



Federal Shifts, Local Shocks: Policy, Tariffs, and Funding Cuts

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Hawaii Farmers Union United



- Represent farmers, ranchers, and food system allies statewide
- Chapters from Kauai to Ka'u
- Focus: farmer education, soil health, local food economies, policy advocacy
- Part of National Farmers Union (founded 1902, 300,000 members nationwide)





Federal Shifts

Image By United States Capitol west front.jpg: Architect of the Capitol
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National Context

- Farm Bill expired; funding gaps for key programs
- Shutdown furloughed USDA staff and delayed payments
- Tariffs increasing input and market costs
- Climate-smart and renewable energy programs cut

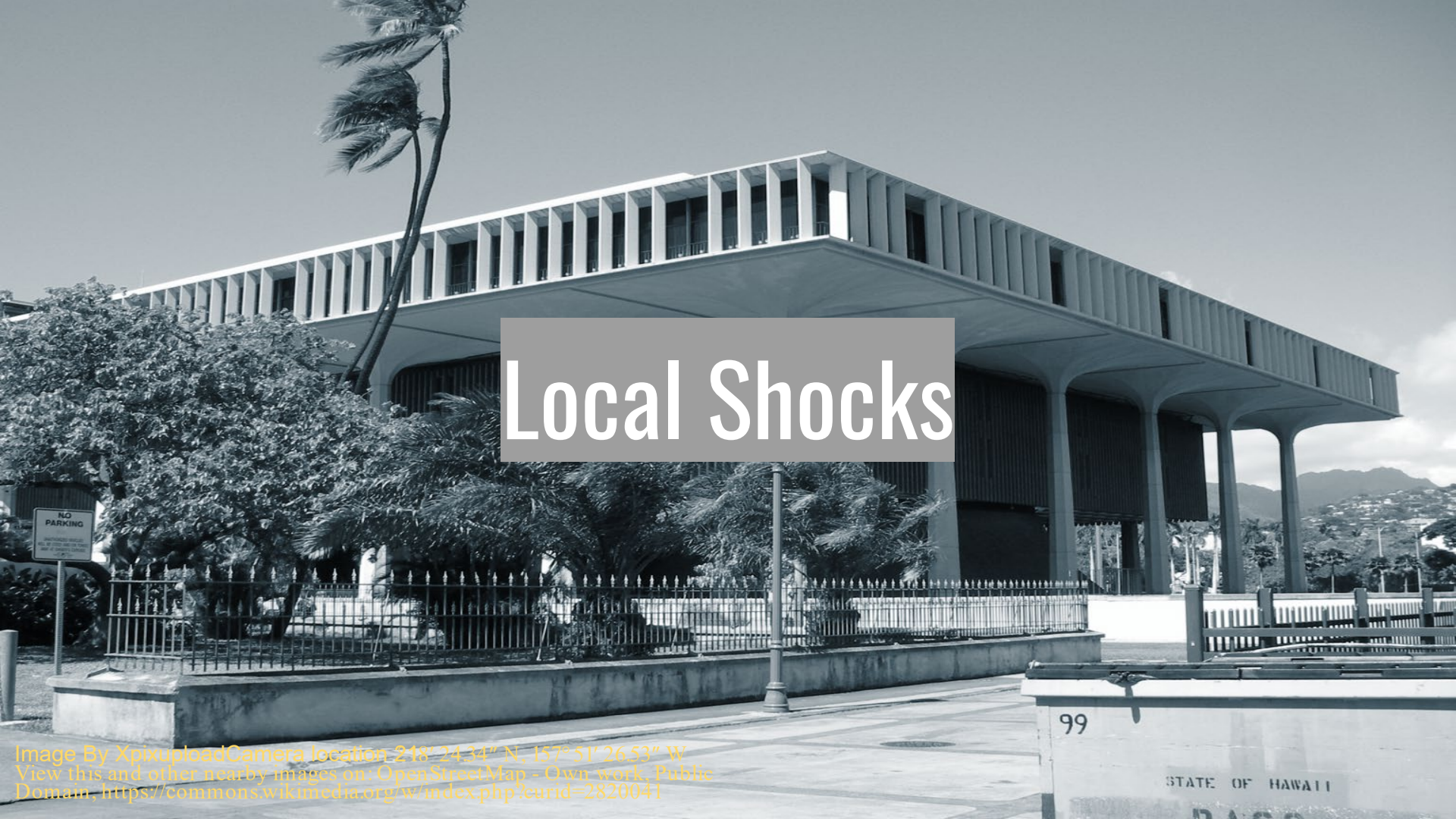


Hawaii vs. Mainland Farm Programs

- No crop insurance for many Hawaii crops
- Disaster programs designed for mainland weather
- Marketing assistance rarely applies to specialty crops
- Climate-Smart was among few programs that fit our systems

Broken trust makes producers hesitant to engage with federal programs





Local Shocks

Image By XpixonloadCamera location 21° 24' 34" N, 157° 51' 26.53" W
View this and other nearby images on: OpenStreetMap - Own work, Public
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STATE OF HAWAII

View from the Farm: Three C's

- **Cost**
 - Input prices rising 10-20% from tariffs
- **Certainty**
 - Contracts canceled with federal funding cuts
- **Continuity**
 - USDA delays stalling farm planning



Workforce Crisis

- Big Island coffee workers arrested/deported
- ICE mistakenly detained Laie farmer
- Legal workers staying away due to fear
- H-2A processing delays and rising complexity
- Small farmer difficulties navigating federal H2-A program



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

Hawaii Grown

Immigration Raids Throw Long Shadow Over Big Island Coffee Harvest

As their workers are arrested and deported, flee the country or stay away, coffee farmers are struggling to bring in a bumper crop.

Hawaii Needs Policy Meeting Our Reality

- Support for diversified operations
- Recognition that sustainable = economically smart
- Assistance scaled to small/medium operations
- Disaster programs tailored for Hawaii conditions
- Modernize Medicaid Income Eligibility for Variable-Income Workers
- State leadership needed for food security





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