

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEPT. COMM. NO. 281
MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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December 28, 2022

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,
Speaker and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Report on Farmer Apprentice Mentoring Program as required by Act 304, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/meetings-reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser".

Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

Enclosures



**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-SECOND
LEGISLATURE 2023 REGULAR SESSION
STATE OF HAWAII**

**IN RESPONSE TO ACT 304, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2022
REQUIRING THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE TO REPORT ANNUALLY ON THE
PROGRAM'S OPERATION AND RELATED PERFORMANCE MEASURES.**



Prepared by:

**THE STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI**

DECEMBER 2022

FARMER APPRENTICE MENTORING PROGRAM

Annual Report to Legislature for Fiscal Year 2023

Background

In the Thirty-first State Legislature, Regular Session of 2022, Act 304 was passed which amended Chapter 141 HRS to add a new section to part I, which requires the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to establish the farmer apprentice mentoring program and to submit an annual report to the legislature on the program's operation and related performance measures. The following information is to be reported:

1. Farmer Apprentice Enrollment;
2. Listing of Known Qualified Mentorship Provider;
3. Assessment on Ability of Mentorship Providers; and
4. Evaluation of Program Results Achieved.

Executive Summary

This report covers the period July 2022 to December 23, 2022. Since the state executive budget was released in late August 2022, the HDOA has been in active discussions and collaboration with Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR), the University of Hawaii, and others to develop an effective agricultural workforce development mentoring program with the \$300,000 appropriated during the 2022 Legislative Session. Since the Department is aware of other mentoring programs provided primarily in the private sector, HDOA is seeking to establish a mentoring program that integrates the resources and benefits of multiple agencies that are involved in agricultural workforce development and does not merely replicate existing programs.

Additionally, Act 304 specified that the apprentice mentorship program be established on a whole farm system approach to agriculture. The whole farm system is a highly diversified small farm approach to farming and may integrate the cultivation of vegetables, herbs, tree fruits, flowers, nursery plants, feed and raising poultry, small animals, and cattle simultaneously. The ultimate goal is to grow all the feed for the animals on the farm and creating a closed loop farm where very little inputs came from elsewhere. The soil is an important consideration in this system approach. It is often enriched with cover crops and sound crop rotation.

Another goal of the whole farm system approach is supporting the landscape, communities and farm families in healthy, intelligent, and sustainable ways that integrate the strong connections between farming and nature.

Select Program Metrics:

1. Farmer Apprentice Enrollment: Pending
2. Listing of Known Qualified Mentorship Provider:
 - Asia-Pacific Center for Regenerative Design (APCRD);
 - Go Farm Hawaii;
 - Hawai'i Institute of Pacific Agriculture (HIP Ag);
 - Ho'ola Farms (Veterans Program);
 - Kahua Pa'a Mua;
 - Kahumana Organic Farms;
 - Kohala Center, Ōhāhā and Hana Mahi'ai;
 - Leeward Community College (On-Farm and Value-Added Program);
 - Malama Kaua'i;
 - Ma'o Organic Farms;
 - Pacific Gateway Center;
 - Pono Grown Farm Center;
 - UH-Hilo - College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management;
 - UH West Oahu – Sustainable Community Food Systems Program;
 - Wahiawa Community Based Development Organization; and
 - Workforce Development Division (DLIR – WDD).
3. Assessment on Ability of Mentorship Providers: Pending
4. Evaluation of Program Results Achieved: Pending

Caveat:

While there is an apparent list of qualified mentorship providers across the state, the specific number of practitioners and authentic mentors on the whole farm system approach to agriculture is generally limited at this time. Therefore, there is a need to collaborate with various entities listed above to formulate a best practice and/or curriculum approach to develop this farmer apprentice mentoring program.