## REPORT TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE 2015 REGULAR SESSION

# REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PILOT FEEDMILL PROJECT IN RESPONSE TO ACT 122, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2012



Prepared by:

THE STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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#### PILOT FEEDMILL PROGRAM

### **Report to the Legislature**

#### Legislative Background/Introduction

Pursuant to Act 122, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, \$250,000 was appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for the livestock feed feasibility pilot project.

Under Section 2 of Act 122, the project was intended to:

(1) Explore the viability of producing and processing livestock feed within the State through scientific research; and (2) To the extent feasible, produce and process livestock feed on land as determined by the chairperson of the board of agriculture.

After the livestock feed feasibility pilot project begins operations, the DOA is required to assess the implementation of the pilot project under Section 2 of the Act and submit a report to the legislature no later than December 31, 2014. In its report, the DOA is required to determine:

- 1. The inputs and infrastructure required for the processing of livestock feed;
- 2. Types of plants required for livestock feed use;
- 3. Start-up and yearly operational costs of a livestock feed facility;
- 4. Projected revenue stream of a livestock feed facility;
- 5. Parcels of land to be used for producing and processing livestock feed; and
- 6. Prospective markets for processed feed.

The DOA is also required to determine whether to continue, expand, or end the livestock feed feasibility pilot project based on the results of the department's assessment.

The feedmill project has been delayed, and is currently not operational. The required assessments and determinations under the Act cannot be done at this time. This report explains the purpose of the feedmill and project description, the reasons for the delays to the project, and the estimated completion date of the project.

A full report will be submitted to the legislature when the feedmill project is completed and operational.

#### **Feedmill Project Description**

In February 2013, the DOA contracted with Oceanic Institute (OI) to develop a pilot project livestock feedmill to:

- Construct a pilot production scale research feed mill to support allied research and development programs at OI and other U.S. aquaculture and terrestrial entities.
- Develop research feeds in cooperation with allied research and development programs at the Institute that effectively and efficiently meet all animal nutritional requirements and research objectives.
- Offer large-scale defined test feeds for genetic and nutritional improvement research programs, pharmaceutical testing for commercial viability and efficacy, equipment testing, and efficiency of different manufacturing processes.
- Provide research feed products and technical assistance to support large-scale research farm growout trials with shrimp and finfish that simulate commercial production conditions.
- Demonstrate, promote, and display U.S. feed milling technology, goods, and services—such as those developed by members of the American Feed Industry Association to the countries of the Pacific Basin.
- Assist in market development and increasing the demand for American feed commodities, manufacturing equipment, computer software, and other products that support aquatic feeds production.
- Initiate an international training program that offers short courses in aquaculture feed
  processing technology by working in cooperation with universities, private research
  organizations, and commercial companies. A Memorandum of Understanding is already
  in place with University of Hawai`i at Hilo for educational activities with terrestrial
  animals. OI would like to develop a similar partnership with Hawai`i Pacific University for
  aquatic animals.
- Transfer feed mill processing technologies to the commercial sector once they are proven effective and commercially viable.

The feedmill is planned to be located within the University of Hawaii at Hilo's Agricultural Farm Laboratory on the Big Island.

#### **Delays**

OI has encountered several delays that pushed back the estimated construction start date of October 2014 to February/March 2015. The primary reason for these delays are:

- 1. Needing to get approval of a height waiver for the building from the County of Hawaii before being able to apply for a building permit. The building permit review process is taking longer than anticipated.
- Needing to get a lease that covered the useful life of the project from the University of Hawaii prior to bidding the project. Lease was signed and executed by UH on December

- 29, 2014. OI began the process at the beginning of 2014. The lease now runs to December 2036.
- 3. The Environmental Assessment process took a few months longer than anticipated. The State process was completed in July 2014 and the Federal process was completed in late August of 2014. This also affected the completion of the design since comments to the EA impacted the design. One being the requirement for a Wastewater Treatment Plant for the facility by State Department of Health. This was changed in January 2015 to require a Septic Tank System.

#### **Estimated Completion Date**

An updated schedule (attached) shows the next steps leading up to the completion of the feedmill. Bidding for construction is projected to finish by February, 2015, and contractor selection will take place after bidding has closed. After a contractor has been selected, the construction of the feedmill is estimated to take 210 days, and be finished around December 2015, with the feedmill in operation late December 2015, or early 2016.

The delays encountered by OI does not affect DOA's contract with OI. OI is still within the contract's time of performance parameters.

