

Ka Momona O Ka 'Āina

The Bounty of the Land



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**Hawaii
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March is National Nutrition Month!

“Discover the Power of Nutrition”

Everyone is invited to learn more about making informed food choices and developing healthful eating and physical activity habits by celebrating National Nutrition Month! Visit www.eatright.org/national-nutrition-month to access tip sheets and activity handouts, and find a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist in your area for additional support in meeting your health goals. Mahalo nui to all of the Registered Dietitian Nutritionists (RD/RDNs) and Nutrition and Dietetics Technicians, Registered (NDTRs) across Hawai'i who contribute to the health of individuals and communities!



Source: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Major Storms Impact Local Communities and Farms, Prompting Swift Response

Scores of homes, businesses, schools, and farms were seriously affected by the back-to-back “Kona Low” storms that brought record-breaking rainfall and devastating flooding this month to communities across all islands. There has been a swift and well-coordinated response by community members as well as organizations and agencies that support local farms and food systems, through which a comprehensive [Resource Guide](#) has been launched. This guide allows users to report disaster impacts, find recovery programs, and offer support for Hawai'i's agricultural producers. Key coordinators of these response efforts include Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i, Hawai'i Farmers Union, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council, and Synergistic Hawai'i Agriculture Council.



Hawai'i
Agriculture
Disaster
Response
Resource
Guide

Hawai'i's local food producers are encouraged to document and report impacts to their farms and ranches through the [Hawai'i Agriculture Disaster Response Statewide Rapid Assessment Tool](#), which also features a dashboard showing aggregated statewide data. Producers may also contact their local USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) office for information on relief programs that may apply to them: Honolulu County (808) 861-8538; Hawaii County (808) 933-8334; Maui/Molokai/Lanai (808) 871-5500 Ext. 2; Kauai County (808) 245-9014 Ext. 2.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (HDAB) launched the [Emergency Farmer Relief Program](#), allowing farmers and ranchers impacted by these storms to apply for a one-time grant of \$1,500 to address immediate needs resulting from the storms. Many other farming and food systems-related announcements and funding opportunities are also available through the Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i newsletter: oahurcd.org/newsletters/

Healthy Food Access and Hands-On Learning Through Hydroponics

HCNP's Hydroponic Grant program is currently supporting 19 public and public charter schools on the islands of O'ahu, Hawai'i, and Maui to design and build or purchase pre-made hydroponic systems. These projects support hands-on agriculture and nutrition education for participating elementary, middle, and high school students. HCNP's Farm to School Program Specialist recently visited two of the participating schools on O'ahu: Mililani High School and Waipahu High School.



A "Salsa Tower" and two more systems with salad ingredients and other nutritious veggies are now growing at Mililani High School through the HCNP Hydroponic Grant. The project's lead teacher explains the hand-pollination process to visitors.



Visiting students of nutrition from Niigata, Japan learn from an agriculture student about the impressive hydroponic systems growing at Waipahu High School.

Joining the recent visits were four undergraduate students of nutrition from Niigata University, Japan, who were connected with HCNP as volunteers through the Leeward Community College Office of International Programs. The visiting students thoroughly enjoyed seeing the projects in action and learning from local students about the connections between agriculture education, thriving food systems, nutrition and health. We are excited to learn and share more about the delicious and nutritious crops being grown through the hydroponic systems at participating schools in the months to come!



The [We Grow Hawai'i Youth Food Summit](#) was held on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at Punahou School, bringing students, farmers, educators, and community leaders together for a day of hands-on workshops, real conversations, and youth-led action around Hawai'i's food future. Centered on *Kalo as Kumu*, this year's summit explored Indigenous food systems, local agriculture, and how young people can shape policy and community change. The day's lunch was 85% locally-sourced (as measured by cost). Congratulations to the Hawai'i Youth Food Council for hosting a successful event!

Get ready for these upcoming celebrations in April 2026: **Earth Month** (Earth Day, April 22), **National Garden Month** (National Gardening Day, April 14), and **National Banana Day**, April 15!

Sign up for this newsletter by emailing: hcnp@k12.hi.us

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