



**Agricultural
Leadership
Foundation of
Hawai'i**

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ALUMNI PROFILES

Diane Ley, Class VII



Diane Ley is the Deputy Director of the County of Hawaii Department of Research and Development. She was appointed to this position by Mayor Harry Kim because of her extensive background in the Big Island's diverse communities. Her role at the Department of Research and Development includes a wide range of administrative tasks to assist with implementation of the department's functions including supporting agriculture, tourism, energy and business development.

Diane previously served as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and operated a vegetable farm in Volcano. As an administrative assistant with the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation for eleven years, she worked extensively with farmers and ranchers across the state. She serves on the board of the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii and as vice-chair of the Hawaii Rural Development Council. She fully understands the challenges and opportunities facing agriculture and our rural communities.

Diane also has a strong grasp of the legislative process at the county, state and federal levels. She served as the Board of Agriculture's legislative coordinator and as a legislative assistant to the Hawaii County Council. This, coupled with lobbying efforts for the Farm Bureau, have strengthened her skills in affecting policy and decision making.

A resident of Volcano for thirty years, Diane has a strong understanding and commitment to our rural communities. Her previous employment with the Hilo Main Street program provided opportunities to facilitate a small-business community in determining its preferred future.

An alumna of Class VII of the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii, Diane was trained in facilitation and strategic planning. She has the ability to listen well and the sincere desire to bring people together to seek balanced solutions with which everyone in the community can live and support.

The ALFH program provided me with an exceptional set of tools with which to approach my work including the ability to see our agricultural industry with a wide-angle lens and to address our challenges in a collaborative manner. I have developed a tremendous network of individuals who are fully committed to making a difference in our agricultural industry.