

# SARE: Advancing the Frontier of Sustainable Agriculture in...

# Hawaii

## Project Highlight: *Finding Success with Local Fertilizers*

**B**ecause they rely on imported food, Hawaii and the other Pacific Islands face food insecurity issues. Pacific Island farmers also rely on expensive imported fertilizers with prices that continue to increase substantially. The issue is so important that participants in a 2008 Western SARE listening session in Hawaii ranked replacing imported fertilizers with local resources as the highest research, education and development priority. Local organic sources of nutrients have promise—including compost, tankage (rendered animal products), biochar and seaweeds—but more research is needed on their use.

Three SARE-funded projects on locally produced organic fertilizers are taking a step in that direction. One project evaluated quality, matu-

rity, nitrogen-release pattern and crop growth for 10 composts through a series of lab, greenhouse and on-farm trials. It led to an increased demand for locally produced tankage and a reported increase in taro and sweet potato yields and quality when using invasive algae as a fertilizer.

The second project followed up on the promise of tankage but using it as a solution for fertigation. There was some benefit from using this recipe compared to imported liquid organic fertilizer. The third project is continuing the momentum by evaluating biochar combined with compost.

For more information on these projects, see [www.sare.org/projects](http://www.sare.org/projects), and search for project numbers SW11-055, SW14-026 and SW16-021.

## SARE in Hawaii

[www.westernsare.org/hawaii](http://www.westernsare.org/hawaii)

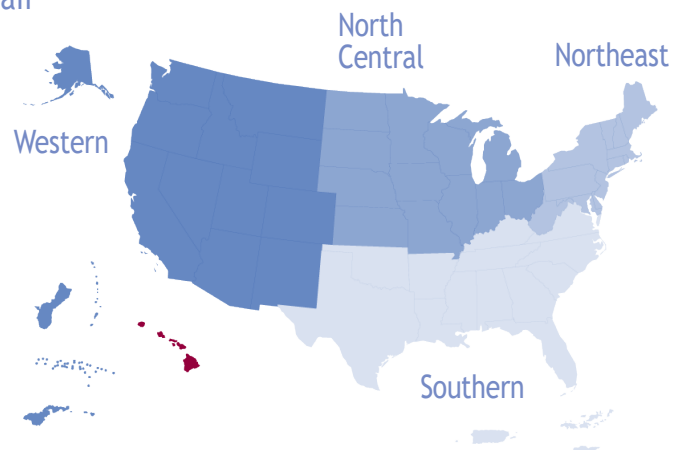
**\$5.6 million in total funding**

**96 grant projects**

(since 1988)

For a complete list of grant projects state by state, go to

[www.sare.org/state-summaries](http://www.sare.org/state-summaries)



SARE's four regional programs and outreach office work to advance sustainable innovations to the whole of American agriculture.

## What is SARE?

Since 1988, the Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) program has been the go-to USDA grants and outreach program for farmers, ranchers, researchers and educators who want to develop innovations that improve farm profitability, protect water and land, and revitalize communities. To date, SARE has awarded over \$273 million to more than 6,800 initiatives.

### SARE is grassroots with far-reaching impact

Four regional councils of expert practitioners set priorities and make grants in every state and island protectorate.

### SARE communicates results

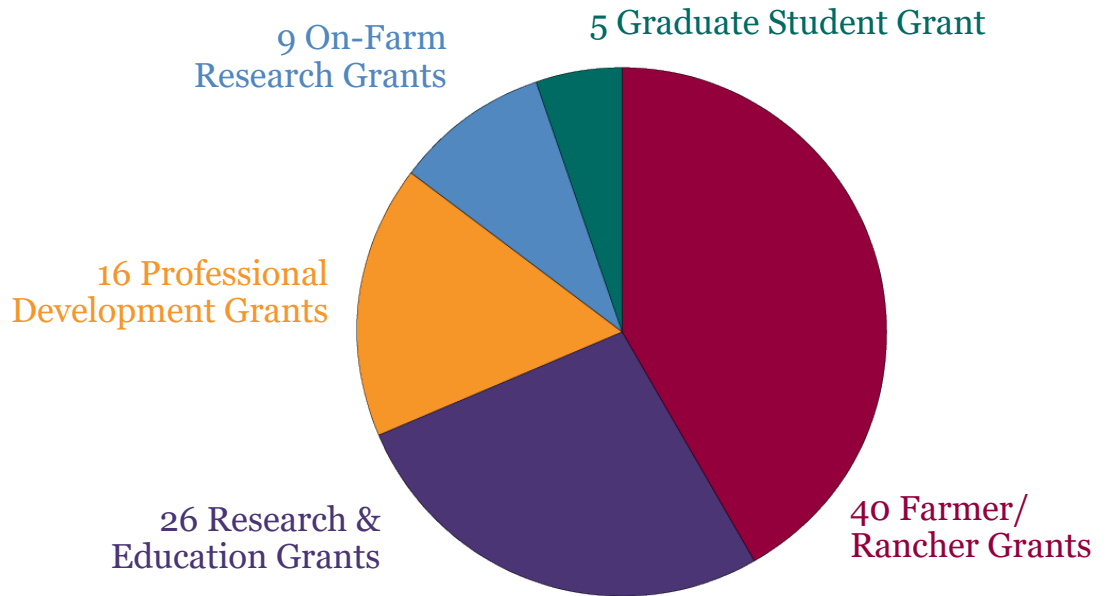
SARE shares project results by requiring grantees to conduct outreach and grower engagement; and by maintaining the SARE Learning Center—a library of practical publications, grantee-produced information products and other educational materials.



[www.sare.org](http://www.sare.org)

# SARE Grants in Hawaii

SARE has  
awarded a  
total of  
**96 grants**  
in Hawaii  
since 1988



## SARE's Impact



**53 percent** of producers report using a new production technique after reading a SARE publication.

**79 percent** of producers said they improved soil quality through their SARE project.

**64 percent** of producers said their SARE project helped them achieve higher sales.

## Contact Your SARE State Coordinator

SARE sustainable ag coordinators run state-level educational programs for Extension and other ag professionals, and many help grant applicants and recipients with planning and outreach. Visit [www.westernsare.org/hawaii](http://www.westernsare.org/hawaii) to learn more.

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For detailed information on SARE projects, go to

[www.SARE.org](http://www.SARE.org)