In 2009, the O‘ahu Master Gardeners identified the need to form a Handbook Committee, which 4 Certified Master Gardeners volunteered their time. The committee wrote letters to States with strong Master Gardener programs asking for a copy of their Training Manual. They received manuals from California, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Maryland and Texas. The committee reviewed each one for strengths and weaknesses. They provided this review plus a refined list of topics that they felt would create a strong manual for Master Gardener in Hawai‘i.

In 2010, each Extension Faculty MG Coordinator from each program met six times throughout the year, prompted by the opportunity to coordinate the first Statewide Conference, the 2010 UH MG Grow Together Conference, alongside local Master Gardeners from each county. The major goal of this conference was to kickoff the statewide movement of UH MG program. A successful statewide conference took place, a statewide logo was adopted and efforts continue to seek opportunities that will move this program into a consistent program that operates like Statewide programs throughout the country. Conversations among program coordinators and MGs highlighted opportunities to streamline resources and identified areas where program uniqueness would need to be preserved. We identified the need to streamline the content in our training program and training manual.

As we continue to grow together, it is key that Master Gardeners have the opportunity to be the growth that will move us to the next level. Extension Faculty MG Coordinators are hoping that Master Gardeners are part of the process moving forward. In the next year, we will address the state of our UH Master Gardener Training Manuals. In our fiscal situation, we must seek opportunities and be creative in our endeavors. We simply don’t have the resources to start from scratch and luckily with the backing of this National program we don’t need to. Master Gardener programs from across the country have been sharing information among training manuals since the start of this program, notably Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

We hope to seek such a partnership. Using the information that the 2009 Handbook Committee prepared after their year-long review, we have begun conversations with Statewide California Master Gardener Program. A CA Master Gardener Handbook is available for your review in your local MG Helpline Office. In any partnership, the idea is to identify the needs of each party. The CA Master Gardener program has identified the need to enhance tropical horticulture information for reference in California’s...
Southern counties. We have identified the need to glean general gardening information from the existing manual to begin the compilation of a UH Master Gardener Handbook. This will be a long process, starting with the task of using the extraordinary reference of the 2002 edition of the CA Master Gardener Handbook in our 2013 classes, asking our CTAHR Specialists to review chapters, seeking feedback from those in the class as they are actively participating in the class and forming review committees among our Veteran, or Certified, Master Gardeners. The result will be a comprehensive review and a vision of what it will take to compile the first UH Master Gardener Training Manual.

Meeting opportunities for growth means showing support for each other through transition, staying positive and maintaining high morale. Even if the task at hand is large, if we do it together we'll see progress.

**Statewide Policies & Procedures Manual**

Our goals in developing a Statewide UH MG Policies & Procedures Manual are to create a comprehensive reference for Extension Faculty MG Coordinators and MG Volunteers to use in guiding program growth, depth, and effectiveness. The creation of a statewide manual will help facilitate a more unified statewide program by clearly stating best management practices and provide basic program guidelines. This document is to help us grow together, not to standardize programming in a way that sacrifices unique needs. It will improve transparency in program management and build a document where all information is compiled in one central location. The UH MG Policies & Procedures Manual is being compiled based on a comparative review and analysis of nationwide MG programs’ material to ensure that the UH program is on par with national standards. Policies and procedures manuals from several universities, most notably Washington State University and the University of Texas, are being used as primary references. An appendix with commonly used forms and templates will be included for easy access by Program Coordinators and MG Volunteers. The liability section is currently being reviewed by Annette Chang, Director of Administrative Services College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii at Manoa.