



### ◆ **Vegetables and Melons**

Cumulative information for vegetables and melons were modified for the 2007 year, because of confidentiality concerns. Therefore data comparison with data published prior to 2007 are not comparable. Comments and data comparison which follows in this narrative will be only for 22 of Hawaii's selected vegetables and melons. Information for these 22 selected crops are published on the inside pages. Total farm revenues for these 22 selected vegetables and melons in 2007 is estimated at \$36.9 million, compared with the \$39.4 million during 2006 for the same 22 vegetables and melons. Production totals for these 22 selected vegetables and melons in 2007 is 70.4 million pounds, 1 percent more than the 69.4 million pounds produced in 2006 for the same 22 crops.

Weather conditions were mixed during 2007. The year began dry, but turned wet in early February. Mostly dry conditions prevailed throughout much of the remainder of the year. Some unstable weather disturbances during the summer brought some moderate rainfall, especially to several leeward locations. The year ended with heavy rains during the second half of December. Cumulative year-to-date rainfall totals for most areas of the State were at below normal levels.

The top five volume-producing crops during 2007 were unchanged from a year earlier. Three crops recorded an increase in production, while two others showed a decrease. Tomatoes (field and greenhouse) continued as the top producing crop with 14.3 million pounds, 3 percent below 2006.



Watermelon with 13.1 million pounds registered the largest volume increase with 2.7 million pounds more than in the previous year. Head cabbage and Chinese cabbage production for 2007 increased 3 percent from 2006 to 10.4 million pounds and 6.3 million pounds, respectively. Rounding out the top five crops was sweetpotatoes with 5.3 million pounds, a decrease of 12 percent.

### ◆ **Taro**

Hawaii's taro production for 2007 is estimated at 4.0 million pounds, 11 percent less than during 2006. The average farm price for all taro was 59.0 cents a pound, this was 2.0 cents a pound more than the average price received during 2006. Since the percentage increase in the average price of taro was smaller than the percentage decrease in taro production, the total farm value for taro during 2007 dropped 8 percent from a year earlier to \$2.4 million. Kauai county remains the State's largest producer of taro with 2.8 million pounds of taro or 70 percent of the State's total. All of the decrease in the State's taro production came from the island of Kauai.