

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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December 18, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura,
Speaker and Members of the House
of Representatives
Thirty-third State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Annual Report on the Department of Agriculture's Annual Report as required by Act 100, SLH 1999. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/meetings-reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon Hurd".

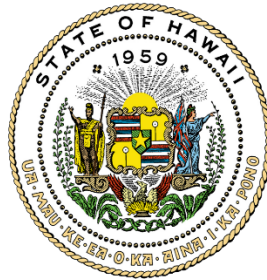
Sharon Hurd
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

Attachment



**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ANNUAL REPORT
PURSUANT TO ACT 100, SLH 1999



Prepared by:

THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

December 2024

ACT 100, SLH 1999
Department Overview
Fiscal Year 2024 Update

Mission Statement

To further expand the role of Hawaii’s agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food production.

Department Goals

To conserve and develop essential agricultural resources and infrastructure; to gain access to and develop local, domestic, and international markets for Hawaii’s agricultural products; to conserve and protect suitable agricultural lands and water; to promote Hawaii’s food self-sufficiency; to raise awareness of the importance of agriculture to the State’s economy, environment, and as a profession; to implement programs to safeguard Hawaii’s farmers, consumers, and natural resources; to prevent the introduction and establishment of plants, animals and diseases that are detrimental to Hawaii’s agriculture and environment.

Significant Measures of Effectiveness

- Total Farm Value of agriculture in Hawaii (In thousands of dollars).

<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY 2023</u>
583,423	532,561	545,875	562,251	672,395

Major Functions

- Carries out programs to conserve, develop, and utilize the agricultural resources and infrastructure of the State and facilitates the transition of former plantation agricultural production assets to diversified farming.
- Enforces laws and formulates and enforces rules and regulations to manage these resources.
- Promotes agriculture and provides opportunities to access new markets.
- Reviews, develops, and implements agricultural goals and objectives to expand and diversify Hawaii’s agriculture.
- Prevents the introduction of plant pests and diseases, provides certification services to facilitate the export of certain plant materials, and controls and eradicates insects and noxious weeds and controls the distribution and usage of pesticides.

- Administers the aquaculture development, state animal health, and agricultural and aquacultural loan programs.
- Maintains official State primary measurement standards; ensures accuracy of commercial measuring devices.
- Establishes and enforces grade standards for agricultural commodities producers in the State in cooperation with the industry and administers the State's Milk Control Act.
- Collects and disseminates statistical data on agricultural production and markets, and supports funding for research on various agricultural commodities.

DIVISION ACTION PLANS

Division/Branch: Administrative Services Office

Purpose: To enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the department by providing staff support services, other administrative services, and responding to the needs of the public.

Goal 1: Fill all position vacancies to enable the department to fully achieve the missions of all programs.

Objective: Be creative, thinking outside-of-the-box to effectively implement recruitment and retention strategies. Completion date: Ongoing

1. Streamline internal recruitment workflows to maximize effectiveness.
2. Work closely with DHRD to schedule job announcements and issuance of certified lists of eligibles.
3. Work closely with DHRD to ensure minimum qualification requirements are still relevant.
4. Attend targeted job fairs and hiring events to highlight careers and job opportunities with HDOA.
5. Collaborate with UHM CTAHR to create pathways for students and alumni (internships and career opportunities).
6. Better advertise HDOA careers and job postings using social media and via relevant trade associations and organizations.
7. Fully utilize the various DHRD flexible salary programs to incentivize applicants.

8. Improve on-boarding activities to create smooth transition to HDOA employment.

9. Provide opportunities for advancement and professional development to improve employee retention.

Goal 2: To minimize energy, fuel and water consumption and implement resource-efficient operations and management measures.

Objective: Implement the department's Energy Action Plan, subject to the availability of funding. Completion date: Ongoing.

1. Initiate lighting, window tinting, retro-commissioning, alternative energy, and other energy efficiency CIP projects.
2. Work with employees to practice energy and water conservation measures and monitor usage/savings.
3. Replace petroleum powered vehicles with EVs.

Goal 3: To provide a safe and healthy working environment for employees by ensuring that the department's facilities comply with local, state and federal requirements.

Objective: To address the repair and maintenance and capital improvement needs of the department's facilities. Completion date: Ongoing.

1. Continue to address various routine repair and maintenance issues to ensure that departmental facilities support efficient day-to-day operations.
2. Initiate various capital improvement projects with assistance of the DAGS Public Works and Central Services Divisions.
3. Prepare budget requests for additional capital improvement work as additional work is identified.

Objective: To provide a safe working environment for department employees by complying with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements. Completion date: Ongoing.

1. Establish a safety committee comprised of employees from various divisions.
2. Develop a department-wide safety plan.
3. Install signage to properly mark exit routes, hazardous materials and locations of fire extinguishers.
4. Initiate necessary repair and maintenance work or capital improvement projects to correct facility deficiencies.

5. Install burglar alarm systems in facilities where necessary, based on risk assessment, and as funding allows. Create alarm procedures to deal with intrusion alerts.

Goal 4: To provide reasonable and meaningful access to limited English proficient individuals or organizations accessing, participating or benefiting from services, programs and activities by the department.

Objective: To meet the requirements of Act 290, SLH 2006, codified into Part II of Chapter 371, HRS, and Presidential Order 13166. Completion date: Ongoing.

1. Continually update the listing of departmental employees who are skilled in a non-English language and are willing to volunteer to provide interpreter services.
2. Compile and disseminate listing of interpreters/translators and their costs for program personnel to use in providing services to their LEP customers.

Goal 5: Improve procedures and processes for maximum efficiency.

Objective: To streamline processes to maintain essential staff support services provided to the department programs. Completion date: Ongoing

1. Review fiscal and human resources processes, revise processes and procedures as needed to increase efficiencies and reduce redundancy.
2. Review all administrative services functions including copy/fax machine operations, telecom coordination, janitorial and grounds keeping contract administration, vehicle fuel and repair invoice processing, etc., to increase efficiencies.

Division: Agricultural Development Division

Purpose: The Agricultural Development Division supports the economic sustainability of commercial agriculture in Hawaii by promoting collaborative marketing initiatives for agricultural products with strong revenue growth potential. We also facilitate the development and expansion of marketing opportunities, including grants for targeted agricultural and processed products, and are committed to providing timely, accurate and useful statistics to support informed decision-making.

Goal 1: Seek alternate funding sources (federal or private grants) whenever feasible to complement state general funds in supporting the division's agricultural development, marketing, and statistics functions.

Objective: Coordinate efforts to identify, develop proposals, submit, and manage federal and private (NGO) funding opportunities in collaboration with both internal and external partners.

1. Continue training staff and enhancing efficiencies in grant administration, including familiarity with the state procurement system, administrative rules, and related grant administration platforms.
2. Maintain active engagement in networking activities related to grant funding sources and potential partners.

Goal 2: Ensure the fair, efficient, effective, and responsible management of contracted awards and programs funded by state, federal, and other sources.

Objective: Maintain a systematic and fair procedure for providing notices, RFPs, selecting recipients, disbursing funds, monitoring progress, and ensuring timely reimbursements for various grant awards and programs as funding permits.

1. Maintain a work plan for each award and program, outlining project duration, key tasks, and timeline to effectively illustrate the process.
2. Maintain a database system to track the various awards and grant programs ensuring that reporting and invoicing requirements are met in a timely manner.
3. Ensure that staff members are properly trained to administer the contracted programs. These staff will serve as liaisons to the AG's Office, the State Procurement Office, and the Department's Fiscal Office.

Objective: Administer grant awards and programs in accordance with the specific terms, conditions, and guidelines.

1. Stay updated on changes to federal grant awards and programs, including updates to the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Federal Grants as published in 2 CFR 200.
2. Remain informed on any changes to State Procurement Rules, including amendments to the Hawaii Revised Statutes and Hawaii Administrative Rules for state funded programs.
3. Participate in training programs offered by public and private organizations to stay current on federal and state regulations relevant to the division's grant awards and programs.

4. Keep current on changes resulting from post Lahaina and COVID-19 impacts and note Comptroller Memorandums for any new procedures.

Goal 3: Provide high-quality deliverables and relevant justifications, such as the business or economic impacts, contributions to state GDP, and social or environment benefits to commercial agriculture in Hawaii, for activities supported by awards or grants.

Objective: Provide relevant reports, analyses, financial records, and other pertinent information as needed to document progress and ensure proper administration of the various grant awards.

1. Prepare summarized progress reports as requested to support inquiries from grantors, legislative bodies, departments, and collaborators.
2. Submit interim and final reports as required upon completion of the award's terms or as requested.
3. Maintain regular communication with awardees and sub-awardees to support the reporting process. This includes providing updates on progress towards stated goals, milestone achievements, and the preferred format for progress, interim and final activity and financial reports.
4. Continue to provide and uphold any required services in accordance with grant awards and program requirements.

Market Development Branch

Goal 1: Utilize state and federal funds to increase food security and food self-sufficiency for Hawaii.

Objective: To support Market Expansion that includes actions that: 1) Stabilize Existing Markets; 2) Develop New Export Markets; 3) Increase Local Share of the Market; 4) Import Replacement; and 5) Export Certification.

1. Stabilize Existing Markets
 - a. Engage with commodity organizations/associations to stay current and conduct outreach.
 - b. Offer programs and activities to help organizations/associations meet the goals they deem important to their members.
 - c. Administer projects awarded to, but not limited to, animal proteins, avocado, apiary, awa, banana, basil, beef, breadfruit, cacao, coffee, floriculture, forestry, ginger, legumes, macadamia nuts, moringa, papaya, tropical

fruits, turmeric, and vegetables for both conventional, organic, and innovative farming methods.

2. Develop New Export Markets

- a. Plan trade activities for Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, and domestic markets for Hawaii companies to seek opportunities for Hawaii products in markets that have air routes to/from the state; activities will be conducted based on potential for participation and will be impacted by trade tariffs implemented.
- b. Serve as Project Managers for WUSATA Legacy Trade Shows to become familiar with signature regional agriculture events to seek opportunities for Hawaii companies and products.
- c. Develop activities for markets that align with new nonstop air service with the intent of introducing products for export.
- d. Manage Hawaii booths at two trade shows in Japan, one in the Middle East, one in Canada, one in Australia and two domestically in the US Mainland to continue to increase exports to Hawaii's top agricultural export market and seek to expand into new markets.

3. Increase local share of the Market

- a. Promote "Buy Local, It Matters" campaign with action to "EAT LOCAL" through television, radio, and social media promotions.
- b. Collaborate with industry and public and private stakeholders to support the development of a facility that adds value to agricultural products that includes production, processing, and sales with the intent of introducing a new revenue source for local producers.
- c. Promote the Hawaii Seal of Quality program, the Made in Hawaii with Aloha program, and the Island Fresh logo through Instagram and other social media.
- d. Administer the Micro-grants for Food Security Program that provides funding to increase the quantity and quality of locally produced food in insecure communities.

4. Import Replacement

- a. Administer the Micro-grants for Food Security Program that provides funding to increase the quantity and quality of locally produced food in food insecure communities that import a large amount of the food consumed.
- b. Work with CTAHR and other agriculture organizations to promote commodities that can be grown in the tropic zone – and provide the tools to move to commercial production.

5. Export Certification

- a. Conduct training/informational sessions with USDA, Department of Commerce and State agencies presenting guidelines and taking part in Q & A with Hawaii agricultural producers.
- b. Conduct outreach to farmers and producers to learn what crops can be exported with postharvest treatment and assist with the development of the protocols, including, but not limited to floriculture and tropical fruit commodities.

Goal 2: Promote, develop, and expand market opportunities for Hawaii agricultural and value-added producers in local, domestic, and international by aligning the Branch's activities with the needs of the various components of the state agricultural industry and with the addition of virtual activities due to the impact of the pandemic to global trade.

Objective: Identify potential markets for local agricultural products.

1. Conduct market research using the following channels to classify potential markets.
 - a. Hawaii agricultural statistics provided by NASS.
 - b. Trade Publications (print/online).
 - c. Internet - to monitor local, national, and international trends.
 - d. Local associations – initiate and maintain close contact with local trade groups to understand where the local markets are moving.
 - e. Trade Shows –attend trade shows to assess their potential for Hawaii company attendance and to conduct market research.
 - f. Monitor additional airline service into the state to assess new routes for potential as a new market for Hawaii agricultural products.
2. Summarize and prioritize potential markets and products by developing a system for activities that accounts for local production, expansion barriers, and growth potential.
3. Recommend two to four agricultural markets for priority joint marketing initiatives.
4. Update and monitor list on an annual basis.

Objective: Engage with the agricultural commodity groups and associations and support the goals of their members.

1. Initiate and maintain contact with industry associations, informal groups, and industry leaders.
2. Assess each group's goals and suggest activities to achieve them.
3. Prioritize emerging agricultural industries/crops and products through communication with farmers and producers and develop activities that promote their availability, with the purpose of increasing awareness for increased production.
4. Integrate target market priority list to match possible markets to agricultural industries with potential.

Objective: Based on market intelligence, market research and industry feedback, conduct sales generating activities in selected target or niche markets with the highest demand for selected agricultural products and value-added processed products in local, domestic, and international markets.

1. Coordinate or participate with producers in at least two local trade shows, consumer fairs, sales promotions with retailers or other events. These may include the Made in Hawaii Festival, and the County Farm Fairs, Hawaii Coffee Association Conference, Kau Coffee Fest, the Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers Association Annual Meeting.
2. Coordinate or participate with producers in at least two Mainland trade shows and retail store promotions. These may include the Global Produce & Floral Show, the National Restaurant Association American Food Show, and the Natural Products Expo West. Provide options to facilitate freight consolidation to lower trade show material freight costs and improve logistic control.
3. Coordinate or participate with producers in at least four foreign trade activities (including trade missions and reverse trade missions) to and from selected markets. Provide possible options to facilitate freight consolidation to lower trade show material freight costs and improve logistics control or assist with in-country costs.

Objective: Offer a Sponsorship and Product Promotion request for proposal (SPP) process to attract a larger pool of applicants and to ensure greater effectiveness, transparency, and accountability.

1. Consider proposals from targeted agriculture trade associations with clear goals, feasible objectives, well-defined deliverables, and measurable performances.
2. Meet with potential participants to keep them updated on program changes and to conduct outreach activities on an

ongoing basis. 10 trade associations or community groups is the goal.

3. Request that proposals include “Buy Local, It Matters” campaign and “EAT LOCAL” message to support Goal 1 to move Hawaii toward food security and food self-sufficiency.

Goal 3: Facilitate development and expansion of marketing opportunities for select agricultural and processed products as a “tie-in” with the tourism industry.

Objective: Review status of laws governing ag-tourism and facilitate the industry as a complementary activity to farming.

1. Maintain partnership in ag-tourism and encourage the continuing participation of Hawaii’s culinary chefs as liaisons between the agricultural and tourism industries via our website, media initiatives and ag-related special events including festivals, fairs, trade shows and conferences.
2. Support growth of the statewide ag-tourism association (HATA) which continues to develop standards and legal framework for business operations.

Goal 4: Maintain marketing campaigns that educate the public about local agriculture producers and products and promote high-quality producers.

Objective: Maintain the Seals of Quality program to protect Hawaii’s brand cachet in local, domestic, and international markets.

1. Maintain the functional marketing plan with defined marketing activities to promote awareness and increase sales of program products in local, domestic, and international markets.
2. Maintain coordination with the Quality Assurance Division (QAD) to provide initial quality checks for potential participants and ongoing quality control of existing program members.
3. Recruit and maintain at least 100 participants statewide.
4. Maintain ongoing collaborations with QAD, other government agencies (the HTA, DBEDT and the Governor’s tourism liaison), and other non-government entities in developing and executing joint marketing activities for the Seals of Quality products in established tourism markets.
5. Continue to pursue sole ownership of the Seal of Quality logo from the Hawaii Tourism Authority that has changed their logo and font to a new, streamlined canoe look.

Objective: Support the Manufacturing Sector by identifying products that are manufactured, assembled, fabricated, or produced within the State and that have had at least fifty-one per cent of its wholesale value added by manufacture, assembly, fabrication, or production within the State via the “Made in Hawaii with Aloha” (MIHA) logo.

1. Administer the Limited License Agreement where the Licensee agrees to use the MIHA logo on products that comply with HRS 486-119. Continue to update the agreement to include provisions for new products such as derived from hemp.
2. Continue and expand collaboration with agencies whose members would benefit from the program such as the Hawaii Food Manufacturers Association (HFMA), High Technology Development Center (HTDC), Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (CCH) and DBEDT, among others.
3. Create activities to promote the MIHA logo.

Objective: Support the Fresh Products sector by identifying products that are grown or raised in Hawaii via the Grown in Hawaii logo.

1. Create a Limited License Agreement where the Licensee agrees to use the Grown in Hawaii logo on products that comply with the state labeling laws. Continue to update the agreement to include provisions for new products.
2. Continue and expand collaboration with agencies whose members would benefit from the program such as the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Farmers Union United and the Independent Farmers United.
3. Create activities to promote the Grown in Hawaii logo and its versions that are island and county specific.

Objective: Maintain select marketing programs with partners to emphasize the concept of buying local agricultural products.

1. Continue partnership effort on public education of Hawaii consumers as to what is produced in Hawaii and the importance of buying locally grown and locally produced products, which not only support our local farmers, but also supports businesses within our state.
2. Maintain participation in the buy local marketing campaign by Hawaii farmers.

3. Extend participation in the buy local concept with partners to local retailers to utilize point-of-purchase displays to educate consumers about buying local.
4. Increase purchase of promotional collaterals for wider distribution at schools, community events, supermarkets, to increase awareness of the “Buy Local, It Matters” call-to-action campaign.
5. Continue to support activities and groups where students are engaged in agriculture with the intent to continue in the industry. These groups could include the Hawaii FFA, 4H Program, school Garden Network, and others.
6. Continue to evaluate current marketing strategies, explore new marketing opportunities, and develop performance measures.

Market Analysis & News Branch

Goal 1: Provide timely, accurate and useful statistics of Hawaii’s agriculture to support production, market development, policy, planning, and research functions.

Objective: Maintain the Department’s core capacity to gather, analyze and disseminate information and statistics on Hawaii agriculture for use by local producers, planners, industry leaders, policy makers, and legislators to better manage uncertainties and elevated risks in the prevailing business climate.

1. Fill Branch Chief position and further train staff to facilitate organizing, gathering, processing, estimating, and publishing of Hawaii-specific agricultural statistics.
2. Determine the type, scope, format, complexity, frequency and priority of reports and studies that are program fundamentals.
3. Determine tools, equipment, technology adoption (such as GIS mapping), other assets, and workforce development needed to fulfill core program requirements.
4. Compile and maintain producer listing and contact information of specific commodities identified and related variables for relevant surveys (periodic and special).
5. Seek state funding to continue surveys that are not part of the NASS national program. These include, but are not limited to aquaculture, vegetables & melons, tropical fruits, eggs, and horticulture.

Objective: Undertake basic agricultural statistics reports, outlook studies, logistic analyses, and other pertinent data to support relevant agricultural activities in the state.

1. Establish feasible sampling list frames of select crops and/or livestock in Hawaii.
2. Draft, pretest, and field relevant survey instruments of established crops and/or livestock.
3. Identify changing information and data needs and modify methods of data collection and published report formats when needed
4. Compile, analyze and construct appropriate and statistically relevant presentations to hold a general audience.
5. Draft and publish findings of survey results in statistical reports or related outlook study reports in a timely manner.
6. Maintain relevancy and defensibility of generally accepted procedures in providing official estimates on agricultural statistics.
7. Survey, capture and evaluate data from alternate sources to verify or support survey results.
8. Engage in dialog and build rapport with data users, providers, and commodity groups by attending industry meetings, conferences, and other agricultural meetings to improve responses to data collection and surveys.
9. Seek user feedback on agricultural statistics products developed and released to the public.
10. Fulfill appropriate requests for published information and statistical reports.
11. Continue to develop survey tools, networks of data sources and providers, diligently seek cooperation from agricultural producers, wholesalers/distributors, grocers, shippers, local/federal agencies, and other pertinent entities to develop informational resources and relational database system that will benefit decision makers, agricultural producers, and the overall agriculture industry.
12. Restoring the Department's data gathering and information dissemination service (which has been absent for many years) will contribute to increasing local food self-sufficiency, food security, and doubling local food production goals.

Objective: Ensure data users have online access to published reports and agriculture statistics.

1. Post statistical reports online to the MANB website.

2. Maintain ease of access for data users to obtain published reports in a timely manner online.
3. Continue to improve website design and layout to attract data users.
4. Update the website with newly published reports as they are released.

Division/Branch: Agricultural Loan Division

Purpose: The objective of the State Agricultural Loan Division is to foster economic development in the state by stimulating, facilitating, and granting loans to farmers and aquaculturists.

Goal 1: To increase the overall number of loans and dollar amount loaned over time and provide assistance to the farming and aquaculture communities.

Objectives: Approve 25-30 loans annually with a dollar amount of \$5,000,000 or as much as is available in State funds. The Division will continue to focus on making loans and increasing servicing and collection effort.

1. Increase outreach efforts to increase awareness of the program and demand for loans statewide. Work with staff to ensure that loan applications are completed on a timely basis.
2. Monitor loan funds to ensure sufficient funds are available for approved loans. The program will prioritize participation loans and cooperating loans with other agricultural lenders to stretch limited loan funds.
3. Close loans and disburse loan funds on a timely basis.

Objective: To expand and preserve the agricultural and aquacultural industries. The target includes the creation or preservation of 100 agricultural/aquacultural jobs, expand or preserve 250 acres of agricultural lands annually and generate \$3,000,000 in annual farm income from new borrowers. The Division's focus will be to expand the agriculture industry to increase exports or reduce imports thereby helping the State's economy and increasing food self-sufficiency. Although the Division has creation or retention of jobs, agricultural acreage, and annual income as targets these will not be factors in determining which loans will be funded or submitted for approval.

1. Retain/create agricultural jobs through direct loans or loans made in cooperation with commercial lenders.
2. Preserve or expand use of agricultural lands through direct loans or loans made in cooperation with other lenders.

3. Increase farm income through direct loans or loans made in cooperation with other lenders.
4. Conduct regular field visits to verify growth in acreage or increase in number of farm employees after loan funds are disbursed.
5. Tabulate and monitor acreage and employment data collected from borrowers.
6. Provide additional counseling services to farm operations affected by higher input and equipment costs affecting their profitability.

Goal 2: To operate the agricultural loan program by maintaining a quality loan portfolio with a reasonable level of delinquencies while supporting the agriculture and aquaculture industries.

Objective: Step up collection efforts on delinquent accounts and increase monitoring of current accounts. Collection efforts are important to ensure adequate funding for future loans. The Division will continue monitoring current accounts and work with delinquent borrowers to ensure timely repayment of their loans. The program is a lender of last resort and collection efforts need to be balanced with the need to assist the industry.

1. Keep delinquencies under 20% of the total loan volume.
2. Continue to monitor available fund balances, delinquent accounts and the overall health of the portfolio and status of the agriculture and aquaculture industries.
3. Ensure adequate monitoring of the Division's accounts, a target of 750 servicing contacts with borrowers will be maintained.
4. Continue to focus on development of individual repayment plans for delinquent borrowers to establish regular loan payments. Loan officers will closely monitor delinquent accounts and conduct periodic reviews of the borrower's performance and financial condition. Special attention will be made for operations affected by the COVID economic downturn and borrowers will be provided payment relief to assist in their survival and recovery.
5. Refer severely delinquent accounts to the Board of Agriculture on a timely basis and forward to the Office of the Attorney General for assistance in collections.

Division/Branch: Agricultural Resource Management Division

Purpose: To develop and manage the State's agricultural resources by ensuring affordable and reliable irrigation water and infrastructure, productive farmland, and efficient and cost-effective processing, livestock slaughter and agricultural research facilities.

- Goal 1: Continue collaborative efforts with DLNR for transfer and review of Non-Agricultural Park leases to DOA to increase availability of land resources required for agriculture.
- Objective: Continue identification and transfer of Act 90 leases from DLNR Land Division which meet DOA's agricultural suitability criteria.
1. Review list for vacant land transfer.
 2. Continue working efforts with DLNR Land Division to bring conditional leases into compliance or cancel the lease for breach and transfer to DOA for disposition.
 3. Identify challenges and potential remedies necessary to facilitate process of fulfilling purposes of Act 90.
 4. Respectfully request BOA to place emphasis on expediting transfer of those unconditional parcels and conditional parcels with issues which may be easily resolved. Awaiting BLNR approval and E.O.s.
 5. Revisit non-acceptable parcels list of Act 90 parcels from DLNR to determine if lands are now suitable for transfer.
- Goal 2: Continue the implementation of Capital Improvement Projects that improve the efficiencies of the irrigation systems.
- Objective: Increase overall efficiencies in the irrigation systems to ensure the maximum amount of water collected is available for distribution.
1. Secure adequate funding to continue the construction of the proposed improvements to the irrigation systems.
 2. Review day to day operations to identify opportunities to refocus maintenance activities to take advantage of system improvements.
 4. Connect with farmers to identify "joint" projects that allow the farmers to develop a sense of "joint ownership" for the systems.
- Goal 3: Begin construction of the Royal Kunia Agricultural Park
- Objective: Obtain phase I construction funding for Kunia Agricultural Park.
1. Complete easement negotiations for offsite utilities to the Royal Kunia Ag Park.
 2. Complete design and complete discussions with adjacent developer to set timeline to provide necessary offsite utilities.
 3. Complete design, open construction bids, and begin construction for phase I.

Division: Animal Industry

Branch: Animal Industry/Animal Disease Control and Veterinary Laboratory

Purpose: To protect livestock, poultry, and public health by preventing the entry of animal diseases into the State, and diagnosing, monitoring, controlling, and eradicating livestock and poultry diseases of economic and public health concern.

Goal 1: Conduct surveillance and response for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

Objective: Continue to investigate notifications of illness and die off in poultry.

1. Contact and investigate notifications of unusual illness and die off in poultry.
2. Work with DOH NAHLN lab, USDA NVSL lab for laboratory samples, preliminary and confirmatory diagnostics.
3. Work with state and federal wildlife agencies to assist in conducting enhanced and targeted surveillance of wildlife.

Objective: Mitigate spread of infection

1. Respond to detections by movement restrictions, depopulation or other federally allowed method, clean and disinfection of premises.
2. Restrict and oversee materials, equipment movement and disposal.
3. Work with state and federal partner agencies to accomplish objective.

Goal 2: Safeguard against the entry of Foreign Animal Diseases (FADs)

Objective: Strengthen measures in place to mitigate and detect the occurrence of FADs in Hawaii.

4. Continue application for and utilization of United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to train veterinary medical officers as foreign animal disease diagnosticians.
5. Continue to provide enforcement activities to assist USDA with ensuring garbage feeding swine operations statewide are compliant with laws and rules in place to prevent the introduction of FADs.

6. Continue to obtain poultry and other birds to collect samples for avian influenza virus testing.
7. Rapidly investigate disease outbreaks in animals to rule-out foreign animal diseases.

Goal 3: Enlarge and improve the Airport Animal Quarantine Holding Facility (AAQHF) at HNL.

Objective: Improve: safety for customers and employees; biosecurity; and operational flow through the facility.

1. Begin and complete the project design phase FY 2021 (completed).
2. Secure additional funding, if necessary, from designs FY 2022. (completed-partial funding)
3. Start construction FY 2025.

Goal 4: Update plans to control and contain bovine tuberculosis (bTB) on Molokai.

Objective: Contain and control bTB in livestock on Molokai.

1. Work with USDA to fund bTB testing of cattle and wildlife on Molokai. USDA Wildlife Services TB Initiative project in process.
2. Work with USDA to conduct research on Molokai to determine the population size of the major wildlife species, determine the prevalence of bTB in those species, and implement demonstration programs to reduce the risk of transmission of bTB from wildlife to livestock. Project in process
3. Continue annual testing of all cattle herds on Molokai. (Continuing)
4. Enforcement Quarantine Order 158 which restricts the movement of ungulates on and off of Molokai to prevent the spread of bTB from Molokai.
5. Annually review and amend bTB MOU with USDA APHIS as needed. (2024 review completed)

Objective: Work with producers to improve marketing of cattle.

1. Work with another state to allow feeder cattle import to finish with minimal impact.
2. Work with USDA APHIS and ARS to explore TB vaccination feasibility study for wildlife on Molokai.

- Goal 5: Develop carcass disposal plans for disease outbreaks in poultry, aquaculture, and livestock.
- Objective: Develop plans for the disposal of animal carcasses resulting from natural causes, disease outbreaks, and planned disease control depopulations.
1. Examine methods of carcass disposal with respect to government regulations and animal disease control methodologies from USDA.
 2. Utilize a Geographic Information System (GIS) to locate carcass disposal locations statewide.
 3. Develop protocols for the transportation of carcasses, disposal/burial methods, cleaning, and disinfecting after disposal.
- Goal 6: Align the list of notifiable diseases with those of high consequence that may impact movement and disease response in Hawaii.
- Objective: Strategically examine the methods of response to animal diseases of high consequence to ensure alignment with response methodologies from the USDA.
1. Examine, and edit when applicable, animal disease preparedness plans to align with current response plans provided by the USDA.
 2. Engage Hawaii's veterinary professional community to maintain vigilance in monitoring for the occurrence of reportable diseases in animals.
- Goal 7: Amend animal disease control administrative rules to strengthen disease control prevention and control measures.
- Objective: Update and strengthen animal disease control Administrative Rules.
1. Revise Trichomoniasis rules to prevent the introduction and spread, control outbreaks, and eradicate infections from cattle herds.
 2. Revise Scrapie rules to prevent its introduction, conduct surveillance, and maintain the State's consistent status in the National Scrapie program.
 3. Strengthen garbage feeding regulations to strengthen the State's ability to prevent the introduction of FADs.

Goal 8: Continue the development of animal disease traceability processes used during an animal disease outbreak to reduce the magnitude of associated adverse economic impacts.

Objective: Utilize Federal cooperative agreement funds to enhance intrastate and interstate animal disease traceability by encouraging premises registration and mitigating bottlenecks in animal disease investigations.

1. Seek funding from the USDA-Veterinary Services for equipment to facilitate animal disease investigations in FY 2023.
2. Continue animal disease traceability activities through FY 2023.
3. Update technical equipment that supports electronic identification in the production of animal species such as cattle, hogs, and small ruminants.

Goal 9: Improve laboratory support for animal disease surveillance and control programs to mitigate potential negative economic impacts on the animal industry and public health.

Objective: Develop a new Veterinary Laboratory and services

1. Completed re-design for existing lab facility.
2. Secure funding to initiate construction FY 2025.
3. Implement molecular diagnostics after lab improvements.

Objective: Ensure timely laboratory testing in support of the Division and livestock, poultry, and aquaculture industries.

1. Cross-train laboratory personnel to ensure that timely and high-quality laboratory diagnostic support is maintained.
2. Implement new methodology and equipment for disease testing and diagnosis.
3. Apply for Federal cooperative agreement funds, if applicable, to support laboratory activities in FY 2025.
4. Conduct surveillance testing for high impact disease agents that affect domestic animals by performing pathology examinations and collecting appropriate samples for laboratory testing.

Goal 10: Reestablish Hawaii State Meat Inspection Program.

Objective: Operate a state meat inspection program to augment federal FSIS meat inspection.

1. Reestablish Meat Inspector Positions with DHRD by end FY 25
2. Review, revise and reestablish Administrative Rules for program by early.
3. Request funds in budget FY 25 to conduct meat processing facilities survey by mid FY 26
4. Submit final program proposal for approval to USDA FSIS by late FY 26-early FY 27.
5. Recruit, fill positions, train staff late.

Goal 11: Continue pseudorabies and swine brucellosis surveillance and control measures agreed upon with USDA.

Objective: Control the spread of pseudorabies and swine brucellosis from infected feral swine to domestic swine herds.

1. Test 25% of domestic swine herds in the State annually.
2. Herds designated as high risk because of previous exposure or potential exposure to feral swine will be tested annually.
3. Continue testing of all sows and boars over six (6) months of age at slaughter.

Branch: Animal Industries / Aquaculture and Livestock Support Services

Purpose: To develop sustainable and profitable commercial aquaculture and livestock industries by encouraging a diversity of products, improving management practices and technologies, assisting with procurement of production related infrastructure and resources, and providing direct assistance with regulations, disease prevention, marketing, and new business development.

Overall Industry Goal: Boost farm incomes for all livestock, which includes aquaculture, operations in Hawaii by:

- increasing the total number of livestock on large and small farms
- improving the efficiency of livestock operations
- developing new marketing locally and abroad
- facilitating new production systems.

Industry Advocacy and Development

Goal 1: At the government level, increase the visibility of the aquaculture and livestock industries and their role in reaching Hawaii's sustainability goals.

- Objectives:
1. Act as the lead coordinator for statewide aquaculture and livestock program activities for County, State and Federal entities.

2. Work closely with State and County lawmakers to develop and adopt pro-aquaculture and pro-livestock legislation.

Goal 2: Increase local and export awareness and demand for aquaculture and livestock products.

- Objectives:
1. Develop and implement an industry marketing program with a goal to educate consumers regarding aquaculture and livestock as sustainable food solutions. Web marketing will be developed with print channels utilized as the budget permits.
 2. Work with selected industry segments to develop generic promotional materials (e.g., photography and brochures).
 3. Establish an economic foundation for the livestock industry through the development of institutional food programs.
 4. Work with industry associations, university, local processors, the culinary industry, and the Market Development Branch to develop new products and local markets for those products including (high quality grass finished beef, fresh local pork, locally unique added value products and locally influenced high quality ready to cook meals for local and potential export markets.

Goal 3: Develop and implement aquaculture and livestock plans and policies by providing review and input into aquaculture governance propositions and representing the State at the Federal and international levels.

- Objectives:
1. Facilitate expansion of Federal/State sponsored offshore aquaculture development on species, systems, environmental impacts and economic benefits and potential leases as the Federal Offshore Aquaculture Policy is developed.
 2. Collaborate with national aquaculture organizations, such as the National Association of State Aquaculture Coordinators (NASAC) and the National Aquaculture Society (NAA), to provide feedback on developing aquaculture policies.
 3. Represent the Hawaii aquaculture industry at aquaculture conferences such as Aquaculture America.
 4. Represent the Hawaii livestock industries at national livestock development organizations such as the National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA)

Goal 4: Develop resources and infrastructure to support local aquaculture and livestock production

- Objectives
1. Work with other departments and divisions to secure resources including leaseholds, water, processing facilities, etc. required to maintain and promote the local production of aquaculture and livestock.
 2. Work with Federal agencies and other divisions to secure CIP funds for the development and redevelopment of infrastructure critical to the survival and expansion of the aquaculture and livestock industries.
 3. Work with other divisions to amend rules to allow the aquaculture and livestock industries to obtain leases, water, and other resources at rates which these industries can bear. Assist in developing financing options that would allow the industries to develop and operate competitively and in a long-term sustainable manner.

Goal 5: Coordinate applied research to provide tools or resources for the aquaculture and livestock industries to improve production and productivity.

- Objectives
1. Undertake research for alternative sources of feed ingredients for aquaculture use.

Branch: Animal Industry, Rabies Quarantine Branch

Purpose: To protect animal and public health by reducing the likelihood that rabies virus will be introduced into the State and monitoring animal entries for alien pests that may carry human or animal diseases.

Goal 1: Transition away from current paper-centric procedures to digital documents and processing for the importation of animals into the state.

Objective: Revise Airport Animal Quarantine Holding Facility (AAQHF) animal receiving intake application "APP" to include mobile capability along with check-in enhancements (late FY 25).

Objective: Enhance Animal Information System (AIS) Front Office, Finance and Accounting functions in the AIS system to simplify entry applications, notifications, refunds, identify outstanding balance accounts, etc. (mid-late FY 25)

Objective: Enhance the Veterinary Dispensary AIS system module to accommodate digital document processing and review to eliminate or significantly reduce paper handling (late FY 25).

Objective: Improve interoperability between the Hawaii Pet Owner Portal (HIPOP), Neighbor Island Inspection Pet Entry Tracker (NIIPET), and AIS back office to seamlessly process applications, payments, document review, receive confirmations, pet qualification, and issue permits.

Commence build and deploy during FY 24-25.

Goal 2: Improve the processing of customers arriving at the AAQHF.

Objective: Additional improvements to check-in (FY 25)

Goal 3: Plan and move the existing Animal Quarantine Station (AQS) facility to accommodate planned Oahu Community Corrections Center Relocation to AQS Property.

Objective: Plan, design and build new AQS to accommodate program activities.

Complete design planning phase in -progress by end FY 25.

Acquire funds, commence construction FY 26.

Complete construction FY 28.

Goal 4: Upgrade sewage pretreatment plant per Department of Health (DOH) Clean Water Branch Notice of Violation and Order.

1. Commence upgrades as funds allow CY 2020-22 (DAGS project started 2nd Quarter FY 21, construction still in progress,).

2. Complete upgrades in FY 25. (project still under construction, extensive delays)

Goal 5: Continually apply new information on rabies virus and public policy to analyze the quarantine program and respond to fund performance, needs of users, the general public; and to direct airport release and reduced quarantine periods.

Objective: Review rules and regulations on an ongoing basis to be consistent with new rabies scientific research findings, and program rules and regulations effects on operations.

1. Continue to evaluate the effects of 2018 HAR amendments through FY 22 and propose further amendments, if warranted in FY 2025-26.

Division/Branch: Plant Industry Division

Purpose: To protect Hawaii's agricultural industries, natural resources, and public health from the adverse impacts of invasive pests and diseases, and illegal non-domestic animals by preventing their introduction and establishment in Hawaii; to conduct effective plant pest control activities; to enhance agricultural productivity and agribusiness

development by facilitating export shipments of agricultural and horticultural materials and products; to ensure the effective, efficient, and safe use of pesticides and to minimize their possible adverse effects to humans and the environment while considering the benefits of their use.

Goal 1: To protect Hawaii's agricultural industries, natural resources, and the public health from the entry and establishment of harmful insects, diseases, illegal non-domestic animals, and other injurious pests.

Objective: To reduce the entry of invasive species by conducting pre-entry and at border inspections and other prevention activities at various ports-of-entry and eradication efforts, post-entry, where possible.

1. Increase the existing level of state funding for Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) inspectors and programs and aggressively seek additional federal funding support to address these needs. The PQB has been consistently awarded US Department of the Interior grants to fund the Hawaii Detector Dog Program (HDDP) and Brown Tree Snake (BTS) Interdiction program. Completion Date: Ongoing.
2. Establish Biosecurity Inspection Facilities at airports and seaports statewide for the inspection of agricultural products and other regulated commodities by appropriate Quarantine Programs (State Quarantine, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ), and Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection). Completion date: Ongoing. Five transitional facilities are currently in operation.
3. Increase the resources necessary to effectively mitigate increased pest pressure from global trade by collaborating with federal and state agencies and encouraging public-private partnerships. Ongoing examples include the Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) Working Group, quarterly training with USDA National Detector Dog Training Center staff for Canine Handlers for BTS and other regulated plant materials, and active participation in the Hawaii Risk Assessment Committee, Hawaii Invasive Species Counsel and Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species. Continue to work with Amazon Compliance to restrict the importation and sale of various microbial products, biocontrol agents and restricted plants into Hawaii. Bi-monthly meetings with Federal inspection agencies to share intelligence; Quarterly meetings with Australia and New Zealand to discuss invasive ants and biological control projects. Completion date: On-going.
4. Expand the existing nursery certification program by developing a compliance program for interisland movement of

nursery stock and by entering into new compliance agreements with other states and/or countries to reduce risk of pest movement between islands, states, and foreign countries on nursery stock. Renewal of Master Permit QC 650 that maintains the exemption of orchid plants from root sampling and no changes from the prior permit for shipping to California. Continued implementation of a Nursery Stock Certificate program that allows participants to self-certify shipments moving inter-island as well as to select U.S. mainland destinations. Additional on-going examples include the joint development and continued collaboration with the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the Washington Department of Agriculture to utilize and maintain best management practices with Christmas tree growers and shippers and maintaining the compliance program for ROD to allow the shipping of potted plants in soil as a planting media. Completion Date: On-going.

5. Expand the electronic transporter manifest system and electronic importer manifest system to more efficiently schedule inspections and be able to prioritize and inspect high- and moderate- risk commodities. Create a web-based data entry system to facilitate the standardization of data and information that is submitted electronically. Pacific Point Inc. has developed the new database, named "Kupono", and has made enhancements. PQB is working with select importers to ensure web-based electronic manifest system is compatible with user needs. Completion date: Completed.

Goal 2: To conduct effective plant pest control programs as a post-entry initiative.

Objective: To contain, control and/or eradicate plant pests that enter the state by using chemical and mechanical means and/or biocontrol strategies to mitigate risks to agriculture and the natural resources of the state.

1. Prevent distribution of noxious weed seeds by examining seed shipments originating from foreign and domestic seed sources for exotic seeds, such as fireweed Cogon and Jubata grasses. Completion date: On-going.
2. Conduct statewide pest detection and monitoring to delineate infestations of regulated pests for control or eradication. Determine statewide distribution of noxious weeds (e.g., fireweed and fountain grass), plant diseases (e.g., coffee rust, Fusarium wilt, brown root rot), insect pests (e.g., little fire ant) and coqui frogs. Utilize GIS technology to map results for use in planning and communication with decision makers such as USDA APHIS Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey program (CAPS) and other surveys conducted by Plant Pest Control

staff for plant pests. The PQB also uses GIS technology for BTS trapping and other rapid response efforts. The PQB staffs and responds to the statewide pest hotline, conducts pest detection in urban areas, and monitors pests within certified nurseries statewide. Completion date: On-going.

3. Increase invasive species monitoring, detection, and diagnostic activities to detect, identify, delineate, and eradicate incipient infestations of invasive alien species, such as the red imported fire ant, Africanized honeybee, coconut rhinoceros beetle, Brown Tree Snake and many other serious pests not yet found in Hawaii or very limited in distribution. Seek extension of present federal funding support and new funding to increase personnel, equipment, and supplies necessary to implement this action. PQB has received federal funding to monitor and detect BTS utilizing the HDDP, spotlighting of fence lines around military bases, and utilize long standing snake traps in select areas on military bases. Completion date: On-going.
4. Seek funding such as federal and private sector funding to supplement operating funds to conduct foreign explorations to search for and introduce potential biocontrol agents of targeted weeds and plant pests, such as fountain grass, coffee berry borer, fire weed. Plant Pest Control Branch has established broader partnerships to identify opportunities to cost-share biocontrol projects. Ongoing communication is occurring with Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and other states for projects such as fireweed, fountain grass, Albizia, devil weed, gorse, and Christmas berry. Collaborations have been negatively impacted by an inability to ship biological control agents between countries due to restrictions imposed by COVID-19 and the subsequent loss of air lift capacity. Completion date: On-going.
5. Participate in an Insect Diagnostic Identification Network for Hawaii and the American Pacific among the land grant universities and departments of agriculture in Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). Funding will be sought from Research, Education and Extension Service (UH-CREES). USDA via the University of Hawaii, Cooperative, PIDDIRS – Pacific Island Distance Diagnostics and Recommendation System. The PIDDIRS has been folded into the Western Plant Diagnostic Network in terms of infrastructure with UH researcher, Mike Melzer, receiving primary funding for NPDN. Completion Date: On-going.
6. Duties of the apiary staff were re-written to focus on biosecurity. Extension and education activities have been

transitioned to the University of Hawaii although recent departures have left the Assistant Researcher position vacant. Support to Hawaii's queen bee rearing industry through inspection and certification remains in place. The number of queen bee producers has increased to twelve statewide with most being located on Hawaii Island. Plant Pest Control Branch staff is working directly with US Department of Agriculture, the Apiary Inspectors of America, and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to insure the flow of honeybee queens to North America. Hawaii remains the source of approximately 50% of all honeybee queens supplied to North America. Completion Date: On-going.

7. Upgrade biocontrol facilities and/or investigate the potential for building new modernized facilities (or mobile facilities) to increase the biocontrol program's capabilities to respond to new emerging and established pests. Budget requests for planning and design appropriations were submitted and approved by the Legislature. Initiated assessments of existing facilities in other states and countries, establishing collaborative relationships with their program managers and investigating options for improving the Department's biocontrol facilities. Plant Pest Control Branch has begun investigating modular prefabricated facilities to eliminate cost-over runs and ensure facilities can operate as expected. Completion date: On-going.
8. The Coffee Berry Borer (CBB) Pesticides Subsidy Program was established during the 2014 Legislative Session Act 105 (HB 1514) to assist Hawaii coffee farmers with the cost of pesticides containing *Beauveria bassiana* for CBB control. The program launched in 2016 for reimbursements to coffee farmers who purchased *Beauveria bassiana* during July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018. The 2017 Legislative Session, Act 065 (HB 186) extended the program until June 30, 2021. The subsidy program has been extended to 6/30/2025 to a total of \$1,010,000 since its inception. Another extension is currently being approved extending the sunset date to 6/30/2024.

Goal 3: To enhance agricultural productivity and agribusiness development by facilitating export shipments of agricultural and horticultural materials and products.

Objective: To provide opportunities for Hawaii's fresh fruits and vegetables and nursery products to access new markets.

1. Assist in accessing new markets for Hawaii grown fresh agricultural products, including, initiatives to have post-harvest quarantine treatment facilities in Hawaii available for use by all growers wishing to move products to export markets currently

restricted because of state and/or federal quarantine prohibitions; and collaborate with federal agencies to expedite the export of new products. The ban on exporting avocados from Hawaii to the continental US by the USDA-APHIS was lifted in 2013. Local growers are transitioning to the Sharwil, the only variety allowed for export to certain states. In 2016, 1,000 avocados were shipped from Hawaii to Minnesota. Implementation of a new administrative rule to restrict the introduction of Myrtaceae into the State. Working with local florists and industry growers to meet current needs.
Completion Date: Ongoing.

Goal 4: To support the appropriate and legal use of pesticides and minimize their possible adverse effects on humans and the environment.

Objective: To prevent injury from pesticides by working with the Hawaii Poison Center and working to reduce the total number of pesticidal poisoning incidences by the end of FY 2024.

1. Conduct at least eighteen (18) fumigation use inspections for 2024 to assure the use of fumigants by commercial pest control operators in Hawaii meets all health and safety requirements and directions for use mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Increasing emphasis has been placed on responding to pesticide odor/drift complaint investigations, agriculture use inspections and Market Place Surveillance Inspections (MSI). The Pesticides Branch is focusing on conducting fumigation inspections while under-staffed for enforcement inspections.
Completion Date: On-going.

2. Conduct at least twenty (20) inspections of agricultural employers to assure employer compliance with the EPA Worker Protection Standard (WPS). Emphasis has been placed on farms using restricted-use pesticides (RUPs), farms with a past enforcement action (either a warning notice or civil penalty), crops requiring worker entry soon after pesticides have been applied, such as cut flowers, pineapples, and seed corn. Included in the inspections are all uses of pesticides that have WPS requirements. While emphasis has been placed on RUPs, the number of farms and nurseries, going forward, will include those using any pesticides with WPS requirements. A neutral inspection scheme has been developed for enforcement activities and is currently being implemented by the branch; the list takes into account RUP use, prior violations, etc. Completion Date: On-going.

Due to changes in the WPS effective in 2017, more emphasis is being placed on conducting WPS Tier I inspections. There is

one enforcement position currently vacant on the island of Maui, one vacancy on Kauai, two vacancies on Hawaii Island (one in Hilo and one in Kailua-Kona) but both are filled via emergency hire. All other enforcement positions are filled.

Steps are being taken to bring the immigrant farmers into the agriculture industry fold by working with translators and interpretive services. The Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Program run by the HDOA works closely with the Pesticides Branch to ensure all LEP participants have equal access to our services. Completion date: On-going.

3. Conduct at least sixty (60) Marketplace Surveillance Inspections (MSIs) to ensure all products available to the public at retail marketplaces are federally registered and licensed in the State. Ensuring the health and safety of a purchasable product is of high priority for the Pesticides Branch. Completion date: On-going
4. Develop a pesticide case database to track compliance rate, repeat violators, and costs per enforcement action.

INFOR integrated database has been developed and is currently being deployed for enforcement, education, and licensing efforts by the Pesticides Branch. The Good Neighbor Program (GNP) is no longer viable due to the RUP reporting requirements of Act 045. Reporting of Restricted Use Pesticides are submitted annually to HDOA and put into a database maintained by the Pesticides Branch. Summarized RUP application data is posted annually on the HDOA website and updated periodically in the Pesticides Branch section for public perusal. Completion date: On-going.

While the INFOR database was completed in 2017 there are still many adjustments that need to be made to make it run properly. The main task that needs work is generation of the emails to pesticide registrants notifying them when it is time to renew their licenses. This will continue to be a focus of the Pesticides Branch. Work on the database is dynamic so despite the fact that the INFOR database was finished in 2017 there are still many facets of the database that require attention of a contractor who knows how to code the concerns raised by the Branch associated with the use of the INFOR database. Completion date: On-going.

In 2024 a new contract was executed to ensure continued support and development of the Infor system and the new licensing and registration portal. Registration/licensing was prioritized for refurbishment due to several faults found in the system.

5. Increase pesticide education outreach to applicators of pesticides to reduce the potential for pesticide misuse affecting human health and the environment.

As of July 1, 2024, most education staff positions were filled with the exception of the Kauai position and the Hawaii island position (currently filled via emergency hire). All Neighbor Island counties, except Kauai, have education staff while Oahu has 3 staff plus a supervisor. Environmental Health Specialist (EHS) education/certification staff continue to conduct workshops and one-on-one consultations to target groups including farmers, nurserymen, landscapers, pest control operators and state agencies (Department of Transportation; highways and harbor staff and Department of Education; head custodians and cafeteria managers, and County agencies; roadside spray crews and managers).

Workshop topics include pesticide safety, label comprehension, Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training and compliance, concepts of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and the use of proper personal protection equipment. Completion date: On-going.

Over 60 marketplace consults were conducted in 2024 by Education staff. Education staff conduct consultative visits to ensure proper information is provided to retailers.

With the establishment of Act 45, outreach contains provisions for educating certified applicators with a requirement that all RUPs used to be reported to the Pesticides Branch by the end of the reporting period. The first reporting period was January 1 through December 31, 2019. Most RUP use reports have been submitted on an annual basis. Official notices related to failure to report were initially high in 2020 but have since been reduced to less than 2%. Warning notices were sent to certified applicators who failed to submit. The Branch finalized a spreadsheet that was used for keeping track of Act 45s RUP requirements. The spreadsheet was distributed widely during outreach events and posted online for RUP applicator's use. Additionally, the Branch created a RUP application for both iOS and Android platforms to assist RUP applicators with reporting submissions. Completion date: On-going.

Additional outreach to the regulated community and the community at large with respect to 100 foot buffer zones around schools where it is illegal to apply a RUP product within that buffer zone Monday through Friday, from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm. GIS maps were and analysis was completed to determine where there may be issues with compliance of Act 45 and are available online. Staff will continue to complete outreach towards those Tax Map Keys (TMKs) to ensure

compliance and knowledge of Act 45 provisions. Two staff were hired to conduct outreach regarding all Act 045 provisions. Completion date: On-going.

Objective: To support Hawaii agriculture and conservation initiatives through issuing Experimental Use Permits (EUPs), Special Local Needs (SLNs), and Emergency Exemptions (EE).

1. EUPs are processed at the State level and allow for off-label use of products with restrictions placed on the applicator by the Pesticides Branch. EUPs provide a legal avenue to determine efficacy of a product that may be used to combat pests in specific locations which are not identified on a product's label. EUPs are generally conducted by research personnel and cannot be used for any profit by the researcher. The data gathered must be reported to the Pesticides Branch after the experiment is completed. The data is usually used to apply for a SLN to support larger scale use of the products. Completion date: On-going
2. SLNs completed by the Registration and Licensing staff provide a regulatory review of product labels and establish exemptions for local producers of diversified agricultural products. SLNs provide applicators with an avenue to use products outside of the label requirements. Requests are reviewed by registration staff to ensure human health and environmental concerns are met. The requests are then sent to the U.S. EPA for final approval. Completion date: On-going
3. If a crop or pest is identified to have an emergency adverse effect, an EE may be requested by an individual, group, or entity. EEs go through a similar review process as SLNs but with higher importance placed on processing expediently. Most recently a Section 18 EE was completed and approved by U.S. EPA for the use of Demon Max on Coconuts and Palms through aerial application for the mitigation of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle. Compliance monitoring by Enforcement staff has been ongoing whenever the Pesticides Branch is notified of an application. Completion date: On-going

Objective: To manage pesticides use to minimize environmental effects and maintain important pesticides uses. To have no increase in the number of drinking water sources having a pesticide residue level in excess of 10% of a regulatory limit.

1. Fund research to enable informed decision-making on pesticides potential to leach into the water supply.

The Department is partnering with the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to conduct groundwater reviews for products new to the state of Hawaii

and existing products that may pose potential groundwater leaching hazard. Groundwater reviews involve evaluation of groundwater data developed by the registrant and determining leachability in Hawaii-specific soils, utilizing GIS-based leaching model. The contract has been signed by all parties and the project has started as of November 2021. Periodically, field studies are conducted, in collaboration with WRRC, to evaluate leachability of selected compounds as affected by soil and hydrologic conditions. Completion Date: On-going.

Objective: To enhance the pesticide regulatory program through effective program management and data collection.

1. To achieve a 75% compliance rate with pesticide distribution and use requirements.

All sales of Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs) are reported to the Pesticides Branch on a monthly basis by pesticide dealers. Inspectors conduct various inspection types with applicators/distributors of pesticides to determine compliance with label directions or registration/licensing protocol. Completion date: On-going.

The establishment of a RUP reporting requirement is an important factor for ensuring the RUP use does not exceed label requirements and restrictions. Completion date: On-going, reports due January 30 of each year.

2. To identify activity areas not achieving 90% compliance, identify reason for non-compliance and determine actions recommended to attain better compliance rates.

Areas identified for non-compliance include improper site of application, crop not on label, insufficient personal protective equipment worn, improper dilution rate of application, and off target drift. Inspections also identify other suspected violations with pesticide labels or violations of registration/licensing protocols. Enforcement actions include issuance of advisory notices, warning notices, and notice of violations resulting in civil penalties. Activities conducted to attain better compliance rates include follow up inspection to previously issued enforcement action (compliance verification) and outreach by the education/certification staff to provide guidance or additional training to violators. Completion Date: On-going.

Outreach to pesticide users has increased because of the establishment and hiring of Environmental Health Specialists in the Education section. Education staff are required to follow up on all advisory, warning, and violation notices to increase follow through on required actions by the violators. A decrease in Pesticide Enforcement Specialists has occurred in the last

year with resignations from enforcement employees on Hawaii Island, Kauai, and Oahu. Completion date: Completed.

3. Maintain a database of Restricted Use Pesticide (RUP) sales, to better inform the general public of RUPs sold in the State of Hawaii.

Restricted Use Pesticide sales records are regularly submitted by RUP dealers to the Pesticides Branch for entry into a database. The Department is in the process of developing an updated system to house this data and summarize the data more quickly and efficiently. This new database will have the capability to generate reports based on multiple parameters, such as date range, company, certified applicator, and product. Data accessible to the public will be limited to that which is releasable under Chapter 92F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Act 45 requirement to report all annual RUP use will further enhance the ability of the State to determine where RUP pesticides are applied and how much RUP pesticides are applied in a given area. The RUP use data compiled will further provide information that is accessible by the public either through a Uniform Information Practices Act or Freedom of Information Act request. Completion date: Reports are due January 30 of each year.

4. Annual reporting of all Restricted Use Pesticides used Statewide.

Act 45 was passed during the 2018 Legislature. This law requires that all RUPs used by all facets of the regulated community will be reported to the Department no later than January 30 following the reporting year. The first reporting year for this law was 2020. RUP reports by certified applicators are required to be submitted to the Pesticides Branch by January 30 of the subsequent year. All certified applicators in the State have been notified, in writing, of this requirement. RUP dealers have been notified of Act 45 requirements so that they understand what role that they have in this process, if any. Data that is collected will be compiled, by County, for Departmental use. A summarized version of the compiled data is provided for public consumption and updated when new data is provided to the Pesticides Branch. Completion date: March 30, 2025

The development and deployment of the previously mentioned RUP app should decrease human error due to transcription and poor legibility of some reports.

5. Elimination of the use of all forms of Chlorpyrifos insecticide.

Act 45 requires the ultimate banning of any insecticides with chlorpyrifos as an active ingredient by December 31, 2022. All uses of the product until that time will be by permit only. The Branch has notified users of the outright ban of the product. No Chlorpyrifos use has been noted in FY24. Completion date: Done.

6. Pesticide Drift Monitoring Study

A pesticide drift monitoring study has been contracted with Dr. Qing Li of the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Dr. Li was hired to determine the best path forward for conducting the pesticide drift research on 3 islands. Equipment has been purchased by Dr. Li and a post-doc student has been brought on-board. Completion Date: 2028.

Division/Branch: Quality Assurance Division

Purpose: To ensure food safety and quality in agricultural products, measurement accuracy and fairness in the marketplace.

Goal 1: Stabilize workforce and improve efficiency within the Division.

Objective: Restore positions lost due to attrition and budget reductions. Anticipated completion date: On-going

1. Create and fill additional positions to restore Division personnel count.
2. Rewrite job descriptions to provide statewide coverage.
3. Develop training program for new inspectors.

Goal 2: Improve focus on delivering quality assurance services.

Objective: Look after the interests of the consumers and businesses; assuring accuracy of measurement, packaging, labeling, and pricing of commercial goods to prevent unfair practices. Completion date: On-going.

1. Provide technical assistance and traceability of measurement standards.
2. Conduct tests to determine accuracy of measuring devices and packaged goods, and compliance with labeling and pricing requirements.
3. Licensing of dealers and assure proof of ownership of agricultural commodities to deter agricultural theft.

4. Registration of measuring devices to ensure conformance with laws regulating measuring devices.
5. Conduct certification of agricultural commodities for genetic purity, quality, condition, and origin.
6. Conduct audits to assure producers are following good agricultural and good handling practices.
7. Assist agricultural producers in meeting requirements of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Food Safety Modernization Act.