

Hawaii Rural Development Council

A Summit on Rural Hawaii: The Data, The Dilemmas, and the Opportunities

About the Hawai'i Rural Development Council

The Hawai'i Rural Development Council (HRDC) is a statewide nonprofit organization committed to promoting and supporting the rural-based economic welfare of the State. Incorporated in 2003, the HRDC board of directors includes representatives from nonprofit and regional support organizations; federal, state, and county governments; private sector and community representatives; and Native Hawaiians.

The HRDC, in collaboration with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, has recently completed a series of neighbor island meetings to obtain input from these rural communities regarding four key issues: local food systems and food security, renewable energy, community economic development, and rural broadband service. These initial listening sessions were conducted on Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, Kauai, and Molokai as a prelude to a statewide Summit on Rural Hawaii.

With this collective information, HRDC will provide support for a national effort spearheaded by the Partners for Rural America (PRA) to infuse more resources into rural programs and policies. This effort was reinvigorated with the Obama administration and is a currently a key area of focus for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). At the local level, a primary goal of the HRDC and the Summit on Rural Hawaii will be the identification of rural programs, policy initiatives and implementation plans that align with regional and federal priorities and resources.

The HRDC is also the sponsor of the film *Na Kupu Mana'olana – Seeds of Hope-the Future of Agriculture in Hawaii*. The screening at the 2010 Hawaii Agriculture Conference is a 30-minute preview of the 2 hour film being developed by award-winning island filmmaker Danny Miller for Hawaii Public Television.

For over 1,000 years the Hawaiian people produced enough food to support an estimated population of one million. Today, 85% of their food is imported. And if current trends continue, Hawaii's last agricultural lands will be gone by 2040. Can Hawaii change course in time? Yes. This new documentary will expose the world to the individual heroes that are working to solve the biggest issue facing this beloved remote island paradise: "How Can Hawaii Feed Itself?" These "seeds of hope," innovative farmers – both large and small, ranchers, distributors, educators and everyday citizens are scattered throughout the island chain and are growing new ideas that can solve Hawaii's food crisis and inspire a world to become more sustainable while returning to the land. Through personal stories, the film will explore the major issues facing Hawaii: The post plantation period, food security, education, nutrition and will demonstrate how everyone, from industrial farms to traditional taro farmers, must work together to solve these issues.

Speakers

- Robin Danner, President & CEO, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement - rural broadband
- Chris Kanazawa, State Director, USDA Rural Development for Hawaii and the Pacific Basin - rural economic development
- Leanne Okamoto & Kapoe Lewis, Hawaii FFA Foundation - local food systems
- Jeff Mikulina, Executive Director, Blue Planet Foundation - alternative energy

Mahalo Nui Loa to those who helped bring this effort to fruition:

- Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco for providing both financial and facilitation support for the island convening's and the Summit
- Bank of Hawaii for providing financial support
- Partners for Rural America in coordination with USDA-Rural Development for providing financial support
- Marina Piscalish from Mapping Change, LLC for providing facilitation support
- 2010 Hawaii Agriculture Conference and Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii for providing venue, logistical and promotional support for the summit
- Dickie Nelson, Caren Diamond, Lucienne DeNaie, and Malia Akutagawa for providing logistical support with the neighbor island convening's
- HRDC board members who volunteered their time to planning and implementing the rural convening's

Summit Agenda

All activities are located in Hokulani Ballroom Room #2

Time	Session or Activity
8:00-8:45	Registration and Continental Breakfast and visit the Tradeshow
8:45 - 9:00	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diane Ley, State Executive Director, USDA Farm Service Agency • Chris Kanazawa, State Director, USDA Rural Development • Bill Hagy, Deputy Administrator Rural Business Cooperative Service, USDA Rural Development
9:00 - 9:30	Introductory Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sarah Bittleman, Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA
9:30-10:30	Food AND Fuel for Hawaii <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russell Kokubun, Hawaii State Senate, Vice President • Dr. Makena Coffman, Assistant Professor of Urban & Regional Planning at UH, Manoa • Abbey Mayer, Hawaii State Office of Planning • John Cross, Manager for Ed Olson, landowner in Kau (invited)
10:30-10:45	15 minute break
10:45 - 11:55	<i>Opportunity to visit the tradeshow or concurrent sessions at the conference</i>
11:55-12:00	5 minute break
12:00-1:00	Networking Lunch <i>Na Kupu Mana'olana – Seeds of Hope-the Future of Agriculture in Hawaii</i>
1:00-1:05	5 minute break
1:05-2:20	<p align="center"><i>A Summit on Rural Hawaii: The Data, The Dilemmas, and The Opportunities</i></p> Welcome and Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statewide Summit Goals • Background on the USDA Listening Effort and its Relevance to Hawaii Introductions: Partners, Sponsors and Funders, Special Guests and Participants Description of the Process to Date: Statewide Meetings, April – August; Western Regional Meeting, Las Vegas, June; Summary Report Developed Review of Summary Report from Statewide Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengths, Successes, Opportunities and Special Challenges in Rural Hawaii • Needs & Ideas for 4 Focus Issues: energy, food security, business development, broadband • Systemic Solutions: What each sector of the community can do to help. (i.e., not-for-profit, government, business)
2:20-2:25	5 minute break
2:25 - 3:40	Speaker Presentations on 4 Focus Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robin Danner, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement - rural broadband • Chris Kanazawa, State Director for USDA RD - rural economic development • Leanne Okamoto & Kapoe Lewis, Hawaii FFA Foundation - local food systems • Jeff Mikulina, Blue Planet Foundation - alternative energy Legislators' Share Mana'o - brief statements of concern, encouragement, specific legislation to watch, citizen or group actions to take.
3:40-3:45	5 minute break
3:45 – 5:00	Facilitation of Group Consensus: Identify potential projects that HRDC or others can take the lead on; establish working groups to continue dialogue and planning, advocacy efforts Summary of Agreements and Next Steps Invitation to Participate in upcoming events designed to maintain momentum and deepen the work