2015 Hawai‘i WSARE Professional Development Program Summer Update
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Since 1988, Western Sustainable Agriculture, Research and Education (WSARE) has provided over 4 million dollars in grant funding to the State of Hawai‘i in support of Sustainable Agriculture.

The Hawai‘i WSARE Professional Development Program (PDP) participated in the 2015 Western SARE PDP meeting held in Durango, Colorado on July 6-8, 2015. Program leaders from the Western SARE PDP as well as members from the Western SARE Administrative Council attended the summer meeting. We received updates on the national & regional SARE program (communication, grants, reporting, etc.), participated in small group discussions on enhancing state grant PDP programing, took part in a presentation entitled, “Resilient and Sustainable Ag Communities,” and engaged in an day long educational tour of sustainable agricultural projects around Durango.

We presented a 2 page update of our 2014 Hawai‘i WSARE PDP activities and are actively working to organize the 2015 Hawai‘i WSARE PDP program to be held in Kauhului, Maui. Tentatively the date selected is
October 13-14, 2015, so please save the date.

A recent assessment of twenty eight (28) agricultural professionals who represent organizations such as CTAHR CES agents/specialists, USDA NRCS, Soil and Water Conservationists, consultants, farmers/ranchers, and other state/federal agencies in Hawai‘i prioritizes the top 3 issues (Figure 2) for the 2015 Hawai‘i WSARE PDP to be:

1. Pest management
2. Plant / soil nutrition
3. Food safety.

Ninety-six (96%) percent of respondents indicated that the Hawai‘i WSARE PDP trainings

Figure 2 (right): Top issues for 2015 Hawai‘i WSARE PDP

Figure 3 (below): Top components requested for the 2015 Hawai‘i WSARE PDP
are valuable to their work. Ninety percent (90%) of responders were favor of Hawai‘i program leaders continuing to apply, conduct, and administer WSARE PDP education workshops, travel scholarships, and social media technology transfer. Noteworthy, fifty six (56%) percent of survey participants indicated that travel scholarships are necessary for their attendance.

Field demonstrations, farm tours and focused workshops were the top 3 components (Figure 3) participants wanted integrated into the 2015 PDP training.

Survey participants were also asked how they prefer to obtain research based information relevant to their respective fields. Interestingly, participants indicated that they prefer to acquire new information through sources such as on farm demonstrations, internet sources and video, before face to face interaction (Figure 4). Comments also highlighted the need for field days, emails, out of state conferences and a strong visual component for technology transfer adoption.

The Hawai‘i WSARE Professional Development Program is a once a year educational event which is held at different locations around the Hawaiian island chain. Due to the geographic and cost constraints of providing continuous, face to face, statewide professional development programs, this survey instrument also validates and reinforces Hawai‘i WSARE’s commitment to supporting CTAHR Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program's (SOAP) web based updates via its Hānai‘Ai newsletter and various social media outputs.

We will be working to integrate the priorities and comments from those who completed the survey into this year’s WSARE PDP training event in collaborative partnership with its partner
program, CTAHR SOAP and its team of sustainable agricultural researchers, industry leaders, farmers and ranchers (Figure 5).

![WSARE and CTAHR SOAP Organizational Chart](image)

Please stay tuned for updates. We look forward to seeing you all in beautiful Maui this October.

**Links to past Hawai‘i WSARE PDP programs**

- Hawai‘i WSARE Professional Development Program 2014: Recognizing the Value of CTAHR’s Cooperative Extension Service & Our Collaborators
- Hawai‘i WSARE Professional Development Program 2013: Sustaining Hawai‘i’s Farms, Farmers and Cooperative Extension Service
- Hawai‘i WSARE Professional Development Program 2012: Organic Fertilizer and Cover Crop Calculator: Hawai‘i