



**Agricultural
Leadership
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of Hawai'i**

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2010 Hawai'i Agriculture Conference: Celebrating Change Important Session on Hawaii's Drought Crisis

HONOLULU - The Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawai'i reminds readers the dates for the 2010 Hawai'i Agriculture Conference are September 23, 24 & 25 2010. This two-day event and post conference farm tour will occur at the JW Marriott Ihilani Resort and Spa at Ko'Olina on O'ahu. These sessions have been developed to serve the diverse needs of the audience – agriculture producers and business, government and nonprofit support entities from across the state. We'd like to highlight this session:

Follow the Water: Hawaii's Drought Dilemma

Drought is a reality in Hawai'i. On July 21, 2010, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) designated all four counties in Hawai'i as primary disaster areas due to losses caused by drought that began January 1, 2010, and continues, with news media describing the drought in Hawai'i as the worst in the United States. This session will present stories of Hawai'i's drought challenges through distinct data lenses that consider rainfall and water availability in island ecosystems, wildfires and other hazards, impacts on ecosystem services, and the social, cultural, and economic impacts of drought. The panel presenters will talk story about multi-agency collaborative projects currently underway to understand drought patterns and impacts and how we all can improve county, state, and federal mitigation and adaptation planning efforts. Everyone

more



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from farmers to policy makers will benefit from information to be shared at the session about web-based tools, data, and other resources available to support drought mitigation and community resilience planning efforts. This session will be moderated by Marina Piscalish of MAPPING Change, LLC.

The panelist for this session include: Neal D. J. Fujii, Hawai'i State Drought and Water Conservation Coordinator in the Commission on Water Resource Management, Planning Branch, Department of Land and Natural Resources; Dr. Cheryl L. Anderson, PhD, Director of the Hazards, Climate, and Environment Program, University of Hawai'i Social Science Research Institute; Kevin Kodama, the Senior Service Hydrologist for the NOAA/National Weather Service's Honolulu Forecast Office, meteorologist for the Central Pacific Hurricane Center; Dr. Kenneth Y. Kaneshiro, PhD, Director of the Center for Conservation Research & Training, Director of the Hawaiian Evolutionary Biology Program at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and Dr. Marina Avi Piscalish, PhD, is the President and Principal Partner of MAPPING Change, LLC will moderatethe panel.

The 2010 Hawai'i Agriculture Conference: Celebrating Change is presented by the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawai'i. The conference planning committee members, comprised of Agricultural Leadership Program alumni, are working close with Hawai'i Department of the Agriculture, U. S. Department of Agriculture (Farm Services Agency, Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Services), University of Hawai'i-College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Hawai'i Agritourism Association, University of Hawai'i Social Science Research Institute, Hawai'i Rural Development Council, Kanu Hawaii, Kokua Hawai'i Foundation and Armstrong Produce.

For up to date information about the speakers, concurrent sessions, equipment and tradeshow, special luncheons and receptions please visit the conference website: www.hawaiiagconference.org

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