

November 2016 - Your Vote Counts, Kiva no-interest microloan, USDA rural grants for energy, water, and technical assistance, deadline extended for Photo contest, Eat-Think-Drink.

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YOUR FARM, YOUR VOTE, YOUR VOICE

We are partners in agriculture and partners in the civic process. Today, November 8th, we have the opportunity to share our voices in the general election. Every vote counts and every vote is equal. In addition to the Presidency, residents of Oahu have a vote in the 21 charter amendments put forth by the City and County of Honolulu, legislators, OHA trustees and more.

Polling Places are open from 7am until 6pm. [Find your Polling Place.](#)

Get to know more about the candidates through the links below.

Those of voting age registered in the City and County of Honolulu will be able to vote “yes” or “no” to each of the 21 City and County of Honolulu Charter Amendments. You can print this form out to help remind you of your options at the polls. [Follow this to review the Charter Amendments brochure.](#) Languages available include: [English](#), [Japanese](#), [Ilokano](#), and [Chinese](#).

Presidential candidates' views on agriculture can be found on [Ballotpedia](#).

Kanu Hawaii features a Candidate Match game:

<http://www.kanuhawaii.org/vote/>

The candidate list for the general election can be found [here](#).



Hawai'i farmers and food producers eligible for expanded microloan program
Local matching fund magnifies online crowd-funding platform

The Hawaii Food Producers Fund, a no-interest loan program originally created for Hawai'i Island-based farmers and food producers is now available to qualified applicants throughout the Hawaiian Islands, The Kohala Center announced in mid-October.

This statewide program is based on the Hawai'i Island Food Producers Fund, created by The Center in 2014 with support from the County of Hawai'i, the new Hawai'i Food Producers Fund is open to eligible applicants statewide. Expanded with additional support from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, the program seeks to increase local food production, reduce Hawai'i's dependence on imports, and strengthen the islands' food-producing business sector through no-interest loans raised on Kiva, the world's first and largest non-profit micro-lending website.

Hawai'i farmers and food processors utilizing at least one Hawai'i-grown ingredient are eligible to receive 50% of their Kiva loan from the Hawai'i Food Producers Fund. Additionally, borrowers must invite an initial pool of lenders from their own network to lend as little as \$25 each.

Kiva accepts loan applications online at kivaushub.org/borrower. More information about the Hawai'i Food Producers Fund is available at kohalacenter.org/microloan-kiva.

In 2014 Kiva increased its efforts to support farmers and food producers because of their popularity among Kiva lenders and their high repayment rate. Since then lenders have committed \$2.2 million in loan funds to 304 farmers and food producers across the United States.

"Funding a loan on Kiva was surprisingly fast and easy," said Zac Hosler, who with his family owns and operates Living Aquaponics Inc. in Ke'ei on Hawai'i Island. "Once our loan went from the private funding phase to public it was fully funded in less than two weeks and further supplemented by the Hawai'i Island Food Producers Fund. As a result we've been able to start expansion of our educational and agritourism programs, which will increase revenue and more comfortably support our family."

The idea for the original Hawai'i Island Food Producers Fund came from Hawai'i Island farmer Tane Datta, who received a \$2,500 loan from Kiva in 2013 to finance a new roof on a greenhouse. The money was raised in four days from 74 people across the globe in Asia, Europe, North America and Hawai'i.

Impressed by Kiva's potential to expand access to capital for farmers and other food producers on Hawai'i Island, Datta approached the County of Hawai'i Agriculture Advisory Commission, Office of the Mayor, Office of Research and Development, and The Kohala Center to explore Kiva as an avenue to stimulate local food production.

Individuals and organizations can support local food producers by becoming a Kiva lender or trustee who can publicly vouch for the borrower's character and support their business throughout the

loan term. Trustees have no financial or legal liability for Kiva loans.

Trustees can include individuals, small businesses, neighborhood associations, religious groups, student groups, professors, nonprofits, mentors, retail outlets, suppliers, small business development centers, economic development corporations, and startup incubators. For information on becoming a lender, visit kiva.org. For information on becoming a trustee, visit kivaushub.org/trustees.



After you vote, check out EAT – DRINK – THINK at the Modern from 6 - 9. Through this series, the Hawaii Agricultural Foundation hopes to engage and empower communities with a series of four quarterly dynamic, provocative series of discussions on important agricultural issues affecting Hawai'i.

How does Hawai'i realistically double food production from 15% - 30% by the year 2030? What are the challenges and opportunities to creating and maintaining a sustainable food system? How do large vs. small farms, institutional vs. small businesses contribute to our overall food security?

Our featured keynote speaker is Michel Nishan of Wholesome Wave, who is a chef and leader in the sustainable food movement, as well as a three time James Beard Award winner. Our other featured speakers include John Martin, Vice Munchies from New York, Wendy Akiyama, Armstrong Produce, State Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Judah Lum, Kahuku Farms, and Alex Sou, Aloun Farms.

Indulge in delish bites from Chris Kajioaka of Senia, Lance Kosaka of Top of Waikiki, Brandon Lee of Piggy Smalls, Robynne Maii of Fete and Keith Pajinag of THE MODERN HONOLULU. Sip cocktails, beer and wine provided by Southern Glazer's Wine and Spirits.

[Tickets](#) \$55 per person in advance and \$65 at the door.

Presented by Hawaiian Airlines and supported by Alexander & Baldwin, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, Lend Lease, State of Hawai'i, Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits, and the Ulupono Initiative.



[West Oahu SWCD Digital Photo Contest](#)

Deadline Extended to December 5!

Categories:

1. **People & Nature:** Illustrates above and beyond the hope that people and nature can thrive together on this planet.
2. **Farming:** Best farm moment
3. **Ranching:** Best ranching moment
4. **Soils:** West Oahu has a beautiful array of soil colors and types.

5. **Research:** Research is a critical component to maintaining soil and water health.
6. **Water:** Best vibrant moment of water quality.
7. **Culture:** Best image capturing cultural connections to soil and water conservation.
8. **Pollinators:** Best capture of pollinators. Note that images that involve the willful harassment of wildlife, or damage to the environment by the photographer will be ineligible.
9. **Adventure:** Best action/adventure moment.
10. **Soil and Water Conservation in Cities:** Best urban moment.

Application Process: Submit your photo (no larger than 20MB) and a completed [application form](#) to WOSwcdContest@gmail.com by December 5, 2016. [Like us on facebook](#) and stay tuned as our prize pack develops!

Rules: Comprehensive Rules are found [here](#).



TRAINING UPDATE

November 8, 2016 - 9am Hawaii time

[Cover Crop Management in Vegetable Systems](#)

November 16, 2016 - 9am Hawaii time

[Grazing Management to Promote Small Ruminant Health](#)

GRANT UPDATE

[USDA Water and Water Disposal Technical Assistance and Training grants.](#)

Rural communities of 10,000 or fewer people are eligible. Deadline is December 31, 2016

[This program](#) helps qualified, private non-profits provide technical assistance and training to (a) identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste problems; (b) assist applicants in preparing applications for water and waste disposal loans/grants; and (c) assist associations in improving operation and maintenance of existing water and waste facilities in eligible rural areas.

[Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Loans & Grants](#)

Application Deadline:

- Grants of \$20,000 or less: March 31, 2017;
- Unrestricted Grants (up to \$500,000): March 31, 2017;
- Loan Guarantees are competed continuously throughout the year.

What does this program do?

Provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements.

Who may apply?

Agricultural producers with at least 50% of gross income coming from agricultural operations, and
Small businesses in [eligible rural areas.](#)

NOTE: Agricultural producers and small businesses must have no outstanding delinquent federal taxes, debt, judgment or debarment.

**November 22, 2016 -
Next West Oahu SWCD meeting**

Location: Crop Production Services Conference Room, Kunia Village 92-1770 Kunia Road, Kunia HI 96759. Agendas will be faxed and posted on the Lt. Governor's website.

West Oahu SWCD Directors

Larry Jeffs (Chair), Peter Gibson, Alan Gottlieb, John McHugh, & Joe Para.
Associate Directors: Mike Glidden.

The West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District is committed to building partnerships that strengthen agriculture in Hawaii and contribute to a vibrant island community, environment, and economy.

Newsletter compiled by Michelle Gorham, West Oahu SWCD.
Submit articles and information to Michelle@OahuSWCD.org.



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