation. Even now he is often called on to help screen hogs or steers for a 4-H show.

He's a big believer in getting kids involved in agriculture at an early age, one of his priorities when he became a 4-H volunteer leader. He brought up his own children in 4-H, crediting it for giving them discipline and important life lessons. As he explained, "Without the 4-H program, [our family] wouldn't be this strong." What he's not saying is that without Roy, 4-H wouldn't be so strong, either.

Roy Oyama stands with his wife Gladys to be honored with 4-H's "Gifts to the Alii" presentation at the 2007 4-H Aha'olelo.



The Oyama family was honored during the opening ceremonies of the 2015 Kaua'i Farm Fair.

Photo: Dennis Fujimoto/The Garden Island



A Honey of a Project

Mauī's lacking something the other islands have—and that's a good thing. The destructive honeybee pest the varroa mite has not infested the bees there, creating important opportunities for research and outreach. One such is the Maui Master Gardener Honey Project, started by the UH Manoa Honeybee Project in 2014 to educate Maui Master Gardeners on beekeeping and honeybee issues so they could maintain the hives, collect data for research purposes, and raise bee knowledge and awareness in the community.

The UH Honeybee Project supplied initial materials and continues to visit the hives one or two times a year. Maui Master Gardener volunteers maintain four hives with twice-monthly hive inspections, recording the strength and behavior of the hive, space and resources needed, and management actions. They also note the presence and approximate number of small hive beetles, another pest that can cause severe damage to the hive that is found on Maui.

The Maui Master Gardener Honey Project also partners with SLIM (Sustainable Living Institute of Maui at University of Hawai'i Maui College) and HDOA to provide classes on beekeeping at the college. Maui Master Gardeners assist in the classes and provide access to hives for experiential learning.

The hives are growing; the beekeepers recently had to split a hive because it was so full. The project is hoping to recruit more volunteers to join the seven now involved: Flora Wong, Eric DeMaria, Mary Matsukawa, Charlotte Kennedy, Linda Martin, Jeff Kekauoha-Schultz, and Maria Corrales-Askov. Maui Master Gardener Coordinator Cynthia Nazario-Leary praises the level of dedication and care of the volunteers, doing important work while enduring bee stings and hot bee suits.

Honey is harvested every 2–3 months. It takes four volunteers four to five hours to remove honey frames from hives, clean them, spin the honey in the extractor, then filter and bottle it. The honey is sold at outreach events to raise money for the MG program. In 2015, Maui Master Gardeners harvested over 100 lbs. of honey and raised over \$1000, allowing the project to be self-sustaining. A Bee Garden, maintained by a separate group of Master Gardener volunteers, provides a diversity of flowering plants for bees and other pollinators.

Maui Master Gardeners volunteering in the project come from all different backgrounds, but all share an interest in bees, and everyone loves the sweet outcome! Master Gardener Flora Wong says, "Seeing nature at work is fascinating, and the honeybees' rewards are amazing: pollination and honey!"

Safe in their bee suits, volunteers collect data for the University's honeybee research.



Maui Master Gardeners scrape wax from the combs to harvest honey.



By and For the Community

The Urban Garden Center (UGC), an expansive 30-acre site in Pearl City, serves as a one-stop outreach educational center where the public can get help and inspiration for home gardens through school tours, workshops, and demonstrations. Techniques showcased include home-garden irrigation solutions, xeriscaping, grafting, and companion planting. The center often hosts the O'ahu Agriculture and Environmental Awareness Day for students. The collection of subtropical fruit trees, besides providing samples for visitors, also serves as a Giving Orchard, producing over 7000 pounds of fruit donated to the Food Bank this past year.

None of the UGC's activities would be possible without its volunteers. Some work in particular areas, such as the orchard, the bonsai collection, the Hawaiian herb plantings, or the rose garden. Some join hui, or working groups, for pruning, grafting, growing plants from seed, and vermicasting. Some engrave plant signs or repair buildings or equipment; still others serve on advisory boards and at Peace Day celebrations. Many participate in the Center's monthly plant sales held from February to November.

The volunteers are as varied as their activities: some are certified O'ahu Master Gardeners, others just home gardeners with green thumbs; there are professionals like teachers, plumbers, electricians, and engineers; students; members of the military; and Youth Challenge cadets. What they all have in common is an interest in helping in the gardens and a belief in the work that the Center does.

"One reason I started is the space," admits a volunteer, who lives in an apartment in which he grows an impressive array of vegetables, fruits, vines, and even trees. He volunteers to get more scope for his green thumb and love of growing. He's also hoping to become a Master Gardener, getting his foot in the door while waiting to take the next class by putting his already ample knowledge of plants to good use.

At the monthly Second Saturday open-house, visitors buy plants donated, tended, and sold by the volunteers; get advice from Master Gardeners on plant problems; and tour the UGC, led by volunteer guides, getting new ideas for their own gardens. "We have a sign-up for a volunteer orientation workshop after Second Saturdays for those interested in being part of our 'ohana," Extension agent Steve Nagano explains. Many are intrigued enough to come back. And that's good news for the UGC, because its volunteers are essential in making it great.

UGC volunteers display the flourishing plants they have tended and will sell at an upcoming Second Saturday at the Garden event.



Volunteers tend to the Urban Garden Center's Native Hawaiian plantings.



All in the Family

The Hawaii Association for Family & Community Education (Hawaii FCE) offers something for everyone. Just ask Diane Hultman and Elizabeth “Liz” and Jeanette Salfen, three generations of family who volunteer through its Puna Wahine club on the Big Island. The non-profit volunteer organization was organized in Hawai‘i with support from Cooperative Extension in 1949 and now is comprised of eight councils, 28 clubs, and over 300 members on five islands working to improve home and family life, develop leadership skills, and promote community action.

A lifelong volunteer and past president of Hawaii FCE, Diane recently served as a model for the Vintage Hawaiian and Designer Mu‘umu‘u Fashion Show at the 2015 Hawaii FCE State Convention. Liz, the Hilo FCE Council president and president of Puna Wahine, has won the national Spirit of FCL award honoring individuals trained in Family and Community Leadership who have assisted community members to take control of their lives and change the world for the better. Her daughter Jeanette has received the national organization’s Tree of Knowledge Scholarship.

The Association inspires loyalty: not only do relatives often join, but many members have been volunteering for decades: commitments of 50+ years aren’t uncommon, and more than 25 of

Hawaii FCE’s members are over 80—some over 90! All this involvement adds up—in 2014, Hawaii FCE volunteers gave 16,151 hours, reaching 30,831 people; their time and monetary contributions totaled \$372,314!

Members comment that the organization is a fun and friendly way to do good. Puna Wahine has sponsored speakers on issues of social importance such as the Sunshine Law, increased member and community awareness of healthy eating and stress reduction, provided food baskets for less fortunate families at Thanksgiving, and collected school supplies for children whose families can’t afford them. Other club members provide or sponsor presentations on such varied topics as memorial customs in Japan and Canada and ways to avoid financial scams.

Hawaii FCE’s reach is global as well as local. Other initiatives and collaborations include the Get the Drift and Bag It ocean debris cleanup days and involvement with Dress a Girl Around the World, which seeks to empower girls in other countries. It’s a member of the National Association for Family & Community Education and is affiliated with the Associated Country Women of the World, an NGO with consultative status at the United Nations. If charity begins at home, Hawaii FCE helps the world feel a little more like home.



Liz Salfen and Diane Hultman (third and fourth from left) show the Thanksgiving bounty collected for families in need.



The 2015 State Convention of the Hawaii FCE held in Hilo brought members together for planning and recognition.