

Growing Agriculture in Hawaii – Issues

LAND

The growth of agriculture including requires the availability of affordable, arable lands in appropriate lot sizes with long term leases and required infrastructure needed for a successful enterprise. Must protect and take the development pressure off the best lands.

- Permanent Ag/Conservation easements; purchase land; IAL
- Tighten/enforce regs for illegal uses and fake ag subdivisions
- Live-work-play communities; Rethink planning and design; Stop sprawl

WATER

Agriculture is dependent on adequate amounts of irrigation water reliably delivered at a reasonable rate.

- Repair, maintain, build ag irrigation systems (public and private)
- Increase storage capacity; capture storm runoff; recycling water
- Best management practices for water conservation, efficiency

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT: LABOR, FARM MANAGEMENT, NEW FARMERS, PROFESSIONALS

People at all levels from farm labor to professionals are needed for the long term growth of agriculture.

- Ag education, youth programs, start young – career choice
- Workforce development training, internships
- Prisoner and transitional training
- Ag Worker Housing

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND SUPPORT

The majority of people are generations removed from the farm and connection with where their food comes from.

- Buy Local, It Matters – raise awareness, call to action
- Reconnect people with ag so they know how to support it
- On-farm experiences and farmers' mkts helps to raise awareness
- High profile advocates such as chefs

MARKETING AND COMPETITIVENESS

Global competition affects both local and export markets

- Promotion for local products, events
- Remove barriers to export - bring new money into our economy; bigger market with alternatives helps stability

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Continuous improvement of production systems, crops and varieties, post harvest handling and value-added processing are needed.

- Solve problems, create new products, increase efficiency
- Feasibility studies, economic analysis, systems development

TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

Transportation and energy costs impact inputs, production, processing and moving products to market.

- Reduce costs – transportation and energy drive up the cost of fertilizers, feeds, supplies, production, processing, post-harvest handling, storage and distribution.
- On-farm renewable energy systems

FOOD SAFETY

Impending regulations and consumer demands for food safety are driving changes in production, processing and distribution systems.

- Employ technology and develop systems for food safety
- Train, encourage and assist adoption of food safety practices
- Educate everyone; Food Safety is the responsibility of all

BIOSECURITY

Multi-dimensional program to prevent the entry of invasive species and address established pests.

- Management information systems and databases for efficient deployment of resources, risk assessments, rapid response
- Joint inspection facilities, treatment facilities, pre-clearance programs
- Biocontrol, develop new tools, partnerships
- Outreach and public education

ENVIRONMENT

Farmers must apply best management practices for crop, pest and waste management; soil conservation and environmental stewardship.

- Make needed tools available
- Integrated pest management
- Training, conservation plans

FINANCING

Need long term leases to secure loans

- Educate commercial lenders
- Alternative financing