Job Description:  Food Safety Specialist

North Shore EVP is searching for a full-time Food Safety Specialist to join our team. The Food Safety Specialist (FSS) will support the dissemination of food safety regulations, policies, and procedures for North Shore EVP’s USDA GroupGAP program, primarily through in person, on farm interactions with group farmers. The FSS will be responsible for providing technical expertise and outreach for GroupGAP and be knowledgeable of other regulations that pertain to USDA Harmonized GAP and the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). Through visits to group farms, facilitating training classes, and coordinating internal and USDA audits, the FSS will ensure that our producer farms are committed to the highest standards of food safety, social responsibility and environmental stewardship.

The Food Safety Specialist will advocate for advancing the interests of GroupGAP at the farm, community, and regulatory levels. They will be responsible for developing and maintaining positive community and business relationships and must be able to communicate effectively with a variety of stakeholders. The FSS will also engage with relevant councils, roundtables and committees as needed and will spend significant time in the field. The FSS reports to the Food Safety Director.

Responsibilities & Duties:

As a rapidly growing organization, all employees contribute to the organization at many levels. Roles and responsibilities may evolve over time and as the GroupGAP program grows, there will likely be opportunities for advancement. Specific responsibilities for the Food Safety Specialist include:

- Provide on the ground reconnaissance of candidate and participant farm operations; report on farm operations’ readiness to engage in food safety practices, including detailed evaluations of the farm’s critical infrastructure and operations, and an assessment of the farm’s ability to pass a food safety audit.

- Provide on farm assistance with record keeping, including training on how to maintain proper records and understanding the purpose of records as they relate to the farm’s food safety plan and the USDA Harmonized GAP audit standard.

- Provide on farm and in class assistance to farmers on GroupGAP program topics.

- Support the North Shore EVP team in gathering information for each farm’s food safety plan.

- Regularly assess North Shore EVP’s processes and procedures and make recommendations that will keep the organization on the cutting edge of food safety technology and innovation.

Qualifications:

The successful candidate will possess strong leadership, management, and organizational skills. You will be proficient in reading and writing English and have strong verbal communication skills and computer skills, including MS Word, Excel, Google Drive, and PowerPoint. You should have a minimum of an undergraduate degree in Food Science, Microbiology, or Agricultural Science or a related discipline or have documented expertise in agriculture, farming, and food safety. We seek an energetic, detail-oriented self-starter who is able to work unsupervised and manage competing projects independently. You must be able to work in the field, have your own vehicle, and be available for intermittent travel to neighbor islands. The ideal candidate is ethical, open-minded,
culturally sensitive, and always improving. They are observant, listen well, and act with fairness and diplomacy. They work collaboratively and have the confidence to act independently.

**Desired Qualifications:**

Knowledge and understanding of the Hawai‘i’s agriculture community; USDA HGAP/ HGAP+ Auditor certification; Knowledge of USDA GroupGAP; Knowledge of or proficiency in Southeast Asian languages (Thai, Ilocano, Vietnamese) and or Mandarin; Proficiency with data collection and organization, use of Google Drive, Microsoft, and expertise with various social media platforms. Familiarity with HeavyConnect food safety data collection app.

**Benefits:**

This is a full-time position with salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. North Shore EVP offers all employees:

- Medical/ Dental/ Vision Plans
- Voluntary Life, Accident, and Disability Insurance
- Paid Sick, Vacation, and Holiday time

*Candidate may work remotely from in the state of Hawai‘i. No relocation support is available.*

To apply for this position, please send a cover letter and resume, including three professional references, to info@nsevp.org. The position will remain open until filled. All qualified applicants shall receive consideration for employment without regard to sex, pregnancy, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, disability, age, marital status, military status, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, lactation, arrest and court record, citizenship, or any other classification protected by state or federal law.