Announcement: Agricultural Biotechnology AG494
June 21 – July 2, 2010

Instructors:
Dr. Mike Shintaku, UH-H CAFNRM
Dr. Ania Wieczorek, UH-M CTAHR
Dr. Susan C. Miyasaka, UH-M CTAHR
Mr. Mario Patino, Science educator

Agricultural Biotechnology AG494 is a “hands-on”, intensive, 2-week educational course designed for middle- and high-school teachers of science or agriculture. It is a partnership between the UH-M College of Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources (CTAHR) and UH-H College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management (CAFNRM). This summer class will be offered in Hilo, Hawai’i through UH-H Continuing Education. Enrollment is limited to 12 teachers; tuition will be waived and travel grants are available to off-island teachers or those located in West Hawaii. We will teach methods of agricultural biotechnology (transformation, PCR and cloning) within the context of commercial papaya production in Hawai`i. Place-based education draws from local culture, history, and geography to create a meaningful study of the area. Through this course, teachers will be exposed to a variety of learning experiences through lectures, laboratory modules, and excursions to a commercial papaya farm, packing plant, Kamehameha Schools – Hawai`i campus, and Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center. Course will meet DOE content standards for science and agriculture.

To be accepted into the class, teachers must fill out an application form along with names and contact information of two professional references. Those teachers from off-island or from West Hawaii may apply for a travel stipend that includes air fare and shared rental car (or mileage where applicable), lodging, and meals and incidentals. Participants must sign a liability release form. For a course syllabus, application form, and liability release form, please contact Dr. Susan Miyasaka (miyasaka@hawaii.edu, 808-981-5199), Dr. Mike Shintaku (shintaku@hawaii.edu, 808-933-0855), Dr. Ania Wieczorek (ani@hawaii.edu, 808-956-7058), or Mr. Mario Patino (mapatino@ksbe.edu).

Objectives of the course
a. To model instructional methods of agricultural biotechnology for later use in the classroom. Course will meet DOE content standards for science and agriculture.

b. To present the pros and cons of agricultural biotechnology for a sustainable future and a context for learning. At the end of the course, teachers should be able to present science-based information on the benefits and risks of agricultural biotechnology to their students.

Course evaluation comments from middle- and high-school teachers of science and agriculture who took AG 494 in 2009:
“All of it was extremely valuable.”
“The contacts I made with University and High School educators will continue to pay off for years to come.”
“I enjoyed the hands-on lab experiments and seeing the result immediately.”
“Watching the others present material that I teach my students gave me ideas about different ways to teach the topics.”