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# Master Farmer Series

## Sustainable Farming- Waianu Farms, Waiahole

### June 21, 2012

SUBMIT QUESTIONS FOR THE FARMERS: [admin@oahurcd.org](mailto:admin@oahurcd.org)  
[Workshop fact sheet](#) (includes farmer profile, topic description and helpful resources)

For this first in the Master Farmer series of workshops, farmer's Paul and Charlie Reppun hosted participants at their farm in Waiahole. After approaching the farm via a short walk and stream crossing, participants gathered in the rustic setting to listen to the speakers.



After a welcome from Oahu RC&D Executive Director, Jean Brokish and Master Farmer, Paul Reppun, Ben Vinhatiero of NRCS explained how NRCS helps farms like Waianu to develop Conservation Plans. Ben gave specific examples of the unique challenges the Reppuns faced with their Conservation plan. To help illustrate what was involved, he displayed maps of the Waianu Farm property developed by NRCS for the Reppuns.

The group began the farm tour by first visiting an *Albezia* control project to see their use of tree cuttings to help stabilize slopes and add organic matter. On the tour the group also visited the taro loi, viewed a wide variety of plants grown on the farm, including cashew, cacao and vanilla, and learned about their efforts to utilize local resources as much as possible - including alien limu as a fertilizer and hydroelectric power.



The workshop closed with a presentation by Hector Valenzuela of UH CTAHR about the University's program services, and the science supporting what the Reppuns are doing in terms of biodiversity, soil amendments and nutrient cycling.

Handouts:

[Workshop Fact Sheet](#)

[Conservation Practices](#) (NRCS)

[Pacific Islands Area Fact Sheet](#) (NRCS)

[USDA Farm Bill Programs for Farmers](#) (NRCS)

[NRCS Conservation Planning Presentation Slides](#) (Ben Vinhateiro)

## Web Resources:

[University of Hawaii Organic and Sustainable Agriculture Program](#)

[Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program](#)

## Publications:

[Towards Sustainable Agriculture in Hawaii](#)

[Organic Soil Amendments](#)

[Hawaiian Kalo](#)

[Minimizing Non-point Source Pollution in Agriculture](#)