



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service  
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

# Hawaii Kava

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## Kava ('awa) sales soar

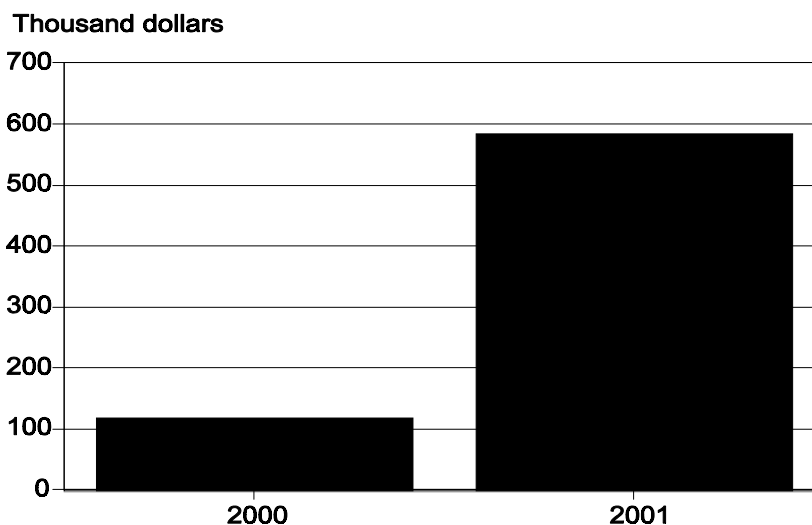
The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service (HASS) estimates farm revenues from the sale of kava ('awa) at \$585,000 in 2001, nearly five times the farm value recorded in 2000. The boost in farm revenues was the result of a similar increase in farm production which totaled 450,000 pounds (fresh weight basis) in 2001. Average farm prices declined 7 percent to \$1.30 per pound (average for fresh sales).

Most of the state's kava is grown on the Big Island where inconsistent weather conditions hampered growth. Rainfall was uneven throughout the year and growers along the Hamakua coast were further hampered by a lack of irrigation water from the Hamakua ditch system.

The total number of kava plants in the ground as of December 31, 2001 is estimated at 84,000 plants. Of this total, 50,000 plants or 60 percent were more than 18 month old. Kavalactone levels, the active ingredients that make kava valuable, normally peak when the plant is between 18 to 24 months old. Some growers continue to let the kava plant mature for another year or two to increase the harvested yield.

In addition to Hawaii, Vanuatu and Fiji are major commercial growers of kava. ■

**Hawaii Kava**  
Total farm value, 2000 and 2001  
State of Hawaii



## Kava Statistics

### Number of farms, acreage, sales, farm prices, and farm value, State of Hawaii, 2000 and 2001.

Year	Number of farms	Acreage <sup>1</sup>		Total sales <sup>3</sup>	Average farm price <sup>4</sup>	Farm Value
		Total <sup>2</sup>	Harvested			
				<i>1,000 lbs.</i>	<i>Dollars per pound</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>
2000	50	80	5	85	1.40	119
2001	65	70	35	450	1.30	585

<sup>1</sup> Includes kava inter-planted with another crop. <sup>2</sup> As of December 31. <sup>3</sup> Fresh weight basis. Dried kava ('awa) sales were converted to a fresh weight basis by multiplying by five. Includes all types of sale, including organic. <sup>4</sup> Represents average farm price for fresh sales.

### Distribution of plants by age groups as of December 31, 2001 - State of Hawaii.<sup>1</sup>

Total number of plants	Number of plants by age in months			Average number of plants per acre <sup>2</sup>
	Less than 12 months	12 to 18 months	More than 18 months	
84,000	20,000	14,000	50,000	1,200

<sup>1</sup> Includes only plants in the ground, excludes plants in nurseries. Kavalactone levels, the active ingredients that make kava valuable, peak when the plant is between 18 to 24 months old. Farmers, however, normally continue to grow the kava for another year or two to increase the harvested yield. <sup>2</sup> Includes kava inter-planted with another crop.