

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

Meeting November 18, 2025

Moloka'i Baseyard

## I. Call to Order 11:09am

## II. Introductions/Role Call

- Janice Fujimoto- DAB
- Lance Kaneakua- DAB
- James Boswell- MLSWCD
- David Bush- DHHL
- Jill Coombs- Non-Homestead
- Roland Yartzoff- Guest
- Oscar Ignacio- Hikiola

## III. Approval of Draft Minutes from the October 28, 2025 meeting.

David made a motion to approve for minutes as they stand. James seconded.

Discussion: do minutes need to be signed? Janice will check. Motion carries unanimously.

## IV. Old Business

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

- a. No updates
- b. No discussion

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

- a. No updates
- b. Letter not needed at this time, legislative session does not start until January, reconsider at a later date.

## V. New Business

### A. Moloka'i Irrigation System Delinquency Account Update

- Update from DAB, October 1<sup>st</sup>- letters sent out announcing adjustment procedure. Since then, DAB staff went door to door to give paper copies.

Sent out second written notification on Nov 1. Additional flyer in November bill. Last week Wednesday there was an all-day in-person event at Kulana O'Iwi DHHL Conference Room and the MIS Baseyard office.

- So far, around 75/ 240 users have returned their paper. Out of the 82 delinquent accounts, DAB only received info from around 20. Around 60 delinquent accounts still have no response. Deadline for responding is December 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Account holders are still subject to rules about whether we sign the paper or not because you're already on the system.
- You must pay what you owe, no good faith or sliding scale payment schedule.

## VI. Reports and Presentations

### A. System Update – Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) Staff

- Nov 6 had a major leak at Maunaloa Hwy. Shut valve and on Nov 14 the leak was fixed. Re-energized from Mo'omomi to Ag Park.
- Kulapuu Reservoir level currently is 22ft (510mil gallons).
- Last year was 23 feet.
- Average Outflow 2.425 MGD
- In 5.867 MGD
- Had heavy rains last week.
- 8 days of service interruption due to leak.
- Zero new meters
- 10% mandatory water restrictions for non-homesteaders started Nov 15<sup>th</sup>.

### B. Capital Projects Update – DAB Staff

- Transmission pipeline couplings
- Valve replacements
- MIS access road
- Base yard improvements
- Replace and better evaluate shutoff valves, specifically on the distribution side.
- Evaporation of reservoir is not on the list currently due to other more pressing projects.
- Want a plan of in depth evaluation for all 5 DAB-operated systems, not just MIS- that can incorporate structural integrity of the tunnel, evaporation concerns, etc.

- h. County of Kauai as a template.
  - i. Revisit existing assessments.
- C. Financial Update, with energy use report and expenses – DAB Staff
  - a. Revenue for MIS \$148,000, state \$339,000
  - b. Expenses for MIS \$108,000, state \$206,000
  - c. Both in black, as of this snapshot in time.
  - d. Delinquencies the same as last time. \$1.5 million, but forgiveness has not yet been deducted from the total.
- D. Board Member Vacancies
  - a. **ALL VACANT BOARD POSITIONS have applicants with community support** who BOARDS AND COMMISIIONS OFFICE HAVE NOT MOVED THROUGH to SENATE COMMITTEE TO MOVE THROUGH LEDGISLATION.
  - b. Faith Tuipulotu- Homestead Users
  - c. Denise Kawano- Farm Bureau
  - d. Toodie Purdy- Moku Puni

#### VII. Announcements

- R. Yartzoﬀ proposed idea for DAB to ear mark funds to subsidize ag products and cost of ag: Food security.
- YB increase is coming 25% this will unfairly impact Molokai farmers.
- Also, propose that if and when we get back to water rate increase discussions, we as a board would suggest a tiered water rate schedule which increases based on increased use of use.

#### VIII. Next Meeting Date

- January Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> 11am.

#### VIII. Adjournment

David made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Oscar seconded.

11:58am meeting adjourned.

Thank you,

Jill Coombs

## MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Nov. 18, 2025

### Monthly Report

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

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### Quarterly Report

Period: Oct. to Dec. 2025

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

Number of days of water restrictions for Homesteaders ..... 10% voluntary cutback

Number of days of water restrictions for non-Homesteaders..... 10% mandatory restriction Nov. 15,2025 starts

Number of days without accidents or injuries: .....31

Percentage change in revenue and operating cost:

Pump 5: Running for 24hrs for a week Pump 6 down waiting on parts

Pump 24: running for 6hrs daily

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### Semi-Annual Report.

Period: July to Dec.

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

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

Number of meters repaired or replaced..... 0

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

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### Annual Report.

Number and type of Capital Improvement Projects 0

Number of CIP projects in progress.....0

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

**Molokai Irrigation System**

**Department of Agriculture**

**Date: Nov. 18, 2025**

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

**Molokai Irrigation Tasks**

**Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> We had a leak on the main line by Maunaloa Highway. We shut down the valves and drained the pipeline so repairs could be done on it. We exercised the valves till contractors got it fixed on the 14<sup>th</sup> of Nov then we re energized the lines from Moomomi Ave to the Ag Park.**

**We'll be going through the tunnel when weather permits to do monthly maintenance in the valley and switch pumps.**

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

**Kualapuu Reservoir level... 22 feet..... 510 million gallons stored.**

**Level at this time last year... 23 feet**

**Reservoir average outflow... 2.425 MGD from the total usage from the meter readings**

**Reservoir average inflow.....5.867 MGD**