



UH Ag Dean Andy Hashimoto

Charting a Sustainable Balance in University of Hawaii Research

A diversified economy. A sustainable environment. Strong families and communities.

These core values emerged recently from a strategic planning process conducted by the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

The challenge, said College Dean Andy Hashimoto, will be to achieve a balance among these values.

"We do well in the agricultural arena," Hashimoto said of the college's current efforts, "but a real challenge is to get our faculty to work together to achieve this balance of economy, environment and family."

Speaking during a conference on sustaining Hawaii agriculture Sept. 23-24 in Kona, conducted by the Western Sustainable Agricultural Research and Education Program, Hashimoto said that not only does the sustainability of agriculture and environment need to be addressed, but all of the elements must be balanced to achieve the outcome that's important.

He offered as an example the "hot topic" of bio-energy.

Certainly, he said, researchers must look at the production and economics of crops used to produce energy. But it's also important to look at the impacts of bio-energy on the environment and the community.



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"If it brings in migrant labor, for example, what are the impacts on infrastructure, on education," he said. "Finding this balance is the core of sustainability."

Hashimoto said it is important, over the next 20 years, to fund grants that will find these solutions while retaining the balance.

"We wrestle with this in the college," he said, "how to get interest groups to talk about these issues."

For more information, visit the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources website at www.ctahr.hawaii.edu.