

# Minutes of the Moloka'i Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board

Meeting June 24, 2025

Molokai Baseyard

## I. Call to Order -12:02 PM

## II. Introductions/Role Call

- Janice Fujimoto- DOA
- Lance Kaneakua- DOA
- David Bush- DHHL
- Oscar Ignacio- Hikiola Users
- James Boswell- Homestead Users
- Jill Coombs- Non-Homestead Users
- Faith Tuipulotu- guest
- Noelani Joy- guest
- Roland- guest

## III. Approval of Draft Minutes from the April 8, 2025 meeting.

- David made a motion to approve minutes as presented. Oscar seconded. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

## IV. Old Business

### A. Status of 2023 Proposed Irrigation Water Rate Changes

- a. Department of Agriculture has been tabled at this time.
- b. Legislature has provided funds for a 1-year reprieve to avoid rate increases for now.
- c. The new rate (\$0.52/1000 gallons) is approved by the Board of Agriculture under the current rule to be discussed in new business.

### B. Letter to the Board of Agriculture addressing concerns over funding of the Moloka'i Irrigation System

- a. Table this one due to the legislative session ending. Letter of support sent for two alternate funding sources
- b. There is a large portion of deferred maintenance.
  - i. Transmission line is 60+ years old
  - ii. CIP projects are proposed
  - iii. Need a stable water rate to entice farmers.

## V. New Business

### A. Two cents per thousand gallons (\$0.02) Water Rate Increase and Pumping Surcharge

- Levels are lower this year than they were last year.
  - Tracking trends in water usage.
  - Tracking water coming into the reservoir.
  - Trying to keep enough water in the reservoir to make it to the rainy season.
  -
- The biggest concern is not putting in mandatory water restrictions. So, to be able to do that the solution is pumping.
  - Even if it rains, we will still have the pumping surcharge for the entire fiscal year.
- Hawaii Administrative Rule: department of Ag can ask the board of Ag to approve up to 2 cents per year
- Hawaii Administrative Rule: pumping surcharge of up to 5 cents- does not require board approval.
- Revision of Hawaii Administrative rules to be changed would need to be proposed by Dept of Ag and then go through public notice, hearing, etc. to change the rules.
- Electric is a large portion of the operating expenses
- HAR: If any system reaches over 850,000,000 gallons- the respective irrigation system's water rate is reduced by 5 center per thousand gallons in the following fiscal year.
- Fiscal year ends June 30th. Last month we were at 787922

## VI. Reports and Presentations

### A. System Update – Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) Staff –

#### a. see attachment:

- i. weedwacking slopes of reservoir
- ii. 25' reservoir level
- iii. Last year was 27.5'
- iv. 3.433 million gallons per day
- v. Inflow 4.243 million gallons per day
  - 1. Pump 5 and 6 rotating use
- vi. No new meters
- vii. 1 meter repair/ replacement
  - 1. User is responsible for construction costs of new meter, but then meter is signed over to the state.
  - 2. Down one staff member right now.

### B. Capital Projects Update – HDOA Staff

#### a. Waikolu: complete

- b. SCADA and Pump Design: in progress
- c. Septic for base yard: porta potties, applied to DOH for septic design, but not approved yet.
- d. HDOA is applying for a federal grant to put in a PV solar system near the west portal to offset some electric costs. Funding based on the fact that HECO has to do power shutoffs to mitigate fire risk, so funding is available to support continuous electric power. West portal TMK is owned by Molokai Ranch, not state. Staffing issue to maintain panels and battery bank.
- e. Faith: Ho'oahu Molokai still working on their solar options.
  - i. Current proposition before Department of Agriculture provides not fiscal advantages to the MIS or to Molokai Farmers- from MISUAB user- Faith
- f. Legislative budget did set aside money to support (buy equipment for) irrigation systems.
- g. Most recent legislative budget request for CIP funding for MIS was not appropriated.
  - 1. Finishing couplings- no funding for right now.
  - 2. Paint transmission lines- no funding for this right now
- h. DHHL lease extension past June- approved.
- i. Trying to purchase a new wing mower for reservoir
- j. Tunnel quality assessment-none recent

#### C. Financial Update, with energy use report and expenses – HDOA Staff

- a. Running in the red right now
  - i. July 1-June30
    - 1. MIS -\$68,487.93
    - 2. Statewide -\$252,620.30
- b. Acreage assessment for upcoming fiscal year. Users will get a notice.
  - i. Was \$2.305, next year will be \$2.42/ acre per month.
  - ii. Can put in a request to reduce to amount of acreage but only once per year.

#### D. Board Member Vacancies

- a. Mokupuni- Toodie Purdy in Progress
- b. MLSWCD- Faith in progress
- c. Denise Kawano- in progress

#### VII. Announcements

- a. New meters, talk to Lance.

#### VIII. Next Meeting Date

August 12, 2025- noon, MIS baseyard

VIII. Adjournment

David made a motion to adjourn the meeting. James 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting Adjourned 1:26PM

Sincerely,

Jill Coombs

**Molokai Irrigation System**

**Department of Agriculture**

**Date: June. 24, 2025**

**To: Molokai Water Users Advisory Board**  
**From: Lance Kaneakua (District Manager)**  
**Subject: System update**

**Molokai Irrigation Tasks**

**June 4<sup>th</sup> We went through the tunnel to clean the gratings, flush the diversion dams and weed whack the roadway to the diversion dam building. We took DLNR in there to cut a LZ for CWRM.**

**June 18<sup>th</sup> I took the reservoir inspectors to the reservoir to do there inspection.**

**We are continuing weed whacking the slopes of the reservoir to try to maintain the vegetation.**

**All daily/Monthly duties is on going for the month.**

**Kualapuu Reservoir level... 25 feet..... 590 million gallons stored.**

**Level at this time last year... 27 1/2 feet.**

**Reservoir average outflow...3.433 MGD from the total usage from the meter readings**

**Reservoir average inflow.....4.243 MGD**

## MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM

June. 24, 2025

### Monthly Report

Number of farm field visit to provide general assistance not related to meters ..... 0

---

### Quarterly Report

Period: April. to June. 2025

Number of days without planned water delivery disruption (i.e. normal water delivery) .....0

Number of days of water restrictions for Homesteaders .....0

Number of days of water restrictions for non-Homesteaders.....0

Number of days without accidents or injuries: .....47

Percentage change in revenue and operating cost:

Pump 5: Running for 24hrs

Pump 24: running for 4hrs daily

---

### Semi-Annual Report.

Period: Jan to June

Number of meters installed for Homesteaders.....0

Number of meters installed for Non-homesteaders.....0

Number of meters repaired or replaced..... 1

Average time between request for service and completion of service: .....approximately 3 months.

---

### Annual Report.

Number and type of Capital Improvement Projects 0

Number of CIP projects in progress..... Pending

Percentage of brush cleared in Reservoir..... 30% cleared.

Percentage of gravel cleared in tunnel..... 95% cleared.

Financial Strength: ..... On time bill paying

Financial Weakness: ..... Delinquent account\Rising Fuel Cost\Pumps