



Department
of Agriculture

STATE OF HAWAII

Approved

**Minutes of the Board of Agriculture
March 25, 2025**

A video recording of this meeting can be found online by visiting this website:
<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/meetings-reports/>

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting of the Board of Agriculture was called to order on March 25, 2025, at 9:16 am by Board Member, En Young. Chairperson Sharon Hurd designated Board Member En Young to chair this meeting during her absence. The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom and in-person from:

*State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture
Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street*

Members Present In-Person:

En Young, Member-at-Large

Members Virtually Present: Roll call/alone

Ryan Kanaka'ole, DLNR, Ex-Officio Member

Mark Takemoto, DBEDT, Ex-Officio Member

Diane Ley, Hawaii Member

Nathaniel Oswald, Maui County Member

Randy Cabral, Member-at-Large

James Gomes, Member-at-Large

Excused:

Chairperson Sharon Hurd, HDOA

Dr. Parwinder Grewal, Dean CTAHR, Ex-Officio Member

Fred Cowell, Kauai Member

Deputy Attorney General Present In-Person:

Jennifer Waihe'e-Polk, Deputy Attorney General

Others Present In-Person:

Jonathan Ho, HDOA/PQ

Marci Clingan, HDOA/Office of the Chairperson

Jason Azus-Richardson, HDOA/IT

Others Virtually Present:¹

x
jerome.k.yasuhara
yamamoto earl
Ilana Nimz
Janet Ashman
J Ferrer, HDOA
BTM B.I.
Rae Gee
Claire Orodio
lindsey.ancog
Dean Matsukawa
HDOAPIO
Steph Kendrick (she/her)
Brandi Ah Yo
Jonathan Ho
Gary Weller kailua neighborhood board
Brandi Ah Yo

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM February 25, 2025, MEETING

Motion to Approve: Gomes/Ley

Vote: Approved; unanimously

III. INTRODUCTIONS

IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DIVISIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

A. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

1. Request for Approval to Sublease Between the Hāmākua Agricultural Cooperative, Lessee/Sublessor; and Maritez Libed, Sublessee; General Lease No. S-7013, TMK: 3rd DIV/4-3-005:020 (POR), Lot No. 1, Hāmākua Agricultural Park, Phase II, Pōhaku haku and Kemau 1st, Hāmākua District, Island of Hawai'i

¹ The identification of the public members is based on their sign-in name but are not verified.

1 Brandi Ah Yo, Agricultural Resource Management Division presented testimony as
2 submitted.

3
4 Motion to Approve: Ley/Cabral

5
6 Discussion:

7 Board Member Gomes asked how overgrown the lot is.

8
9 Ms. Ah Yo said it's tall and that it has been vacant for a while. There's not a lot of trees
10 but a lot of brush.

11
12 Member Ley asked if the lots are well delineated, or do they need to back in and survey
13 each time?

14
15 Ms. Ah Yo said no, it's well delineated.

16
17 Vote: Approved; Unanimously
18
19

- 20 2. Request for Approval to Sublease Between the Hāmākua Agricultural
21 Cooperative, Lessee/Sublessor; and Jianguo Wang, Sublessee; General
22 Lease No. S-7013, TMK: 3rd DIV/4-3-005:020 (POR), Lot No. 3, Hāmākua
23 Agricultural Park, Phase II, Pōhaku haku and Kemau 1st, Hāmākua
24 District, Island of Hawai'i
25

26 Brandi Ah Yo, Agricultural Resource Management Division presented testimony as
27 submitted.

28
29 Motion to Approve: Gomes/Ley

30
31 Discussion:

32 None

33
34 Vote: Approved; Unanimously
35
36

- 37 3. Request for Consent to Assign General Lease No. S-5707, All Tree
38 Services, Inc., Lessee/Assignor; Mauka Rain Farm, LLC., Assignee; TMK:
39 1st DIV/4-1-010-048, Lot 15, Waimānalo Agricultural Subdivision,
40 Waimānalo, Ko'olaupoko, Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i
41

42 Brandi Ah Yo, Agricultural Resource Management Division presented testimony as
43 submitted.

1
2 Motion to Approve: Gomes/Cabral
3

4 Discussion:

5 Member Ley asked if the dates are transposed on the first paragraph in the background.
6

7 Ms. Ah Yo said, yes, that's a typo. She said she will email everyone with the correct
8 information after the meeting to set the record straight.
9

10 Member Oswald asked what is generating the taxes.
11

12 Ms. Ah Yo said she isn't sure, but she knows it's federal and state taxes.
13

14 Ms. Ah Yo asked if Mr. Rodriguez is online but he was unavailable.
15

16 Member Oswald asked if this was sales tax and if this was from one or multiple years.
17

18 Ms. Ah Yo said that wasn't provided through the title search.
19

20 Member Oswald asked if these will be taken care of through the escrow process, so it
21 gets zeroed out.
22

23 Ms. Ah Yo said yes.
24

25 Member Young asked if there were any hang-ups with amounts owed that could be due
26 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) versus the Department of
27 Agriculture (HDOA).
28

29 Ms. Ah Yo said it's all HDOA.
30

31 Ms. Ah Yo added that to Member Ley's question, the lease effective date is September
32 1, 2004, and it was transferred to us on September 17, 2008
33

34 Vote: Approved; Unanimously
35

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37 V. OLD BUSINESS

38 None
39

40
41 VI. NEW BUSINESS

42 A. Invasive Species Action Plan Updates
43

Jonathan Ho, Plant Quarantine Branch, presented new business item.

Discussion:

Mr. Ho said the Two-Lined Spittlebug Request for Proposals (RFP) has closed and is for \$240,000. There were two proposals, but they were more than the allotted amount. HDOA will be using the \$240,000 to fund one proposal, and will be utilizing its own funds to fund the second proposal.

He said there was a press release last week for the Little Fire Ant (LFA) Rentokil Terminix contract indicating what the project is going to do and provide frequently asked questions for members of the public to let them know how to become eligible. The Plant Quarantine Branch staff have already provided and verified sites to the contractor and treatments have begun. The first set is in Aiea followed by Aiea Haina and Nuuanu. These sites have been identified in collaboration with the invasive species committee and the Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL). He said HDOA is working with them for additional sites on the island. HDOA has gotten about 22 phone calls and 73 emails requesting test kits for the program on Oahu. Some people were irate, particularly from Hawaii Island. For Maui and Kauai, HDOA will work with the Island Invasive Species Committees as they do a lot of the LFA work on those islands. The contractor is working with the HAL to get training for their staff on those islands. There is a delay because the HAL staff aren't readily available. For Hawaii Island, Mr. Ho said HDOA will be pivoting from individual houses to working with the counties to treat specific public areas that they deem appropriate for the treatment regimen.

Mr. Ho said HDOA has about 80 trees for removal with H.T.M. Contractors Inc. primarily in central and west Oahu. There was a bit of a hiccup with the contractor with the removing of the stumps and stump grinding, but HDOA resolved that and is working with the contractor to schedule the actual removal. The work is estimated to start in April or May.

Mr. Ho said HDOA has had three bids for the pest diagnostics RFP, and one was satisfactory so HDOA is drafting that contract.

Mr. Ho said with some push through the Governor and Lieutenant Governor's office, HDOA has implemented a pilot program to digitize the declaration forms. The Akamai Arrival program started on March 1st, and it involves all the airlines to differing degrees. He said in total, about 35% of all flights that are arriving in the state from domestic areas are in this pilot program right now. He said HDOA has been working with the vendor and information technology (IT) staff to streamline some of the issues. A lot of the issues relate to how HDOA is getting the information from the airlines--if the airlines don't provide the information to HDOA, it's hard to gather the data. HDOA is trying to find ways to figure this out and then expand the program.

1 Mr. Ho said HB427 and SB1100 are basically the House and Senate versions of their
2 landmark biosecurity bills. The House version intends to create a deputy of biosecurity
3 to oversee everything, it renames HDOA to the Department of Agriculture and
4 Biosecurity, and it has an emergency declaration process for biosecurity emergencies.
5 The Senate version is more comprehensive, and it has transitional facilities which
6 require inspections of everything. It creates private inspectors for non-agricultural goods
7 and is very large. The biggest hiccup is that the Senate's version language transfers
8 where the Hawaii Invasive Species Council resides, and it seems to have subsided.
9 With the renaming of HDOA, there has been testimony about changing the content of
10 the board to include more members for invasive species conservation members. These
11 bills make the Act 231 funds permanent and contain the 42 positions and seek to keep
12 the funding projects for Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles, LFA and Coqui frogs so HDOA
13 can continue those projects in perpetuity.

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15 Motion to adjourn: Gomes/Ley

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17 The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 am

18
19 Respectfully submitted,

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21
22
23 Marci Clingan
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