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HFUU

POLICY STATEMENT

Policy of the Hawaii Farmers Union United
Enacted by delegates to the annual convention
Kula, MAUI

November 8-10, 2019

Hawaii Farmers Union United Mission and Vision Statements

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Our mission is to...

advocate for the sovereign right of farmers, ranchers and fishers to create and sustain vibrant and prosperous agricultural communities for the benefit of all Hawai'i through cooperation, education and legislation.

Our vision is to...

we assert that a multitude of smallholder diversified family farms that implement regenerative eco-logical techniques, in growing and raising our food, will create a resilient, vital and productive agricultural system to better feed the people of Hawai'i

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75 **Preamble**

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77 We, the members of the Hawai'i Farmers Union United, in the following policy
78 statement, strive to articulate the fundamental principles of food, fiber, and
79 energy policy essential to our islands' sustainability. We support and extend our
80 Aloha to our farmers, native biodiversity, the 'Aina and the health and
81 wellbeing of the people of Hawai'i Nei.

82 ~~We, the members of the Hawai'i Farmers Union United, in the following policy~~
83 ~~statement, open our hearts and minds to the public, to the governing bodies of~~
84 ~~our State and to the business community in the Spirit of Aloha. We support~~
85 ~~and give our Aloha to our farmers, our watersheds, our native biodiversity and~~
86 ~~for the lives and health of people in our watershed communities.~~

87
88 We establish these policies as a reflection of the sustainable values and practices
89 of the people of Hawai'i. We recognize that promoting sustainable, ecological,
90 and regenerative agriculture will serve the best interests of the people of
91 Hawai'i, our watershed ecosystems and all the inhabitants of Hawai'i Nei.

92
93 Hawaii Farmers Union United supports the State of Hawaii's strategy of greater
94 food security and agricultural self-sufficiency through increased local food
95 production. Hawaii regional food production helps reconnect people to the
96 'Aina— the source of the food they eat— and the people who grow it.
97 Increased consumption of locally grown foods results in opportunities to
98 employ more people in agriculture, the ability of farmers to capture a larger
99 share of the retail market, and keeps consumer dollars circulating in each local
100 economy.

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101
102 We strive to use the most sustainable and appropriate energy solutions available
103 in our farming practices while prioritizing local food security, ~~food sovereignty;~~
104 ~~living wage farming jobs, inter-generational farms, healthy watersheds and coral~~
105 ~~reef ecosystems~~ and a thriving farm economy. We support ~~the Native~~
106 ~~Hawaiian~~ traditional agricultural practices~~people and their efforts to farm,~~
107 ~~return and restore traditional rights to land and water.~~ HFUU is a solution-
108 based organization collaborating and cooperating with those who share our
109 mission and vision of vibrant and resilient agricultural communities in Hawai'i.

110
111 As farmers and farmer ~~allies~~advocates, we recognize that ~~organic, contaminant~~
112 ~~free and~~ nutrient-rich food is the best medicine, and ~~essential~~ for the health
113 and wellbeing of our ~~soils and watersheds~~communities. We support organic
114 ~~the~~and associated other sustainable practices and farmers in transition towards
115 these practices. ~~We proudly shoulder the ethical responsibility of watershed~~

116 ~~stewardship for the health of people and biological communities. We accept the~~
117 ~~ethical responsibility of teaching those who come after us to shoulder that~~
118 ~~responsibility in turn. We recognize that community-based decisions are, best~~
119 ~~when the consequences of those decisions directly affect the communities~~
120 ~~where we live. We know sustainable family farming creates economic,~~
121 ~~environmental and sociocultural benefits within our island communities;~~
122 ~~stimulates a beneficial multiplier effect in the local economy and strengthens~~
123 ~~food security.~~

124
125 ~~Hawai'i Farmers Union United stands for fairness and cooperation as~~
126 ~~cornerstones of how we live, farm and do business. Hawaii Farmers Union~~
127 ~~United acknowledges and accepts the scientific evidence that clearly indicates~~
128 ~~that human activities are a contributing factor to climate change. We believe~~
129 ~~that human activity also has the potential to help mitigate climate change. The~~
130 ~~international community of climate change researchers and scientists are in~~
131 ~~agreement that sSustainable, ecological and regenerative farming systems are~~
132 ~~key to climate change reversal. Our job is to enhance the quality of life and~~
133 ~~vitality for our children, families, neighbors and friends through family~~
134 ~~agriculture as an expression of love for our children, families, neighbors and~~
135 ~~friends, in the Spirit of Aloha 'Aina and Malama 'Aina.~~

136
137
138 ~~We dedicate this policy to the celebration of life through agriculture with~~
139 ~~our great reverence for its inherent value. (2016 Annual Convention)~~

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141 ~~1. Article I — Support for Sustainable Agricultural Practices~~

142 ~~We support:~~

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143 ~~Hawai'i Farmers Union United is a solution-based, action-oriented collective of~~
144 ~~members that protects the interests of our family farmers from any practice~~
145 ~~that contaminates, commodifies or compromises their ability to farm and~~
146 ~~market their products.~~

147 ~~1. We support t~~The 1990 USDA definition of sustainable agriculture: Public
148 Law 101-624, Title XVI, Subtitle A, Section. Under that law, “the term
149 sustainable agriculture means an integrated system of plant and animal
150 production practices having a site-specific application that will, over the long
151 term:

- 152 • ~~satisfy human food and fiber needs;~~
- 153 • ~~enhance environmental quality and the natural resource base upon which~~
154 ~~the agricultural economy depends;~~
- 155 • ~~make the most efficient use of nonrenewable resources and on-farm~~

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156 resources and integrate, where appropriate, natural biological cycles and
157 controls;

- 158 • sustain the economic viability of farm operations; and
- 159 • enhance the quality of life for farmers and society as a whole.”

160
161 2. We support the “Organic Foods Production Act of 1990, which among
162 other things provides for organic food production certification;”

163
164 3. We support the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) and
165 their work that advocates for federal policy reform to advance the
166 sustainability of agriculture, food systems, natural resources, and rural
167 communities;:-

168 4. We support regenerative agriculture as a major component of sustainable
169 agriculture; and

170 5. We support the National Agricultural Library's (NAL) Thesaurus and
171 Glossary of agricultural terms as guidance for terms used in HFUU policy
172 statement. (2016 HFUU Annual Convention)

173

174 **2. Regenerative Agriculture**

175 Regenerative agriculture is a system of farming and ranching principles and
176 practices that increase biodiversity, enriches the soil, purifies watersheds, and all
177 while increasing in-farm fertility, which may help producers save money by
178 reducing input expenses. Regenerative practices include no tillage to minimal
179 tillage, diverse cover crops, multiple crop rotations, agroforestry and
180 silvopasture, all of which should be augmented by holistic grazing guidelines.

181

182 We support:

183 1. Research, cost-sharing and other incentives for regenerative farming and
184 ranching practices that sequester more carbon, improve soil health and
185 productivity, slow erosion and build up topsoil, and increase water
186 filtration;

187 2. Development of new markets and other funding for farmers and
188 ranchers who are currently practicing regenerative farming and ranching
189 or who are transitioning to regenerative practices; and

190 3. Applied research on soil health in regenerative food production systems

191

192 **3. Local Food Economy**

193 HFUU supports all initiatives aimed at regionalizing our food system. The local
194 food system is defined as food that originates and is consumed in Hawai'i and
195 includes direct to consumer, farm-to-table types of economic activities, such as

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196 farmers markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), farm sales as
197 well as traditional distribution pathways such as grocery store, wholesaler,
198 restaurant and institutional buyers selling to groups including schools, prisons
199 and the military. This may include encouraging the development of regional
200 food hubs and incentivizing those farms who commit to growing non-
201 commodity food crops.

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202 1. The local food economy has many benefits including:

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- 203 a. Enhanced markets for the products that many members' farms
204 produce;
- 205 b. The ability for farmers to capture a larger share of the retail food
206 dollar;
- 207 c. Opportunities to employ and engage more residents, in more
208 regions, in the pursuit of agriculture;
- 209 d. Keeping consumer dollars circulating in each respective region,
210 and to the family farms therein;
- 211 e. Reconnecting consumers to the food they eat and their families;
- 212 f. Reducing transportation costs;
- 213 g. Providing fresher, healthier food products, with a reduced need
214 for transportation, long-term storage, processing or treatment;
- 215 h. Food security: encouraging more food production
- 216 i. Allowing for more profitable and sustainable methods of
217 agriculture to be employed; and
- 218 j. Educating interns and apprentices on locally-oriented farms
219 results in improved farm viability, larger pool of skilled
220 agricultural labor, and more beginning farmers.

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222 2. Food Hubs: The members of HFUU operate several community-based
223 cooperatives and food hubs - defined by the USDA as "a centrally
224 located facility with a business management structure facilitating the
225 aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and/or marketing of
226 locally/regionally produced food products." We support:

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227 a. Establishment of a multi-stakeholder task force under the
228 Lieutenant Governor's office to advance institutional food
229 procurement with key partners including Aina Pono, other state
230 procurement offices, distributors, and producer groups; this task
231 force would develop a framework to address:

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- 232 i. Increased regional sourcing of local food through food
233 hubs, cooperatives and family farmers.
- 234 ii. Mechanisms to promote binding contracts with producers
235 and ensure timely payments for local food acquired by the
236 State.

- 237 iii. Purchases directly from family farmers and food hubs as
- 238 these dollars multiply in the community and lead to more
- 239 economic, social, and environmental benefits.
- 240 iv. A clear and flexible bureaucratic structure and interface for
- 241 exclusively-local food operators.
- 242 b. Funding means to support critical infrastructure to grow food
- 243 hubs on every island, including:
 - 244 i. Construction of food safety qualified facilities to include
 - 245 aggregation, washing, minimal processing, packaging, cold
 - 246 storage, and other value-added facilities.
 - 247 ii. Provision of technical assistance to help develop internal
 - 248 capacity to supply state institutions and other markets.
- 249 c. Access to adequate inter-island transportation and distribution
- 250 facilities that maintain the integrity of the cold-chain between the
- 251 farm and the customer.
- 252 3. HFUU supports local food systems development. We support:
- 253 a) Removing regulatory barriers such as conflicting health and
- 254 building department regulations.
- 255 b) The development of Cottage Food Industry laws and regulations
- 256 in Hawai'i.
- 257 c) Support for sustainable, inter-generational jobs, fair wages and
- 258 safe working conditions for farm labor.
- 259 d) Prioritization of local food procurement from all Federal, State
- 260 and local government agencies.
- 261 e) Municipal and Institutional composting and nutrient recycling.
- 262 f) Farmer and cropland protection from chemical drift, urban storm
- 263 water runoff and associated pollutants, raw manure and other
- 264 organic runoff, GMO genetic transfers (such as pollen
- 265 contamination), invasive species, regional pest and disease
- 266 outbreaks such as Coffee Borer Beetles.
- 267 g) Funding priorities that emphasize production, training and
- 268 workforce development.
- 269 h) Expansion of Hawaii Food Producers Fund and similar
- 270 approaches, which provides 0% interest crowd source funds to
- 271 the local food system.

272 **4. Food Security**

273 Hawai'i State Legislature in the regular session 2012 reported: "As the most

274 geographically isolated state in the country, Hawai'i imports approximately

275 ninety-two percent of its food, according to the United States Department of

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277 Agriculture. Currently, Hawai‘i has a supply of fresh produce for no more than
278 ten days. Ninety percent of the beef, sixty-seven percent of the fresh
279 vegetables, sixty-five percent of the fresh fruits, and eighty percent of all milk
280 purchased in the State are imported. The legislature further finds that Hawaii’s
281 reliance on out-of-state sources of food places residents directly at risk of food
282 shortages in the event of natural disasters, economic disruption, and other
283 external factors beyond the State’s control.” Each year people spend
284 approximately \$6 billion on food purchases in Hawaii, with roughly half spent
285 by visitors, which could be fulfilled by family farmers. We support:

- 286
- 287 1. Increased funding and technical assistance for family farmers
- 288 2. Incentivize family farmers to participate in direct-to-consumer markets
289 including farmers markets, CSA, and on-farm retail
- 290 3. State funds to promote all direct-to-consumer markets
- 291 4. The State to take action to attract Hawaii residents to jobs as agricultural
292 workers and acknowledge the importance of educating interns and
293 apprentices on farms as a pathway to increased availability of skilled
294 agricultural labor.
- 295 5. Community food security defined as a situation in which all residents obtain
296 a safe, culturally acceptable, nutritionally adequate diet through a sustainable
297 food system that maximizes community self-reliance and social justice.
- 298 6. Perpetuate, promote, and increase use of traditional Hawaiian farming
299 systems, such as the use of loko i‘a, māla, and irrigated lo‘i, and growth of
300 traditional Hawaiian crops, such as kalo, ‘uala, and ‘ulu
- 301 7. Planning that recognizes food security as dependent upon water security.
- 302 8. Taxing of farm dwellings at a lower rate than urban dwellings.

303

304 **Article II—5. Soil, Air, Water and Watersheds**

305 HFUU promotes soil, air, water and watershed health because we understand
306 their relationship to food, fiber and fuel crops and to the health and vitality of
307 our communities. We support:

308

309 ~~—Specifically, HFUU supports the following policies:~~

- 310 ~~2.1. Hawai‘i-based traditional and ecologically advanced concepts and~~
311 ~~practices of the ahupua‘a resource management systems and the watershed~~
312 ~~councils within the ahupua‘a.~~
- 313 ~~3.2. Increased funding for regional nutrient cycling centers.~~
- 314 ~~4. Increased funding for scientific research, public education on sustainable,~~
315 ~~ecological, and regenerative agricultural systems and the production of clean~~
316 ~~renewable fiber, fuel and nutrient rich food.~~
- 317 ~~5. Adapting appropriate Food Safety regulations at the county and state level to~~

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318 ~~recognize safe and sustainable farming practices~~

319 ~~6.3.~~ -Promotion of integrated agriculture and aquaculture production systems
320 that optimize recycling of organic wastes ~~and~~, nutrient recovery, ~~protection~~
321 ~~of water quality, and quantity and aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems~~

322 ~~7.4.~~ Increased funding for applied research and environmental monitoring
323 consistent with maintaining and enhancing healthy ~~watershed plant, animal,~~
324 ~~and human communities/communities.~~

325 ~~8. We support Hawaiian self-governance of Kanaka Ma'oli right to gain free~~
326 ~~access to natural and cultural resources in their ahupua'a.~~

327 ~~9.5.~~ -Freshwater is essential to all life and is Hawai'i's most important and
328 scarce public trust resource and must therefore be equitably allocated and
329 rigorously protected. HFUU supports all current appurtenant water rights
330 and their allocations and recognizes that these policies must be fulfilled on a
331 watershed-by-watershed basis and must include the following water policies:

- 332 a. Watershed resource conservation and restoration.
- 333 b. Appurtenant water allocations must be met first, before other water
334 allocations. Access for smallholder farmers and farmer cooperatives to
335 water resources with long term Memorandum of Understanding
336 MOUs from the Department of Land and Natural Resources
337 (DLNR) Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and these
338 water uses will be prioritized over other lesser non-agricultural uses
339 that do not support local food production and food security.

340 c. ~~Amend FMSA to A~~allowing filtered catchment water for washing
341 produce and in value-added processing of food ~~on a farm-by-farm~~
342 ~~basis.~~

343 d. Reestablishment ~~and adequate funding of~~for community-based
344 watershed management with Aha councils to guide the comprehensive
345 conservation and restoration of all natural and cultural resources.

346 ~~e. A paradigm shift to place water use planning ahead of land use~~
347 ~~planning statewide to promote water and food security.~~

348 ~~f.e.~~ -We believe that all fresh water resources, both ground and surface
349 waters, and nearshore waters should be recognized and prioritized as
350 public water trust resources to be held, conserved, managed,
351 regulated, shared and enhanced for the greater public good,
352 recognizing and supporting freshwater appurtenant water rights as a
353 top priority. ~~(2016 Annual Convention).~~

354
355 **Article III.6. – Land Access for Farmers & Living on Farms**
356 HFUU promotes access to land for family farmers and recognizes that the lack
357 of availability and high cost of land are major constraints for new and
358 established farmers in Hawaii. We support:

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359
 360 1. Living on Farms as a statewide priority for HFUU farmers partly because:
 361 a. living on-site allows farmers to better understand, monitor and respond
 362 to the effects of local weather;
 363 b. farming is very hands-on and requires an intense time commitment;
 364 c. farmers can attract, train and employ farm workers by offering housing
 365 as an employee benefit;
 366 d. it helps with on-farm security and protection from stealing.
 367 The challenge has to do on the one hand, with state and county zoning to
 368 enable farmers and workers to be productive and funding, on the other hand,
 369 to afford additional housing for labor.
 370 1.2. We support the establishment of new zoning and building codes that
 371 support smallholder farmers' needs, including ordinances to permit the use of
 372 farm labor dwellings, composting toilets, grey water systems, water
 373 catchment and off-grid alternative energy systems on property zoned in the
 374 agricultural district.
 375 2.3. We support the creation of an Agricultural Land Trust that holds land
 376 owned by or conveyed through a perpetual conservation easement, with the
 377 intent of keeping agricultural land affordable to farmers through the
 378 community land trusts model of housing development.
 379 3.4. We support the right to have both water catchment and legal access to
 380 county water on the same parcel of land.
 381 5. We support the maintenance and repair of private/public agricultural
 382 irrigation systems provided they have no negative environmental impacts,
 383 and all appurtenant water rights are met or restored.
 384 6. To amend State laws, rules and/or regulations and County ordinances to
 385 allow boundary amendments or other procedures as exceptions to the
 386 subdivision process to permit large landowners to sell property to adjacent
 387 landowners who are actively farming to increase food security.
 388 (2016 Annual Convention)
 389
 390 **Article 7IV. Funding of Government Efforts that support Hawaii's**
 391 **Family Farmers**
 392 We support:
 393 1. Reestablishment and adequate funding for community-based watershed
 394 management with Aha councils to guide the comprehensive conservation and
 395 restoration of all natural and cultural resources;
 396 2. An increased budget for the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture programs
 397 that are in alignment with HFUU policy statement; and
 398 3. Increased funding and assistance for Agricultural Skills Education.
 399 —

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400 **Food Security**
401 ~~Food and water security is a critical issue in the state of Hawai'i due to~~
402 ~~the importation of 85% of our food, which consists of approximately \$3.5~~
403 ~~billion of value in our markets that could be fulfilled by small family~~
404 ~~farmers. In order to create a more food secure society in Hawai'i, that is~~
405 ~~also food sovereign as defined by Global Forum on Food Sovereignty at~~
406 ~~the World Food Summit, we advocate and support the following~~
407 ~~measures:~~

- 408 1. ~~Community Food Self Sufficiency~~
- 409 2. ~~Increased funding and assistance for Family Farm Businesses~~
410 ~~An increased budget for the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture~~
411 ~~programs that are in alignment with HFUU policies~~
- 412 3. ~~Funding for Farm to Table Marketing (e.g., Farmers' Markets, CSAs,~~
413 ~~Community Food Hubs)~~
414 ~~Farm To School Programs~~
- 415 4. ~~Increased funding and assistance for Agricultural Skills Education~~
- 416 4. ~~Funding for Public Food Processing and Distribution~~
417 ~~Infrastructure~~
- 418 5. ~~An increased budget for the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture~~
419 ~~programs that are in alignment with HFUU policies~~
- 420 5. ~~Adoption and codification in county and state agency charters the~~
421 ~~Federal US Code Register's definition of sustainable agriculture~~
- 422 5. ~~Propagation and production of traditional Hawaiian crops,~~
423 ~~particularly kalo production.~~
- 424 5. ~~State policy changes to allow water use planning to precede land~~
425 ~~use planning, as food security is dependent upon water security.~~
- 426 5. ~~The Union of Concerned Scientists National Food Policy~~
427 ~~Initiative" ref <http://www.ucsusa.org/publications/catalyst/winter16>~~
428 ~~re-envisioning a broken food system~~
- 429 5. ~~Family farm tax reform, including the taxing of farm dwellings at~~
430 ~~a lower rate than urban dwellings. (2016 Annual Convention)~~

431 **Article V – Environmental Impact of Agriculture**
432 **We support**

- 434 1. ~~Sustainable agroforestry and ecological agricultural systems that~~
435 ~~protect eco-system integrity.~~
- 436 1. ~~Microbiological applied research on how agricultural practices~~
437 ~~enhance soil health.~~

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438 2. ~~_____ Toxicology studies of how agriculture practices impact soil air,~~
439 ~~water, ocean and human health and monitoring of contaminants there in~~
440 ~~our food and water.~~

441 4. ~~_____ Applied research in the production, processing and integration of~~
442 ~~nitrogen fixing trees and plants in integrative agro forestry food~~
443 ~~production systems.~~

444 5. ~~_____ Applied research into the production, provisions and integrations~~
445 ~~of organic animal feeds into farms in Hawai'i. (2016 Annual Convention)~~

446 ~~_____~~
447 Article VI—8. Labor & Education Workforce Development
448 We support:

449 1. Continued funding of existing programs and establishing new grant
450 initiatives that aim to improve the supply, stability, education and training of
451 the agricultural labor force and to attract Hawaii residents to jobs as
452 agricultural workers;

453 2. Educating interns and apprentices trained on farms as a pathway to
454 increased availability of skilled agricultural labor and funding for farmers
455 and ranchers for those purposes;

456 3. Increased funding and assistance for Agricultural Skills Education; and
457 4. Continued and expanded funding for HFUU Farm Apprenticeship
458 Mentoring (FAM) program to increase program impact beyond Maui
459 County.

460
461 9. Education

462 1. Involvement in local, state and national 4-H, FFA, and other vocational
463 education organizations, and we encourage these organizations to link with
464 family farmers;

465 2. Schools that have developed courses in entrepreneurship as a means of
466 encouraging young people to stay in their rural communities;

467 3. The development and expansion of school garden programs;
468 4. Public environmental education, focusing on increasing public awareness
469 about the economic benefits and multiplier effect of local food production;

470 5. Pre-K through 12 public, parochial and independent school educational
471 programs with articulation into post-secondary;

472 6. Monthly or quarterly HFUU Chapter membership meetings with
473 educational presentations;

474 7. University and the college level P-20 working group, and continuing
475 education programs, including intern programs related to sustainable
476 farming systems;

477 8. The building of business, marketing and entrepreneurship farmer skills;

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10. Research & Extension

We support:

1. Targeted research specifically designed to explore innovative production, processing and marketing topics that enhance small or family-sized farm operations;
2. Cooperation between HFUU and University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), and the agricultural research stations to promote family farmers contributions to Hawaii's food security;
3. Education, research, and support of small, diverse farms as well as larger farms;
4. Extension training respecting and utilizing the agricultural practices of traditional native peoples and acknowledge the significant role these practices play in sustainable agriculture;
5. Farmers and ranchers having opportunity to be part of the research team;
6. The ability to earn college credit through continuing adult and extension education programs especially as an incentive for interns and apprentices trained on family farms; and
7. Agricultural extension educators mentoring low- and moderate-income families to improve agricultural economies by adding value to agricultural products.

11. Specialty Crops

Specialty crops include but are not limited to fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, nursery crops, pulse crops, floriculture and horticulture including turf grass, sod, Camellia sinensis teas, coffee, hemp and herbal crops. We support:

1. Mandatory and expanded funding for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program;
2. Each county to extend specialty crop grants to producers and not supplant state appropriations;
3. Increasing the allowable THC content of industrial hemp to 3 percent;
4. Adopting policies and regulations that ensure the market for cannabis is accessible to family farms and do not create unfair advantages to large companies and monopolies. We oppose "pay to play" systems; and
5. A state's right to make their own choice on medical and recreational marijuana by calling on Congress and U.S. DEA to reclassify marijuana as a schedule 2 or lower drug;
6. Allowing cannabis and cannabis-related businesses that are state regulated to have access to the normal banking system; and

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519 7. An expansion to Internal Revenue Code Section 280E that would allow
520 businesses compliant with state laws to claim deductions and credits
521 associated with the production and sale of medical and industrial
522 cannabis.

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523 **HFUU supports funding and other measures to promote:**

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524 **1. Public environmental education, focusing on increasing public**
525 **awareness about the economic benefits and multiplier effect of local food**
526 **production.**

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527 **2. On-Farm Mentoring projects to support the development of inter-**
528 **generational, novice or transitional farmers under the mentorship of a**
529 **skilled farmer.**

530 **2. Pre-K through 12 public, parochial and independent school**
531 **educational programs with articulation into post-secondary.**

532 **2. Monthly Chapter membership meetings with educational**
533 **presentations.**

534 **2. University and the college level P-20 working group, and**
535 **continuing education programs, including intern programs related to**
536 **sustainable farming systems.**

537 **2. The building of business, marketing and entrepreneurship farmer**
538 **skills.**

539 **2. Development of an all training and demonstration program for all**
540 **ages for Hawaiian "Farmer Corps" to educate new farmers and help put**
541 **them on the land, combatting the rapidly aging farming population in**
542 **Hawaii. (2016 Annual Convention)**

543 Article VII 12.- Labeling

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544 We assert that each individual has the right to a transparent and ethical
545 framework for making decisions about food.

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546 1. We support reauthorization and full implementation of mandatory country-
547 of origin labeling (COOL) for agricultural, aquaculture and wild-caught
548 seafood products. Mandatory COOL is a valuable marketing tool for
549 producers, and it allows consumers to know where the meat products they
550 consume are born, raised, slaughtered, and processed. U.S. producers and
551 consumers have the right to distinguish products from those of other
552 countries and U.S. products should not be categorized as a North American
553 product. We recommend that USDA and Congress reinstate mandatory
554 COOL; We support full implementation of mandatory country of origin
555 labeling (COOL), as well as regional origin labeling for agricultural,
556 aquaculture and wild-caught seafood products. Mandatory COOL is a
557 valuable marketing tool for producers, and it allows consumers to know
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560 where their food is produced. U.S. and regional producers have the right to
561 distinguish their products from those of other countries and U.S. products
562 should not be categorized as a North American product.

563 2. Thorough and accurate food labels are an important tool that helps
564 consumers make informed decisions and allows producers to differentiate
565 their products. We support conspicuous, mandatory, uniform, and federal
566 labeling for food products throughout the processing chain to include all
567 ingredients, additives, and processes such as:

- 568 a) Artificial growth hormones;
- 569 b) Products derived from cloned animals;
- 570 c) The identity of the parent company;
- 571 d) Carbon monoxide injected in meat and seafood or packaging for
572 appearance or shelf-life purposes;
- 573 e) Point of origin and producer-determined standards for geographic
574 indicators, including percentage coming from that origin;
- 575 f) Date of kill, for meat and seafood;
- 576 g) Whether the meat was frozen;
- 577 h) The date/dates the meat was subsequently refrozen;
- 578 i) Irradiated products, and we call for further research on its long-term
579 effects on human health;
- 580 j) Maintaining and protecting the integrity of organic labeling;
- 581 k) Labeling standards for the sale of organic products, while not limiting
582 opportunities to market other natural or sustainably produced food
583 products;
- 584 l) A designation for soil-less systems so as to maintain the integrity of the
585 USDA Organic label;
- 586 m) Requiring labeling of milk from cows injected with recombinant bovine
587 somatotropin (rBST), a hormone to stimulate milk production. In the
588 absence of federal labeling requirements, we encourage farmer-certified
589 rBST-free labeled products;
- 590 n) Labeling the use of casein, MPC/UF dairy blends, and food preps in
591 food production;
- 592 o) Requiring the labeling of artificial sweeteners;
- 593 p) Requiring any laboratory or artificially produced products to be labeled
594 as such;
- 595 q) Adding to the Food Standards and Labeling Policy Book the following
596 definitions and labeling requirements for meat and beef:
 - 597 1. “Meat” is a product derived from the tissue or flesh of animals that have
598 been harvested in the traditional manner; and
 - 599 2. “Beef” is a product derived from the tissue of cattle born, raised, and
600 harvested in the traditional manner.

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601 2. Thorough and accurate food labels are an important tool that helps
 602 consumers make informed decisions and allows producers to
 603 differentiate their products. We support conspicuous, mandatory labeling
 604 for food products throughout the processing chain to include all
 605 ingredients, additives and processes such as:
 606 • Artificial growth hormones
 607 • Products derived from cloned animals
 608 • The identity of the parent company
 609 • Genetically altered or engineered food products.
 610 3. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture efforts of enhancing the
 611 attractiveness and authenticity of Hawaii grown products through labeling;
 612 4. Certified organic labeling and enforcement of labeling laws to ensure the
 613 integrity of organic foods in Hawai'i. (2016 Annual Convention)
 614

615 We oppose:

- 616 1. Labeling poultry chilled below 26 degrees Fahrenheit as fresh;
- 617 2. USDA regulation that allows the addition of up to eight percent waterweight
 618 to poultry products without mandating that these products are so labeled;
- 619 3. Labeling alternative protein sources as meat;
- 620 4. Cellular technology being called agriculture;
- 621 5. The use of the words milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, or other words used to
 622 describe dairy products in labels on imitation or substitute dairy products;
- 623 6. The use of the word milk to designate any product not derived from
 624 mammals; and
- 625 7. Labeling meat products produced from animals raised outside the United
 626 States as "Product of U.S.A." or equivalent.

627
 628 **Article VIII – 13. Food Safety Certification for Smallholders and Family**
 629 **Farmers**

- 630 1. Consumer and regulator education on the benefits of healthy soils in relation
 631 to our physical health, particularly as related to the Food Safety
 632 Modernization Act (FSMA);
- 633 2. FDA ensuring Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) rules are science
 634 based, have size-appropriate regulatory flexibility, and do not conflict with
 635 the National Organic Program;
- 636 3. A continued evaluation of the regulations for the FSMA to rationally address
 637 the practice of organic, natural and diversified farm operations vital to the
 638 local food movement, to scale requirements and fees with an understanding
 639 of the differences between corporate and family agriculture, and remove
 640 from the regulations the needless elements that serve the purposes of
 641 corporate agriculture at the expense of family farms, sovereign nations,

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642 growers of local foods, and consumers; and request that Congress provide
643 appropriate funding to support the implementation of FSMA;
644 4. We support the development of an appropriate food safety certification
645 system, county and state, for family famers, smallholder farmers, including
646 aquaculture, aquaponics, and other animal husbandry practices.
647 5. We support the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to uphold a third-party
648 certification system in alignment with the language in Good Agricultural
649 Practices (GAPs). ref <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ctahr/farmfoodsafety>,
650 6. We support an affordable, efficient, and equitable food safety certification
651 system that is socially equitable, environmentally sound and economical
652 efficient.
653 7. We support a cost-sharing program through the department of agriculture for
654 the benefit of small farmer compliance with food safety laws.
655 8. We support the development and implementation of mobile slaughter units
656 for each island, and appropriate recycling of all waste including Large Animal
657 Mortality Composting (LAMC).
658 9. We recognize that the traditional staple Hawaiian crop of kalo, because of its
659 inherent biological composition, and its function in watershed nutrient
660 recycling and sediment trapping, its function in providing excellent habitat
661 for endangered Hawaiian water birds, and that it must be cooked before
662 eaten, and be exempt from food safety certification laws.
663 1. We support the development of an appropriate food safety certification
664 system, county and state, for family famers, smallholder farmers, including
665 aquaculture, aquaponics, and other animal husbandry practices.
666
667 3. We support the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to uphold a third-party
668 certification system in alignment with the language in Good Agricultural
669 Practices (GAPs). ref <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/ctahr/farmfoodsafety>
670 Organic farming is an integral and essential part of sustainable agriculture.
671
672
673
674 4. We support an affordable, efficient, and equitable food safety certification
675 system that is socially equitable, environmentally sound and economical
676 efficient.
677
678 5. We support a cost-sharing program through the department of agriculture for
679 the benefit of small farmer compliance with food safety laws.
680
681 6. We support the development and implementation of mobile slaughter units
682 for each island, and appropriate recycling of all waste including Large Animal

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683 Mortality Composting (LAMC).

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685 ~~7. We recognize that the traditional staple Hawaiian crop of kalo, because of its~~
686 ~~inherent biological composition, and its function in watershed nutrient~~
687 ~~recycling and sediment trapping, its function in providing excellent habitat~~
688 ~~for endangered Hawaiian water birds, and that it must be cooked before~~
689 ~~eaten, and be exempt from food safety certification laws. (2016 Annual~~
690 ~~Convention)~~

691

692 **14. Agri-Tourism**

693 Agri-tourism is critical revenue stream for many family farms and we encourage
694 expanding responsible agri-tourism development. We support:

- 695 1. The inclusion of agri-tourism, including on-farm bed and breakfasts and
696 short-term rentals, as part of the definition of agriculture;
- 697 2. Encouraging USDA to recognize the value of agri-tourism and on-farm
698 education programs as a value-added product development;
- 699 3. USDA developing and implementing a program to educate producers
700 about liabilities associated with agri-tourism operations;
- 701 4. Educating our tourism industries to the many agri-tourism opportunities
702 available, including Hawai'i Tourism Authority, each island's visitor
703 bureau and hotel concierge, for our residents and visitors; and
- 704 5. Allow agri-tourist to legally sample food and herbal products grown on
705 participating farms.

706

707 **15. Pesticides**

708 HFUU supports Hawai'i Article 11 Section 7, as well as the creation,
709 implementation and enforcement of safety standards and buffer zones around
710 all water resources and aquatic eco systems, schools, hospitals and residential
711 areas to protect people and wildlife from exposure to pesticides. We
712 understand that pesticide use is a common component in food production
713 practices today. We support:

714

- 715 8. Education and advocacy for Sustainable Agriculture practices that enhance
716 soil health, grows healthy nutritious food and minimizes negative
717 impacts. Through these practices, many farmers have been able to reduce or
718 eliminate pesticide use;
- 719 9. A cautious approach to pesticide use that utilizes Integrated Pest
720 Management guidelines to minimize usage;
- 721 10. Rigorous pesticide safety policies at all levels of government that protect
722 human health, downwind farms and communities and the environment;

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- 723 11. Mandatory restricted use and neonicotinoids pesticide disclosure;
- 724 12. Rigorous independent safety testing of pesticides;
- 725 13. Risk Benefit Studies of pesticides that strongly weigh toward human, animal
- 726 and environmental safety;
- 727 14. Adequate local monitoring and enforcement of pesticide drift laws;
- 728 15. Environmental pesticide monitoring of food, soil, air, water, and pollinator
- 729 health;
- 730 16. Creating and implementing a State pesticide review process to allow
- 731 reevaluation of the safety of pesticides and combinations of pesticides, such
- 732 as restricted use pesticides and Glyphosate; and
- 733 17. Increased funding and resources to implement these policies.

734 **16. HFUU and Our Organization**

- 735 1. Communication. We support;
- 736 a) Inter-Island and Intra-Island communication is paramount to the
- 737 functioning of this organization. We support regular communication
- 738 and other healthy interaction between Chapters, as well as between
- 739 the State organization and the individual Chapters; and
- 740 b) HFUU’s Newsletters, Notices and Legislative Updates. Continued
- 741 funding to be allocated to these functions. Chapters should regularly
- 742 report their activities, plans and meetings for inclusion in the HFUU
- 743 newsletter or their own Chapter newsletters published through the
- 744 HFUU website.
- 745
- 746 2. Strategic Planning. We support:
- 747 a) HFUU leadership to physically come together twice a year. One of
- 748 these meetings should be held in the Spring for at least three days to
- 749 permit enough time for true strategic planning. The other meeting
- 750 should be the Annual Fall Convention focused on policy review and
- 751 development. Strategic planning should focus on and prioritize
- 752 policies adopted at the Annual Conventions. The HFUU State
- 753 Division shall pay for the Spring and Fall meeting sites and a
- 754 professional facilitator if needed for the Spring meeting. Allocation of
- 755 other costs such as for food and lodging shall be determined on a
- 756 case-by-case basis.
- 757 b) Chapters shall raise and use their funds for travel to enable their
- 758 President to attend the Spring and Fall meetings;
- 759 3. Membership. Numbers matter and drive my desire to be of member of
- 760 HFUU. We support;
- 761 a) The State Division and its Chapters shall each make membership
- 762 recruitment a strategic priority by diligently pursuing programs and
- 763 benefits of value to their members; and

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- 764 b) The Communications Division shall assist and advise the State
765 Division and its Chapters to develop social media and informational
766 programs to recruit and retain members.
767 4. Fundraising: Fundraising for the chapters or the state shall be under the
768 supervision of the State Treasurer and the State executive
769 Committee. HFUU has one EIN, and the State Chapter is ultimately
770 responsible for accurate and timely revenue reporting and
771 accounting. Thus, we support:
772 a) A state level finance committee that has one representative from each
773 chapter. That member shall be the treasurer from the respective
774 chapter.
775 b) The treasurers from a given county or chapter deciding the proper
776 manner of fundraising, whether it be for state or local purpose.
777 c) Local resolution of any disputes regarding the raising of funds. If
778 local chapters cannot agree on the issues at hand, the entire
779 committee will vote as a whole, with a majority vote required to
780 resolve the issue.
781 d) Revenues raised being deposited into the HFUU State Bank account,
782 or the Hawai'i Farmers Union Foundation, a 501(c)(3), bank account,
783 as decided by the HFUU Finance Committee in a regular meeting.
784 e) Funds raised by a specific chapter for a specific purpose honor the
785 wishes of the donor as long as the purpose is in accordance with our
786 mission and preamble.
787 f) Chapter treasurers maintaining accurate and timely financial records.
788 g) Grant proposals will be communicated to and approved by the
789 executive state board prior to submission to grantor.
790 h) Any online funding campaign will be approved by the Executive
791 State Board before initiating and any fundraising campaign launched
792 by the state organization be approved by the state level finance
793 committee.

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795 ~~Article IX Agrotourism~~

796 ~~Agrotourism is critical revenue stream for many family farms and we support~~
797 ~~expanding responsible agrotourism development via:~~

798 ~~1. — Inclusion of agrotourism as part of the definition of agriculture. We~~
799 ~~encourage recognition of the role agrotourism plays in diversified, family farms~~
800 ~~and communities.~~

801 ~~2. — Implementing a program to educate producers about liabilities~~
802 ~~associated with agrotourism.~~

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804 3. — Educating our tourism industries to the many agrotourism opportunities
805 available, including Hawai'i Tourism Authority, each island's visitor bureau and
806 hotel concierge, for our residents and visitors.

807 4. — Allow agrotourist to legally sample food and herbal products grown on
808 participating farms. (2016 Annual Convention)

809 Article X Communication

810 Inter-Island and Intra-Island communication is paramount to the functioning
811 of this organization. We support regular communication and other healthy
812 interaction between chapters, as well as between the State organization and the
813 individual chapters via:

814 1. — A state level communications committee that has one representative
815 from each chapter. The chapters may form their own local or regional
816 communications committees as well, to facilitate regular and clear
817 communications amongst the islands and within counties. This is especially
818 relevant when more than one chapter exists within a given county. The
819 committee will meet at least quarterly. (2016 Annual Convention)

821 Article XI Fundraising

822 Fundraising for the chapters or the state shall be under the supervision of the
823 State Treasurer and the State executive Committee. HFUU has one EIN, and
824 the State Chapter is ultimately responsible for accurate and timely revenue
825 reporting and accounting. Thus, we support:

826 1. — A state level finance committee that has one representative from each
827 chapter. That member shall be the treasurer from the respective chapter.

828 2. — The treasurers from a given county or chapter deciding the proper
829 manner of fundraising, whether it be for state or local purpose.

830 3. — Local resolution of any disputes regarding the raising of funds. If local
831 chapters cannot agree on the issues at hand, the entire committee will vote as a
832 whole, with a majority vote required to resolve the issue.

833 4. — Revenues raised being deposited into the HFUU State Bank account, or
834 the Hawai'i Farmers Union Foundation, a 501(c)(3), bank account, as decided
835 by the HFUU Finance Committee in a regular meeting.

836 5. — Funds raised by a specific chapter for a specific purpose honor the
837 wishes of the donor as long as the purpose is in accordance with our mission
838 and preamble.

839 6. — Chapter treasurers maintaining accurate and timely financial records.

840 7. — Grant proposals will be communicated to and approved by the
841 executive state board prior to submission to grantor.

842 Any online funding campaign will be approved by the executive state board
843 before initiating and any fundraising campaign launched by the state
844

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845 organization be approved by the state level finance committee. (2016 Annual
846 Convention)

847
848 **Article XII Pesticides**

849 HFUU supports Hawai'i Article 11 Section 7, as well as the creation,
850 implementation and enforcement of safety standards and buffer zones around
851 all water resources and aquatic eco systems, schools, hospitals and residential
852 areas to protect people and wildlife from exposure to pesticides.

853
854 We understand that pesticide use is a common component in food production
855 practices today.

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856
857 We educate about and advocate for sustainable and Regenerative Agriculture
858 practices that enhance soil health, grows healthy nutritious food and minimizes
859 negative impacts. Through these practices many farmers have been able to
860 reduce or eliminate pesticide use.

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861
862 We support a cautious approach to pesticide use that utilizes Integrated Pest
863 Management guidelines to minimize usage.

864
865 We support rigorous pesticide safety policies at all levels of government that
866 protect human health, downwind farms and communities and the environment.

867
868 These policies include:

- 869 1. Support for mandatory restricted use and neonicotinoids pesticide disclosure;
- 870 2. Rigorous independent safety testing of pesticides;
- 871 3. Risk Benefit Studies of pesticides that strongly weigh toward human, animal
872 and environmental safety;
- 873 4. Adequate local monitoring and enforcement of pesticide drift laws;
- 874 5. Environmental pesticide monitoring of food, soil, air, water, and
875 pollinator health;
- 876 6. Creating and implementing a state pesticide review process to allow
877 reevaluation of the safety of pesticides and combinations of pesticides, such as
878 restricted use pesticides and Glyphosate²
- 879 7. Support for increased funding and resources to implement these policies.
880 (2016 Annual Convention)

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882 **Article XIII Restoration and Development of Local Food Systems**

883 The local food system is defined as food that originates and is consumed in
884 Hawai'i and includes direct to consumer, farm to table types of economic
885 activities, such as farmers markets and Community Supported Agriculture

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886 (CSA), farm sales as well as traditional distribution pathways such as grocery
887 store, wholesaler, restaurant and institutional buyers selling to groups including
888 schools, prisons and the military. HFUU supports the development of the local
889 food systems in the following ways:

- 890 1. Supporting Federal, State and County and NGO's (not for profit
891 organization) policies and programs that develop the local food system.
892 Including farmers markets, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA);
893 using a variety of distribution pathways, farm sales, such as grocery stores,
894 wholesalers and restaurants and institutional buyers such as schools, prisons
895 and the military.
- 896 2. Removing regulatory barriers such as conflicting health and building
897 department regulations.
- 898 3. The development of Cottage Food Industry laws and regulations in Hawai'i.
- 899 4. Support for sustainable, inter-generational jobs, fair wages and safe working
900 conditions for farm labor.
- 901 5.—— Prioritization of local food procurement from all Federal, State and local
902 government agencies.
- 903 6.—— Municipal and Institutional composting and nutrient recycling.
- 904 7.—— Farmer and cropland protection from chemical drift, urban storm water
905 runoff and associated pollutants, raw manure and other organic runoff, GMO
906 genetic transfers (such as pollen contamination), invasive species, regional pest
907 and disease outbreaks such as Coffee Borer Beetles.
- 908 8.—— Funding priorities that emphasize production, training and workforce
909 development.
- 910 8.—— Expansion of Hawaii Food Producers Fund and similar approaches,
911 which provides 0% interest crowd source funds to the local food system.
912 (2016 Annual Convention)

913 Article XIV: — Membership a Strategic Priority
914 As reported at page 14 of the 2018 Survey, 52 to 70% of HFUU members
915 believe that: “Numbers matter and drive my desire to be of member of
916 HFUU”. It is therefore HFUU Policy that:
917

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927 1. — The State Division and its Chapters shall each make membership
928 recruitment a strategic priority by diligently pursuing programs and benefits of
929 value to their members.

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930 2. — The Communications Division shall assist and advise the State Division
931 and its Chapters to develop social media and informational programs to recruit
932 and retain members. (2018 Annual Convention)

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933 **Article XV: Strategic Planning a Strategic Priority**

934 As reported at page 14 of the 2018 Survey, 61 to 79% of HFUU Members believe that:
935 “HFUU funds can and should be used for Chapter presidents and HFUU leadership to
936 physically come together twice a year.”

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937 1. — One of these meetings should be held in the Spring for at least three days to
938 permit enough time for true strategic planning.

939 2. — The other meeting should be the Annual Fall Convention focused on policy
940 review and development.

941 3. — Strategic planning should focus on and prioritize policies adopted at the Annual
942 Conventions

943 4. — The Spring strategic planning session should be professionally facilitated at
944 HFUU cost.

945 5. — Chapters shall raise and use their funds to enable their leadership to attend the
946 Spring and Fall meetings.

947 6. — The HFUU State Division shall pay for the Spring and Fall meeting sites and a
948 professional facilitator for the Spring meeting.

949 7. — allocation of other costs such as for food and lodging shall be determined on a
950 case by case basis. (2018 Annual Convention)

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951 **ARTICLE XVI: Communication a Member Priority**

952 As reported at page 14 of the 2018 Survey, 78 to 96% of HFUU Members
953 value HFUU’s Newsletters, Notices and Legislative Updates.

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954 1. — The Communications Division is to be commended for developing
955 these forms of membership communications and urged to further refine them.

956 2. — Funds should continue to be allocated to these functions.

957 3. — Chapters should regularly report their activities, plans and meetings for
958 inclusion in the HFUU newsletter or their own Chapter newsletters published
959 through the HFUU website.

960 4. — The Communications Division should continue to explore the use of
961 social media to extend the reach of HFUU’s communications. (2018 Annual
962 Convention)

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963 **Article XVII: Regenerative Agriculture a Central Strategic Priority**

964 As reported at pages 14 and 15 of the 2018 Survey HFUU Members strongly
965 support regenerative agriculture as HFUU’s strategic priority. As reported on
966 page 14, 60 to 78% of members value that the HFUU President is the Chair of
967

970 the National Farmers Union Regenerative Agriculture Local Food (“RALF”)
971 Committee. At page 15, 71% to 90% of HFUU agree or strongly agree that:
972 1. ~~“Regenerative agriculture — cover cropping along with other regenerative~~
973 ~~soil health practices should be a strategic objective for HFUU.” This includes~~
974 ~~more training and outreach “about farming and gardening techniques.”~~
975 2. ~~The same percentages agree that farmers should be taxed less than~~
976 ~~others to enable them to make a living. (2018 Annual Convention)~~

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978 ~~Article XVIII: Labor Retention and Marketing as a Strategic Priority for HFUU farmers~~
979 ~~As reported at page 3 of the 2018 Survey, labor retention and marketing are the~~
980 ~~main challenges HFUU farmers are facing in the field. Between 258 and 476~~
981 ~~HFUU members need additional labor help in order to sell additional produce~~
982 ~~or product; additional labor (skilled, full time and part time) is especially~~
983 ~~needed to assist with marketing and sales. As reported at page 17 of the 2018~~
984 ~~Survey, 4 to 26% of membership need food hub and marketing assistance. As~~
985 ~~reported on page 19, 15 to 33% of members would currently like marketing~~
986 ~~assistance.~~

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987 1. ~~The State Division and the Legislative Committee shall develop or~~
988 ~~support suitable bills, programs, and/or projects for the Hawaii State~~
989 ~~Legislature on behalf of members to ease these challenges.~~
990 2. ~~The State Division shall solicit the membership for solutions and pursue~~
991 ~~funding to help ease these challenges for members. (2018 Annual Convention)~~

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993 ~~Article XIX: Living on Farms a Strategic Priority for HFUU farmers~~
994 ~~As reported at page 16 of the 2018 Survey, 13 to 35% of HFUU Members~~
995 ~~believe that *Living on Farms* should be a strategic priority partly because farming~~
996 ~~is very hands on and requires an intense time commitment; farmers can attract~~
997 ~~and help train true farm workers; and it helps with on-farm security and~~
998 ~~protection from stealing. The challenge has to do on the one hand, with state~~
999 ~~and county zoning to enable farmers and workers to be productive and~~
1000 ~~funding, on the other hand, to afford additional housing for labor.~~

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1001 1. ~~The State Division and the Legislative Committee shall develop or~~
1002 ~~support suitable bills, programs, and/or projects for the respective counties and~~
1003 ~~the Hawaii State Legislature on behalf of members to ease these challenges.~~
1004 2. ~~The State Division shall solicit the membership for solutions and pursue~~
1005 ~~funding to help ease the challenge of funding farm dwelling housing for~~
1006 ~~members. (2018 Annual Convention).~~

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