FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SAVE THE DATE FOR HTFG CONFERENCE
Event Expands to Six Locations

WAILUKU, HAWAI‘I— The 24th Annual Hawaii International Tropical Fruit Conference is September 12-14 on Maui and continues September 15-19 with day-long mini sessions in Molokai, Oahu, Kauai, Hilo and Kona.

Geared to farmers, educators, orchard managers and proponents of sustainable agriculture, the weeklong event is presented by the statewide Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers (HTFG).

The conference is titled “It’s All About Production” and offers a variety of breakout sessions, plus visiting researchers and agro experts. Professor Roger Leakey, crop physiologist, will give the keynote address. He is the former director of research at the International Center for Research in Agroforestry and professor of agroecology and sustainable development of James Cook University in Australia.

Other speakers include tree-pruning expert Dr. Yoshimi Yonemoto of the Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences, who will offer “Training and Pruning for Production,” while Dr. John Preece of the USDA and National Clonal Germplasm Repository in California will discuss propagation.

Considered the world’s leading expert on post-harvest technology, the University of Hawai‘i’s Dr. Robert Paull will do a presentation on the impact of pre-harvest environmental and post-harvest handling factors on tropical commodities.

HTFG Executive Director Ken Love says breakout sessions will cover specific crops, while delving into a wide range of topics like “Producing for Whole Foods” and tissue culture.

Mini-conferences will include presentations by Leakey, Yonemoto and Preece, plus on-site visits to member’s farms and greenhouses.

The conference is open to the public. Registration forms and fee schedule will be available in April at www.htfg.org or by contacting Love at kenlove@hawaiiantel.net or Mark Suiso at suiso@aloha.net.

Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers
Marking its 25th year, HTFG was incorporated in 1989 to promote tropical fruit grown in Hawaii. It is a statewide association of tropical fruit growers, packers, distributors and hobbyists dedicated to tropical fruit research, education, marketing and promotion; www.htfg.org.