

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

<http://www.hawaii.gov/hdoa>

Board of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture, established under section 26-16 and specifically provided for in chapter 141, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is headed by an executive board known as the Board of Agriculture. The Board consists of ten members, one from each of the counties of Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai; four at-large; and the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; the Director of Business, Economic Development and Tourism; and the Dean of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, who serve as ex officio voting members. The Chairperson and members are appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Chairperson serves in a full-time position with authority and powers delegated by the Board.

There are a number of technical advisory committees to provide the Board with expertise necessary in its decision making.

Office of the Chairperson

Under the general direction of the Governor and through the Board of Agriculture, the Chairperson plans, directs, and coordinates the various activities of the Department within the scope of laws and established policies and regulations.

The Department promotes the conservation, development, and utilization of agricultural resources in the State. It also assists the producers of the State and any others engaged in agriculture by dissemination of information, a crop and livestock reporting service, market news service, and any other means of improving the well-being of those engaged in agriculture and increasing the productivity of lands; administers the programs of the State relating to animal and plant pests and diseases, agricultural loans, agricultural resources development, promotion of agricultural products and markets, promotion of aquaculture, and the establishment and enforcement of rules on the grading and labeling of agricultural products; and manages the state irrigation systems to ensure an adequate supply of water for agriculture.

Administrative Services Office

The Administrative Services Office provides various staff functions necessary for the direction and operation of the Department. The Department's personnel program is managed through the development and implementation of personnel policies and procedures. Fiscal management is provided through the development and implementation of sound fiscal policies and procedures, the preparation of accounting and financial reports and allotment requests, internal auditing, purchasing, and review of accounts in accordance with the prescribed state accounting system. The property management function includes the administration of the

inventory management program; printing and duplicating services; and mail and messenger services. The Department's motor pool operation provides vehicle assignment, scheduled maintenance, and repair service. Budget program planning, evaluation, and management services, cost benefit studies, and organizational analyses to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of ongoing as well as proposed programs are performed by the Budget and Management staff. The Computer Services staff manages the Department's computer resources through training, problem resolution, and the planning, development, and integration of information technology systems and procedures.

Aquaculture Development Program

The Aquaculture Development Program provides a wide range of support for Hawaii's aquaculture industry. The Program is a planning, development, and problem-solving organization, whose goals are to get production and service businesses started, and once started, to help ensure their success through active assistance. Major areas of assistance include: planning and coordination, information dissemination, business counseling, marketing, animal health management, and research and extension funding.

Agricultural Resource Management Division

The Agricultural Resource Management Division administers and manages five programs within the Department. The first three programs relate to land and include the Agricultural Parks (Ag Parks), Non-Agricultural Parks (Non-Ag Parks), and Agricultural Facilities programs. The next major service the Division provides is the irrigation water delivery program. Finally, the Division provides engineering support for all of its programs as well as general support for the Department.

The Agricultural Parks Program serves as an "incubator" environment for qualified farmers. Land awards in this Program give priority to former plantation farmers and displaced workers. Agricultural parks consist of large, contiguous tracts of land that have been sub-divided and leased out to individuals or cooperatives. Lease terms are favorable for startup operations and small farmers. The Division encourages farmers in agricultural parks to form cooperatives to share in expenses and experiences.

The Non-Agricultural Parks Program serves a broader base of farmers. Typically, the land parcels are significantly larger and more types of activity are allowed. Additionally, the lands in this Program are generally non-contiguous with each other. Lease terms are very attractive and encourage long-term utilization of the land.

Agricultural Facilities managed by the Division include vacuum cooling plants, slaughterhouses, marshaling yards, and processing facilities. The Division oversees these leases and can assist with improvements to their structures.

The irrigation program maintains systems on Oahu, Molokai, and Hawaii. Construction of a system on Maui is currently underway. The purpose of this program is to provide affordable irrigation water to area farmers.

This Division administers the development and management of infrastructure projects for all of these programs. Additional activities include budget preparation; rule creation and enforcement; operation and maintenance of infrastructure; disposition of lands by lease or permit; water management; and capital improvement projects implementation.

Agricultural Loan Division

The Agricultural Loan Division promotes agricultural and aquacultural development of the State by stimulating, facilitating, and granting loans and providing related financial services to farmers, food manufacturers, and aquaculturalists that meet program qualification requirements.

The Division encourages the development of new farmers and new crops, assists farmers with loans, encourages private lenders to make loans directly or in cooperation with the State, provides relief to farmers in times of emergencies, and assists food manufacturers with loans to stimulate usage of Hawaii-grown agricultural products. In this role, the Division directly supports the Department's mission to develop agriculture in the State.

Animal Industry Division

The Animal Industry Division assists Hawaii's livestock and poultry industries by performing a number of services to encourage their development.

The Division detects, diagnoses, controls, eradicates, and prevents livestock diseases in order to promote the health and economic well-being of livestock industries in Hawaii, and protects the public through control and eradication of animal diseases which are transmissible to humans.

The Division provides laboratory services and diagnostic support and conducts disease surveillance projects involving the poultry, swine, and dairy industries.

The Division prevents the introduction of rabies through quarantine and conducts inspection of animals entering the State to ensure compliance with importation laws.

Agricultural Development Division

The Agricultural Development Division serves both consumers and agricultural producers in the State. It tries to promote a balance between what consumers want and what producers have.

The Division provides services to improve the efficiency of production and marketing of agricultural products. It collects and publishes agricultural statistical data on estimated and actual acreage planted, acreage for harvest, the value of crops, the movement of stock, and the marketing, processing, and utilization of crops, livestock, and other agricultural products. It conducts economic analyses to address marketing and transportation problems in agriculture.

The Division also assists producers, processors, and manufacturers in promoting their agricultural products in the local, national, and international markets, and in developing those markets.

Quality Assurance Division

The Quality Assurance Division is responsible for programs to improve the market quality of agricultural, horticultural, and processed commodities, and to assure fair trade, honesty, and equity in the marketplace.

The Division administers programs which provide for the inspection and grading of fresh and processed foods, the enforcement of labeling requirements, the testing of feed for nutrient guarantee and adulteration, the certification of farms that use good agricultural practices, the promotion of fair trade and honesty in the marketing of agricultural products, and the prevention of agricultural theft. A laboratory conducts chemical analyses of feed adulteration, pesticide formulations, and residues in environmental samples.

The Division is responsible for maintaining stability in the dairy industry and for ensuring an adequate supply of milk for consumers by adjusting prices and production quotas for producers, and for licensing producers and distributors.

The Division is also responsible for assuring equitable transactions relating to weighing and measuring devices, package labeling, and petroleum products. It assures that state standards conform to federal standards for weights and measures, and determines length, volume, and mass standards through comparison with the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The Division periodically tests all commercial weighing and measuring devices in the State, which include gasoline pumps, taximeters, and scales. In addition, the Division administers programs for assuring the accuracy of labeling and net fill of packaged consumer commodities, verifies claims of Hawaii geographic origin or manufacture, and verifies that posted prices are actually charged by computer-assisted checkout systems.

Plant Industry Division

The programs of the Plant Industry Division are designed to protect agricultural industries and natural resources of the State of Hawaii.

The Plant Industry Division consists of three branches, the Pesticides Branch, Plant Pest Control Branch, and Plant Quarantine Branch. Together, the branches work to protect Hawaii's

agricultural industries by preventing the entry and establishment of detrimental insects, weeds, and other pests, and by assuring the safe and efficient use of pesticides in Hawaii. The Division also works with growers, exporters, and other governmental agencies to resolve quarantine restrictions in order to allow the export of Hawaii's fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, and foliage products to markets worldwide.

The Pesticides Branch regulates the distribution and use of pesticides through a program of licensing of pesticides for sale, distribution, and use in Hawaii; the certification of applicators to purchase and use restricted-use pesticides; the monitoring and inspection of dealers and applicators; and education outreach programs.

The Plant Pest Control Branch's function is to reduce infestations of plant pests that cause significant damage to agriculture and the environment. This is achieved through statewide programs to eradicate or control plant pests, which include destructive insects, mites, snails and slugs, noxious weeds, plant diseases, and any other organisms harmful to plants, by utilizing chemical, mechanical, biological, and integrated control measures. The Branch consists of the Biological Control and the Chemical/Mechanical Control sections.

The Plant Quarantine Branch administers Hawaii's plant and non-domestic animal quarantine programs by preventing the introduction of harmful pests and diseases into the State and by facilitating plant exports. This is done through permit review, air and sea ports-of-entry inspections, interisland inspections, investigation and enforcement activities, educational programs, and nursery certification and export programs.

ATTACHED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

Agribusiness Development Corporation

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) was established in 1994 (Act 264, Session Laws of Hawaii 1994, and codified in chapter 163D, Hawaii Revised Statutes) to facilitate and provide direction for the transition of Hawaii's agriculture industry from a dominance of sugar and pineapple to one composed of a diversity of crops.

ADC is headed by a Board of Directors consisting of three ex-officio and eight private sector members appointed by the Governor.

The mission of the ADC is to acquire, and manage in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups, selected high-value lands, water systems, and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use and to direct research into areas that will lead to the development of new crops, markets, and lower production costs.

ADC's main goals are:

- (1) Transition former plantation land and water systems for diversified agriculture.

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- (2) Initiate development of facilities and provide support as necessary for successful diversified agriculture.
- (3) Provide solutions to certain bottleneck issues facing the agriculture industry.

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