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This coming Monday the 16th of June I will be on the mainland at a National Farmers Union Presidents Board Meeting with 26 states presidents.

What makes this especially significant is that HFUU representing its chapters has a grant proposal submitted to NFU so that we can hire part time employees to better organize and grow our blossoming organization.

We have been an all volunteer organization since 2009 when I was on the original state board of directors.

NFU has been working alongside HFUU in our growth and development and wants us to succeed. Its now up to us to provide the core leadership, financial stability and organizational structure in order to become a chartered state within the National charter.

What makes this happen is having members who are the voice of our organization along with the generous individuals that have donated to our growth.

HFUU

Development:

The state board has approved the appointment of Malian Lahey, Ka'u Hawaii Island as our new policy chair along with Faith Ewbank, Maui as our membership chair, they join David Fisher as our finance chair and Simon Russell as our legislative chair.

The development of these committees are essential to the growth and stability of our organization.

We are presently designing a process to develop policies to be voted on by the membership in November at our annual meeting. Our focus remains steadfast to advocate in support of regional food systems whether they be gardeners or farms, especially to those who make their living while employing regenerative land practices in doing so.

We assert that these family farms or smallholders will be the backbone of a agricultural system that will feed our islands

people in providing for food security.

Chapter News:

Two weeks ago I was on Hawaii Island working with the Kona Chapter (President Steve Sakala) while also there to develop the new

Ka'u Chapter (President Malian Lahey) and upcoming Hilo Chapter. The following week I met with the Oahu Chapter led by Pamela Boyar of AlohaFarmersMarkets. Oahu Chapter is working to host the AGvance this summer the date TBA to prepare our organization for the 2015 legislative session.

The Kauai Chapter led by (President Ray Maki) reported that they have been holding regular meetings on the second Wednesday of the month. They have a county funded grant of \$23,000 for research into Korean Natural Farming demonstrations waiting for the mayors signature.

June 11th Kauai Chapter meeting had 70 plus folks attending a locavore feast, educational outreach and networking time together.

There is interest to developing a West Maui Chapter, the existing Maui Chapter who meets every fourth Tuesday of the month in upcountry East Maui (President Bill Greenleaf) will be celebrating their 50th consecutive meeting this Month on the 24th of June. (I had the pleasure and privilege serving as President for 45 of those meetings) They also just completed an on farm mentoring workshop teaching Korean Natural Farming Protocols funded by a county OED grant. There is an additional county grant of \$20,000 line item for next fiscal year.

Congratulations all around to this chapters BOD and dedicated volunteers that has led the way with consistency every month for the past four years in celebrating food, education and community.

Food Safety Task Force:

Since February I've attended 8 food safety task force meetings on each of the islands except Lanai. The legislature made it a point to have HFUU representative sit on this committee. The body of work we have addressed has looked at the complete food supply chain to the consumer uncovering potential risk and hazards so to comply with the federal law (FSMA). Our last meeting is going to be on June 30th where we will be working on

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recommendations specific to Hawaii. Any input dealing with this aspect of food safety can be emailed to me at hfuu1@hawaii.rr.com while we compile our final report to legislature.

The relationship building and mutual respect cooperatively working together within the agricultural sectors has been productive in bringing an alternative voice to the table in our representation of family farms and regenerative agriculture.

Presidents Message:

As we move forward know that I am blessed to have a dedicated state board of directors to work alongside as they not only address the state organizations challenges but also relay and communicate the challenges in the development of their respective chapters. We all will continue to lead by advocating for the family farmer who values and implements the practice of regenerative agriculture by recycling of nutrients in building production resiliency on their farms while continue to be an educational beacon for up and coming farmers who want to do what is proper in being in relationship to the land and growing our agriculture food, fiber and fuel.

Mahalo for being a member of HFUU your doing so makes a difference. Please go to

www.hawaiifarmersunionunited.org

and renew today.

Committee Chairs:

Legislative Chair: Simon Russell

Finance Chair: David Fisher

Policy Chair: Malian Lahey

Membership Chair: Faith Ewbank

State Board of Directors:

Vincent Mina- President-Maui

Simon Russell -Vice President-Maui

Ray Maki- Treasurer-Kauai

David Case- Secretary- Kona

Steve Sakala-Kona

Pamela Boyar-Oahu

Russell Greenleaf-Maui

Malian

Lahey-Ka'u