FARM MANAGEMENT APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM
JOB DESCRIPTION, 2019

Position: Farm Management Apprentice, FT and PT available

Organization: MA’O Organic Farms (MA’O), located in Lualualei Valley, Wai‘anae, is a social enterprise of the Wai‘anae Community Re-Development Corporation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Established in 2001, MA’O grows organic food and new leaders for a sustainable Hawai‘i. For the past 9-years MA’O has managed 24-acres of certified organic land, producing over 150,000 pounds of food per year, all managed by young leaders going to college. In 2018, we expanded to an additional 21 acre parcel, and in April 2019 we acquired another 236-acres in Lualualei Valley. This new ʻāina provides many opportunities, huge kuleana to increase production of nutritious food and to bring youthful energy to Hawai‘i’s rural communities. MA’O has dedicated this 281-acre operation to two interconnected activities:

• Production, sales and distribution of high quality certified organic fruits and vegetables for the farmer’s market, natural foods, and restaurant markets; and
• Training, mentorship and development of young adults within a pipeline of college bound educational programs.

Job Summary: The Farm Management Apprenticeship is an on-farm hands-on immersion in organic fruit and vegetable farm management. Working alongside a team of co-managers, the Apprenticeship assists, and eventually leads in 5 areas of management: (1) Field preparation and planting; (2) Harvest; (3) Processing and packaging; (4) Sales and distribution; and (5) Youth training.

Detailed Responsibilities

• Work in partnership to manage organic farming operations including field preparation, fertilization, planting, crop fertility and care.
• Assist sales, harvests, and distribution of product and helps to drive the economic performance of the business.
• Nurture existing business relationships, networks and alliances to grow the capacity of MA’O and the “MA’O” brand.
• Support the training and evaluation of the farm’s youth crews.
• Uphold organic standards, food safety practices, and food quality expectations.
• Model mutual love, respect and a willingness to work, thus reinforcing organizational and programmatic policy and values in a positive and formative manner that supports the mission, goals and activities of WCRC and MA’O wherever possible.

Experience Required

We’re looking for a person with the desire to learn and lead at the same time. The successful candidate will need a 110% commitment to a team approach, be an excellent communicator, and be willing to embrace hard work (we start most days at 5am).

The candidate will need to motivate/inspire young adults in a hands-on organic farm environment, where an attention to detail and accuracy is critical. A good sense of humor will really help. Minimum experience we’re looking for includes:
• At least two-years farm, garden and/or related experience with tested communication and people skills;
• Sense of independence with a desire to assume management position within the food, farming, community development sectors;
• Bachelors degree in agroecology, sustainable community food systems, Hawaiian studies, environmental science, or related field. Applicants currently enrolled in a degree program are encouraged to apply.
• Knowledge of and/or interest in Hawaiian cultural traditions with a commitment to the Hawai`i’s rural communities and the Leeward O`ahu region;
• Drivers license, comfortable driving heavy trucks and equipment, able to work for long periods in a hot environment and lift up to 50 pounds; and
• Comfortable working with computers, especially Microsoft Excel and Word.

Compensation  Depends on experience, for a college baccalaureate graduate we offer a starting salary of $35,000, plus healthcare benefits.

How to Apply  E-mail resume and cover letter to gary@maoorganicfarms.org. Questions? Call (808) 696-5569. Applications accepted until August 30th, 2019.