

Economic Benefits

The value of seed companies has continued to steadily grow since the industry sprouted roots in Hawaii more than 40 years ago. Hawaii's seed crop industry is represented by five companies that operate farms or other facilities on Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, and Maui. These companies employ nearly 2,000 people throughout the state and collectively generate \$13.8 million per year in tax revenues.



Adolph Helm
President

HCIA

"Hawaii's seed crop industry makes significant ever increasing economic and fiscal contributions to the state's economy generally – and in particular, to the agriculture, life sciences and high technology subsectors."

Pacific Business News

Counting direct and indirect expenditures ... the industry's economic impact is at least \$342 million, including \$53 million in salaries outside the seed industry and \$167 million in economic activity from sources such as equipment suppliers, utilities and contract research. These activities are estimated to generate \$13.8 million in annual tax revenues for the state.



Economic Benefits



Paul Brewbaker
Economist

TZ Economics

“The seed industry’s performance has been one of rapid growth over a period of three or four decades. A \$2 million industry 30 years ago is today something approaching a \$200 million industry.”

The Hawaii Crop Improvement

Association (HCIA) is a nonprofit trade association representing the agricultural seed industry in Hawaii. Now the state’s largest agricultural commodity, the seed industry contributes to the economic health and diversity of the islands by providing high quality jobs in rural communities, keeping important agricultural lands in agricultural use, and serving as responsible stewards of Hawaii’s natural resources.

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- There are few industries in Hawaii that have been able to increase their employee workforce in the way that Hawaii’s seed industry has in recent years. The seed industry has seen a dramatic 73% increase in job growth since 2006.
- Hawaii’s seed crops go well beyond the farm, generating tremendous economic activity for business sectors that work in conjunction with the seed industry. Companies in sectors such as contract research, equipment supplies and utilities have generated \$167 million in economic activity as a result of partnerships with the seed industry.
- What started as a small 405-acre project in 1968 has expanded to a continually productive seed crop industry, comprised of five companies currently operating 5,930 acres of farms and facilities on Oahu, Kauai, Molokai, and Maui.
- The importance of the seed industry in Hawaii continues to grow to remarkable levels. The National Agricultural Statistics Services has estimated the value of the state’s seed industry at a record high \$176.7 million for the 2008/2009 season.
- Economically, the state of Hawaii has gained tremendously from the growth and evolution of the seed crop industry in recent years. The state has received \$13.8 million in tax revenues annually, an 87% increase since 2006.
- As the seed industry advances technologically the importance of employing highly skilled workers is essential. Of the 1,863 individuals that the Hawaii seed companies employ, 14% conduct research and other science-related functions.

