

Action Plan

Division: Agricultural Resource Management

Program Objective: To assist in developing and managing the State's agricultural resources by ensuring adequate and reliable supplies of irrigation water, farmland, infrastructure, and produce-processing, livestock slaughter and agricultural research and processing facilities.

PRIORITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Departmental Objective being Pursued: To help increase the availability of resources required for agriculture.

Goal 1: To obtain full utilization and occupancy of all agricultural parks.

Existing agricultural parks are situated on lands marginal for agriculture use. This limits farming activities and opportunities to operate profitable enterprises. Applicants who are awarded these lots are the target group.

There are ten agricultural parks totaling 241 lots on 4,914 acres. Presently, approximately 15% of the lots are not utilized and approximately 5% of the lots are not occupied. In addition, approximately 20% to 30% of the leased lots are not in compliance with all lease terms and conditions. Those lots which are non-utilized will be allowed a limited time for compliance before the leases are cancelled and re-awarded.

The plan of action will inventory the existing status of all agricultural park lots, identify the under-utilized lots, prepare a comparison table of lease terms and condition requirements to be complied with, cite lessees in non-compliance, conduct appraisals, issue public drawing notices for drawing unoccupied lots, conduct field inspections, counsel lessees, enforce lease terms and conditions, and research and prepare statutory amendments to Chapter 166, HRS, and to lease terms and conditions which will provide greater flexibility, broader authority, and reduction of cumbersome documentation.

Progress in meeting this goal will be tracked on a computer generated spreadsheet which will be developed to show what lots are leased and utilized, and when each separate lease term and condition is either met or in compliance.

TIMETABLE TO ACCOMPLISH GOAL

<u>Identify Target/Task</u>	<u>FY02</u>	<u>FY03</u>	<u>FY04</u>	<u>FY05</u>	<u>FY06</u>
1. All agricultural parks are utilized.	x				
2. More field surveying of lessees' activities for compliance.	x				
3. Propose amendments to Chapter 166, HRS, & lease agreements.		x			
4. There is significant lot development by lessees.			x		
5. All lessees are in full compliance with the terms of their leases.			x		
6. Continue to monitor all lessees for full utilization and conformance with lease.				x	x

Goal 2: To ensure adequate and reliable water resources for agricultural irrigation.

Evaluate existing state operated irrigation systems to explore the development of new or additional water sources for activation during emergencies or drought. Potential water resources which may need to be evaluated are brackish water wells, abandoned or unused surface diversions, exchange of storage facilities for well field development, etc.

Develop drought mitigating measures for the Hawaii Drought Plan by including alternative water resources. Irrigation water supplies are severely impacted because most of the sources for irrigation systems, if not all, depend on surface streams which are reduced without sustained rainfall. Drought measures that need to be considered are wells, more diversion points, storage reservoirs, reused/recycled effluent, and other means.

Inventory and assess existing former plantation irrigation systems as potential alternate sources to support diversified agriculture replacing sugar. Much of these existing systems are badly deteriorated and need rehabilitation. An agricultural water use and development plan must be prepared to provide direction, funding, and utilization requirements.

Explore the possibility of federal assistance, both technical and financial, from existing federal programs or agencies. Existing federal authorities involving grants, loans, or other relief assistance are available and should be incorporated, as applicable, toward water resources studies or assessments.

The department will need to involve many other stakeholders as it lacks statutory authority to implement projects or assistance programs.

Agencies that will need to be involved include, but are not limited to, the USDA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Commission on Water Resource Management, and county water supply agencies; and also private agencies such as the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Hawaii Cattlemen's Council.

TIMETABLE TO ACCOMPLISH GOAL

<u>Identify Target/Task</u>	<u>FY02</u>	<u>FY03</u>	<u>FY04</u>	<u>FY05</u>	<u>FY06</u>
1. Identify irrigation needs	x*	x	x	x	x
2. Inventory existing systems					
a. State operated systems	x*	x	x	x	x
b. Former plantations systems	x*	x	x	x	x
3. Prepare drought plan					
a. State operated systems	x*	x	x	x	x
b. Former plantation systems	x*	x	x	x	x
4. Begin rehabilitation of systems (include funding estimates)		x	x	x	x
a. State operated systems	x*	x	x	x	x
b. Former plantation systems		x*	x	x	x
5. Organize Ag Task Force		x			
6. Draft Ag Water Use & Development (AWU&D) Plan		x			
7. Establish project priorities			x		
8. Request legislative appropriation	x*	x	x	x	x
9. Federal assistance	x*	x	x	x	x
10. Begin implementation of projects	x*	x	x	x	x
11. Revise drought & AWU&D plans					x
12. Re-evaluate water demand					x
13. Consider reuse/recycle uses		x*	x	x	x

* ongoing