Work goes on as usual at HC&S even as the company prepares to end production

By Andrew Gomes
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College of Tropical Agriculture and Mechanic Arts of the Territory of Hawai‘i

- Established 1907
- Changed to College of Hawai‘i in 1911
- Became University of Hawai‘i in 1920
- College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources in 1978

Integration
Instruction, Research, and Extension
Faculty involved in all communities on all Islands

27 research farms and extension offices on five islands
CTAHR dedicated to problem solving and providing evidence-based information for all forms of agriculture.

Goal to help in the state’s economic development, environmental protection and ensure healthy families.

Uphold academic freedom and respect the rights of farmers and consumers.
Teaching - Research - Extension

Science for specialty crops and markets

Responsibility

- Food Crops & Seed
- Pastures & Animals
- Fruits & Vegetables
- Ornamentals & Flowers
- Rural families

Not sugar
CTAHR contributions

- Teaching the next generation
- Applying science to improving crop production, quality and food safety
- Looking for alternative crops and breeding varieties suitable for our needs
- Protecting the environment – invasive pests, soil fertility and sustainability
- Family and children’s healthy living and healthy food
University and Agriculture

• **Trend** - University as a corporation – new sources of revenue or downsizing
  • Priorities teaching ($) and research ($)

• **UH Priorities**
  • Agriculture??????? and state needs ????
  • Sugars gone – let’s cut CTAHR???
  • Lip service???
Hawaiʻi and Agriculture

- Hawaii has a low Food Self-Sufficiency
- Hawaii has much in common with other Pacific island states, Asia, SE Asia.
- Many of Hawaii’s crops are of little national interest – fewer $ = fewer grants. Hope USDA – SCI
- Funds need to carry out research to meet the future of agriculture in Hawaii
Important political & policy issues for making farming profitable in Hawaii

rokes & Sufficiency
Governor 2030 pledge double food production
Food Security & Self Sufficient Strategy 2012
Clear and concise agenda to meet individual agriculture industry needs – Industry Analysis
Balance ex. Biofuels versus food crops
Balancing land & energy use, worker health and safety, water use & quality = Sustainability
CTAHR Current Status

- Four new extension agent positions.

- College broke – no new positions
  - Agribusiness Management
  - Sustainability
  - Landscape Maintenance

- Work with the legislature to achieve common goals. Need support for research and extension activities.
Agriculture’s reputation?

- Counter modern view of farming as not attractive
- Consumers curious about food but uninformed
- Bucolic (romantic) vision – green pastures, happy cows and chickens, local food, noble farmer
- All farming involves impacts on the environment – **Stress** the use of crop rotations, IPM, cover crops, pesticides & fertilizer minimization, reduced tillage, reduced run-off, safe and healthy food
- Stress all solutions need science and good management
Conclusions:

Future - Hawaii farmers & consumers

- Healthy and safe food - sustainability
- Credible science to counter activist science
- Reuse – recycle: water, alternative energy sources and farming inputs
- Need program reduce food waste
- Farming activities will have increased need for technical expertise and greater precision to reduce resource inputs

Biggest benefits to State in a sustainable way
Thank you – Questions.
Families, Communities and the Local Economy