

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

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

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: (1) assists the producers of the State and any others engaged in agriculture by dissemination of information, a crop and livestock reporting service, and any other means of improving the well-being of those engaged in agriculture and increasing the productivity of lands; (2) 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 (3) 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 and 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. 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.

Agricultural Development Division

The Agricultural Development Division serves both agricultural producers and consumers in the State through marketing activities, market analysis, and the collection of agricultural statistics.

The Division promotes economic development through marketing programs that support agricultural associations and commodity groups with resources from county, state, and federal programs. 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. The Division conducts economic analyses to address marketing and supply chain issues in agriculture.

The Division assists producers, processors, and manufacturers in promoting their agricultural products in the local, national, and international markets, applying the latest technology and social media resources available for the activity.

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, ranchers, 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.

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 Division also provides 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, mostly contiguous tracts of land that have been subdivided 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 noncontiguous 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. The purpose of this program is to provide affordable irrigation water to area farmers.

The 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; use of lands by license or rights-of-entry; water management; and capital improvement projects implementation.

Animal Industry Division

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

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

The Division provides laboratory services and diagnostic support and conducts disease surveillance projects involving the beef cattle, swine, poultry, dairy cattle, and aquaculture industries, and other animal species that impact human public health.

The Division prevents the introduction of rabies, external parasites, and associated diseases through animal import regulation and quarantine, and conducts inspection of animals entering the State to ensure compliance with importation laws.

The Division provides planning, development, and problem-solving services for the aquaculture and livestock industries. Service goals include: assisting in business start-ups and

commodity production; planning and coordination; information dissemination; business counseling; marketing; and research and extension funding.

Plant Industry Division

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

The Plant Industry Division consists of three branches: Pesticides, Plant Pest Control, and Plant Quarantine. 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 ensuring 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 and to control the introduction of invasive species in Hawaii.

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.

Quality Assurance Division

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

The Division administers programs that 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 follow good agricultural and good

handling practices, the promotion of fair trade and honesty in the marketing of agricultural products, and the prevention of agricultural theft.

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 of milk.

The Division is also responsible for ensuring equitable transactions relating to weighing and measuring devices, package labeling, and petroleum products. It ensures 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 ensuring 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.

ATTACHED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES

Agribusiness Development Corporation

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), established under section 163D-3, HRS, coordinates and administers programs to: assist agricultural enterprises to facilitate the transition of agricultural infrastructure from plantation operations into other agricultural enterprises; conduct marketing analysis to direct agricultural industry evolution; and provide leadership for the development, financing, improvement, or enhancement of agricultural enterprises.

Board. ADC is headed by a Board of Directors consisting of eleven voting members, of whom eight are appointed by the Governor to four-year terms. The eight members are selected on the basis of their knowledge, experience, and proven expertise in small and large businesses within the agricultural industry, agricultural economics, banking, real estate, finance, promotion, marketing, and management. Of the eight, there is one member from each county and four are appointed at large. The Director of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, and Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, or designees, are ex officio, voting members. The Board annually elects its Chairperson, who is not an ex officio member.

Advisory Committee on Pesticides

The Advisory Committee on Pesticides, established under section 149A-51, HRS, is composed of but not limited to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or designee, who heads the Committee, and one representative each from the Department of Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources, University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human

Resources, sugar industry, pineapple industry, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, pesticide industry, structural pest control industry, an environmental organization, a citizen group, and a landscape professional. Members are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate from a list of persons recommended by the respective agencies and industries. The Committee advises and assists the Department in developing or revising laws and rules to carry out and effectuate the purposes of chapter 149A, HRS, and advising the Department on pesticide problems.

Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals

The Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals, established under section 150A-10, HRS, is composed of the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or designee, who is Chairperson of the Committee, the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Director of the Office of Environmental Quality Control, the Director of Health, or designees, and five other members who have expertise in plants, animals, or microorganisms, and by virtue of their vocation or avocation also are thoroughly conversant with modern ecological principles and the variety of problems involved in the adequate protection of natural resources. The latter five members are chosen by the Chairperson. The Committee advises and assists the Department in developing or revising laws and rules to carry out and effectuate the purposes of chapter 150A, HRS, and in advising the Department on problems relating to the introduction, confinement, or release of plants, animals, and microorganisms.

Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board

The members of the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board, established under section 167-23, HRS, are appointed to four-year terms by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board consists of seven members: (1) a homestead farmer user on Molokai; (2) a nonhomestead farmer user on Molokai; (3) the designee (by name rather than office) of the Molokai County Farm Bureau; (4) the designee (by name rather than office) of Hikiola Cooperative, Inc.; (5) the designee (by name rather than office) of the Molokai-Lanai soil and water conservation district; (6) a homestead farmer user whose nomination has been recommended by Moku Puni O Molokai, as determined pursuant to a process established by that organization and approved for submittal to the Governor by majority vote of all homesteaders then serving on the Board; and (7) the supervisor of the Molokai district office of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands who serves as an ex officio, voting member. All members of the Board must be: (1) Molokai irrigation system users or their agents, officers, or employees; and (2) residents of the island of Molokai.

The Board's duties and responsibilities are to: advise the Department of Agriculture on matters of concern to the users of the system; provide support for improvements to the irrigation facilities; participate in the long-range planning of the system; and act as liaison between the users and the Department of Agriculture.

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