



**Minutes of the Board of Agriculture  
April 22, 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 April 22, 2025, at 9:06 am by Board of Agriculture Chairperson, Sharon Hurd. 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:**

Sharon Hurd, Chairperson, Board of Agriculture  
Fred Cowell, Kauai Member

**Members Virtually Present: Roll call/alone**

Ryan Kanaka'ole, DLNR, on behalf of Chair Chang  
Dr. Parwinder Grewal, Dean CTAHR, Ex-Officio Member  
Lyle Roe, DBEDT, on behalf of Director Tokioka  
Diane Ley, Hawaii Member  
Nathaniel Oswald, Maui County Member  
En Young, Member-at-Large (Joined the meeting at 9:08 am)  
Randy Cabral, Member-at-Large  
James Gomes, Member-at-Large

**Excused:**

**Deputy Attorney General Present In-Person:**

Jennifer Waihee-Polk, Deputy Attorney General

**Others Present In-Person:**

Jason Azus-Richardson, HDOA/IT  
Marci Clingan, HDOA/Office of the Chairperson  
Jonathan Ho, HDOA/Plant Quarantine Branch

Others Virtually Present:<sup>1</sup>

J Ferrer, HDOA  
jerome.k.yasuhara  
ChunKB  
Lehua Abrigo  
18088960829  
John Boyes (HDOA)  
Lesley Harvey, HDOA  
BTM B.I.  
Brandi Ah Yo  
Roy Hasegawa  
Janet Ashman  
lindsey.ancog  
Rae Gee

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 3/25/25 MEETING

Motion to Approve: Gomes/Ley

Vote: Approved – 6; Recused – 2 (Cowell/Roe)

III. INTRODUCTIONS

IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DIVISIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

A. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

1. Request for Approval for the Transfer of Public Lands from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture, Pursuant to Act 90, SLH 2003, Codified as Chapter 166E, Hawaii Revised Statutes; TMK Nos: (4) 4-5-015:010, 028 and 029, Island of Kaua'i, Hawai'i

Brandi Ah Yo, Property Manager, presented testimony as submitted.

Motion to Approve: Gomes/Cowell

Discussion:

Member Cabral informed the Chair that he is having connectivity issues.

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

1  
2 Member Gomes said there are a lot of State of Hawaii properties that surround this  
3 lease. Member Gomes asked whether the properties were going to be transferred or  
4 stay in retention with the State of Hawaii and whether the properties were under the  
5 Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)?

6  
7 Ms. Ah Yo said she believes some of them are DLNR properties, but she is unaware if  
8 they're eligible for transfer or not.

9  
10 Member Gomes asked if there can be a follow-up on what this property is used for, who  
11 has it, and if it will later be transferred to the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) or the  
12 Agribusiness Development Corporation.

13  
14 Vote: Approved Unanimously

15  
16  
17 V. OLD BUSINESS

18  
19 None

20  
21  
22 VI. NEW BUSINESS

23  
24 1. NON-ACTION ITEM: Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

25  
26 Jonathan Ho, Plant Quarantine Branch, presented new business item.

27  
28 Presentation:

29 Ho explained that there have been about 11 Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles (CRB) that  
30 have been detected around the Kona airport/NELHA/Konahiki areas since the beginning  
31 of March. HDOA Plant Pest Control branch (PPC) staff with Pesticides staff have been  
32 doing work as it relates to the treatments of host palm plants. All are centralized in this  
33 area and the last beetle was found 8 days ago. The Big Island Invasive Species  
34 committee is doing their community outreach to increase traps. They're doing weekly  
35 trap surveys with Department of Health Vector Control Branch staff. They've identified  
36 about 30 breeding sites but no CRB grubs. The county has been providing labor and  
37 equipment for the treatment which is either crown or injection. The trees that cannot be  
38 treated with crown sprays are going to be injected with systemic injectables. The  
39 Konahiki folks are going to do their own treatment in that area which contains about  
40 1,600 trees. HDOA is working on getting more chemicals for the staff so they can  
41 blanket the area until they can find the breeding sites. It appears that these are all from  
42 a single site because they are coming at the same time, but no one is finding feeding  
43 damage. The PPC staff have also started treating the airports in Maui and Kauai. The

1 Plant Quarantine Branch (PQ) staff have started treating some parks on Oahu which  
2 include Malaekahana and a couple of other places after they do the tree trimming.

3  
4 The Little Fire Ant (LFA) first round of treatments has been completed for Aiea and Aina  
5 Haina. The Hauula residential sites are done but HDOA is waiting for the point of  
6 contact for Rentokil to return from vacation. DLNR will then treat the forested area  
7 above it with drones which are about 60 acres. HDOA will continue to work on one site  
8 in Kaneohe that was referred to us by Representative Kitagawa and another in Kailua  
9 which was referred by Representative Martin. HDOA will be working on a very large  
10 infestation in Kahuku which might be potentially hundreds of properties. HDOA will be  
11 working on those once HDOA gets some of the windward ones completed.

12  
13 For the CRB contract, HDOA has identified about 114 trees on the west side. 41 trees  
14 are ready to go, and is working on the final details for the contractor so they can start  
15 removing those trees.

16  
17 Akamai Arrival has been steady but with some hiccups as it relates to individual airlines.  
18 HDOA has got about 72% of arrivals covered so far.

19  
20 With the State legislature closing up, there are four bills of note. House Bill (HB) 643,  
21 which provides funding for the CRB Response Program, has not had conferees yet so  
22 no hearing for that. This bill will enable them to continue to do research, outreach, and  
23 to potentially assist with treatments for trees or potentially subsidize stuff. The language  
24 is still unclear.

25  
26 Senate Bill (SB) 140 creates regulations for the importation, interstate movement and  
27 sale of firewood within the state.

28  
29 SB330 would enable the department staff to enforce Federal quarantines.

30  
31 HB427 does 14 things, including the following:

- 32 1. Renames the Department of Agriculture.
- 33 2. Establishes a Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity to oversee HDOA's biosecurity
- 34 efforts.
- 35 3. Establishes an Emergency Response Program.
- 36 4. Authorizes the Chairperson to quarantine areas under certain circumstances.
- 37 5. Establishes transitional facilities program.
- 38 6. Allows the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) to license
- 39 the private inspectors for those facilities.
- 40 7. Interisland inspections.
- 41 8. Managing the penalty sections.
- 42 9. Creates an electronic dashboard.

1 10. Transfers the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC).

2 11. Creates pest management plans for individuals to come before the Board.

3 12. Changes the composition of the Board potentially to require an individual from  
4 the invasive species management or conservation.

5 13. Appropriates funds for:

6 ○ Hawaii Ant Lab

7 ○ HISC

8 ○ Inspectors for PQ

9 ○ Noxious weed specialists for PPC

10 ○ Animal Quarantine facility repairs

11  
12 Motion to adjourn: Cowell/Gomes

13  
14 Chairperson Hurd announced that this will be Board Member Cowell's last meeting with  
15 the Board of Agriculture as he has relocated to another island and will not be  
16 representing Kauai.

17  
18 The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 am

19  
20 Respectfully submitted,

21  
22  
23  
24 Marci Clingan  
25