



National Agricultural Statistics Service

Hawaii Agricultural Statistics  
Hawaii Department of Agriculture

# Hawaii Kava

Mark E. Hudson, Director

November 2004

## Production continues to decline

The Hawaii Agricultural Statistics (HAS) estimates kava ('awa) production at 25,000 pounds during 2003, down 58 percent from 2002.

Worldwide concerns about the safety of herbal medicines containing kava and/or kava extracts continued to plague the industry. Recently, however, there have been some movement regarding the restrictions on the sale of kava-containing products. Last December, Wales lifted its ban on kava and other major importing countries are currently reexamining kava. The United Nation's World Health Organization has also started an investigation regarding the safety of herbal kava. In addition, Fiji will host the first-ever International Kava Conference in late November. Researchers from the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture will be presenting their findings at this conference.

On the supply side, diseases such as root-rot and dieback hampered yields and resulted in the loss of some fields.

Despite the drop in production, farm revenues increased 59 percent to \$110,000 in 2003. The higher revenues resulted from an increase in the average farm price to \$4.40 per pound (fresh weight basis) as marginal growers have ceased operations. ■

This will be the last issue of *Hawaii Kava*. Beginning in 2005, kava statistics will be included in the annual *Hawaii Herb* release.

### Hawaii Kava Statistics

Number of farms, acreage, sales, farm prices, and farm value, State of Hawaii, 2000-2003

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			
				1,000 lbs.	Dollars per pound	\$1,000
2000	50	80	5	85	1.40	119
2001	65	70	35	450	1.30	585
2002	55	50	15	60	1.15	69
2003	25	20	10	25	4.40	110

<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.

## International Kava Conference

Fiji will host the first ever-international Kava conference next month.

Cabinet took this decision based on a submission by the Minister of Agriculture, Sugar and Land Resettlement, Jonetani Galuinadi.

Mr Galuinadi explained that the Conference is being organised in conjunction with the International Kava Executive Committee (IKEC).

The IKEC was established following the recent Kava symposium that was held around Europe.

Mr Galuinadi said the major goals of the conference are to provide an international forum for discussions on the scientific and regulatory situation of Kava, and evaluate new scientific data on toxicity and efficacy of Kava.

It is also aimed toward creating an improved quality control system of Kava raw material from the South Pacific; and identifying ways to secure the future of the local Kava industry.

Mr Galuinadi said that with Germany and other major Importers of Kava currently reviewing legislations and protocols in the importation of the commodity, it is apparent that groundwork needs to be undertaken in preparation for the lifting of the trade ban.

“A collaborative effort is currently being undertaken

under the umbrella of the International Kava Executive Council to address the situation with the International Kava Conference serving as the staging ground.”

He said scientific papers that will be presented during the conference will also highlight other bi-products of Kava apart from the pharmaceuticals.

“These bi-products can be in the form of cosmetics, which is a billion dollar industry, and the industrial use of Kava.”

The conference is scheduled for November 30 to December 02, 2004.

The Conference will be attended by Regional representative/producers (Tonga, Samoa, and Vanuatu), Regional Government representative, members of IKEC and CDE.

Prominent scientists who have first hand technical knowledge of the current German and International Kava status will also attend the Conference.

The Conference will be funded by international and regional organisations, with some contribution by Government. ■

Source: Fiji Government Online website.