



**Minutes of the Board of Agriculture  
June 24, 2025**

A video recording of this meeting can be found online by visiting this website:  
<https://dab.hawaii.gov/meetings-reports/>

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting of the Board of Agriculture was called to order on June 24, 2025, at 9:10 am by Board of Agriculture Chairperson, Sharon Hurd. The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom and in-person from:

*State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture  
Plant Quarantine Branch  
1849 Auiki Street*

**Members Present In-Person:**

Sharon Hurd, Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**Members Virtually Present: Roll call/alone**

Ryan Kanaka'ole, DLNR, Ex-Officio Member (joined at 9:47 am)

Mark Takemoto, DBEDT, Ex-Officio Member

Diane Ley, Hawaii Member

Nathaniel Oswald, Maui County Member

Randy Cabral, Member-at-Large

En Young, Member-at-Large

James Gomes, Member-at-Large

**Excused:**

Dr. Parwinder Grewal, Dean CTAHR, Ex-Officio Member

**Deputy Attorney General Present In-Person:**

DAG Jennifer Waihe'e-Polk

**Others Present In-Person:**

Jason Azus-Richardson, HDOA/IT

Marci Clingan, HDOA/Office of the Chairperson

Glenn Okamoto, HDOA/ARM

Kevin Moore, HDOA/ARM

Christopher Kishimoto, HDOA/PQB

Jonathan Ho, HDOA/PQB

Kelcie Nagata, Department of the Attorney General

Others Virtually Present:<sup>1</sup>

Dept of Agriculture ( HDOA IT ) (Host)  
Dept of Agriculture (Host)  
Colin Peros  
Lesley Harvey  
Claire Orodio  
Brandi Ah Yo  
BTM B.I.  
PIO  
Kristie  
Doreen Canto  
Mason Russo  
HDOAPIO  
Dean Matsukawa  
Luke Sarvis - DLNR CO  
Kayli Yoshioka  
Lehua Abrigo  
Kawehi Young  
Janet  
lindsey.ancog  
Cynthia Rezentes  
Charles Miller  
Glenn Sako, R&D  
Roy Hasegawa  
Stephanie  
richard.kim  
J Ferrer, HDOA  
Kori Koike - HDOA  
En Young  
BK  
GN  
HDOA IT (Host)  
Ryan Kagimoto  
David Cho  
Mason Russo  
AGR - Kau, Brian  
Mark Ladao  
Hawaii Invasive Species Committees  
Stephanie

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 5/27/2025 MEETING

Motion to Approve: Gomes/Ley

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<sup>1</sup> The identification of the public members is based on their sign-in name but are not verified.

1  
2 Vote: Not Approved – 5-2 (Abstained: Cabral and Young)  
3

4 III. INTRODUCTIONS  
5

6 IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DIVISIONS AND ADMINISTRATION  
7

8 A. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
9

- 10 1. Request for Approval to Sublease Between the Hāmākua Agricultural  
11 Cooperative, Lessee/Sublessor, and Stanley Cypriano, Sublessee;  
12 General Lease No. S-5551, TMK: 3rd DIV/4-6-003:001, Lot Nos. 13 and  
13 14, Honoka‘ia, Hāmākua, Island of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i  
14

15 Brandi Ah Yo, Agricultural Resource Management Division presented testimony as  
16 submitted.  
17

18 Motion to Approve: Gomes/Ley  
19

20 Discussion:  
21 None  
22

23 Vote: Approved; Unanimously  
24  
25

26 2. Request for Authorization to:  
27

- 28 (1) Cancel Land Court Transfer Certificate of Title No. 498,504 Covering Lots  
29 12020, 12021, & 12022, Map 888, Land Court Application No. 1069,  
30 Designated as TMKs: (1)9-1-031:026, (1) 9-1-031: 025, & (1) 9-1-031:001,  
31 Respectively, and Issue Separate Transfer Certificates of Title for Each Lot;  
32 and  
33

- 34 (2) Deregister from Land Court Lot 12022, Land Court Application No. 1069,  
35 Designated as TMK: (1) 9-1-031:001, Hono‘uli‘uli, ‘Ewa, O‘ahu, Hawai‘i  
36

37 Kevin Moore, Agricultural Resource Management Division presented testimony as  
38 submitted.  
39

40 Motion to Approve: Gomes/Cabral  
41

42 Discussion:

1 Member Gomes asked if Bobby Farias from Hawaii Land and Livestock (HL&L) is  
2 comfortable with having only 10 acres rather than having 110 acres.

3  
4 Mr. Moore said his understanding is that Mr. Farias has or will be transferring his  
5 interest in HL&L so he will no longer be a player in this process. The remaining owners  
6 of HL&L are okay with the proposal but are still negotiating the details.

7  
8 Member Young said he'd like some clarification on if there is anything precluding the  
9 Department of Agriculture (Department) from issuing the lease.

10  
11 Mr. Moore said the land was set aside to the Department for agricultural purposes and a  
12 renewable energy lease issued by the Department wouldn't fit the character use. This is  
13 why the plan is to have the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) issue  
14 the lease directly.

15  
16 Mr. Moore added that there is a proposed subdivision map configuration for what HL&L  
17 intends to put on the 10 acres. He said he had not seen a formal plan, but he said it  
18 would be some type of holding system for the cattle.

19  
20 Member Young said we do need to see the bigger picture to understand whether that  
21 solar farm is going to interfere with any agriculture activities because the parcel is being  
22 shrunk down quite a bit.

23  
24 Member Gomes said when they were talking about this parcel, they wanted to put a  
25 feedlot or rotational grazing in that area. They just wanted the water so they could get it  
26 over to the slaughterhouse section. They wanted to put more cattle in, but the purpose  
27 in DLNR was when they were going to develop it and put a photovoltaic. He said he'd  
28 like to know what they're planning to do with the 10 acres, especially with the amount of  
29 volume of cattle that is coming in for slaughter.

30  
31 Member Oswald said there are ways for those farms to be built where cattle can still  
32 graze and use those properties. He asked if there is still a working relationship with  
33 American Hauling with HL&L.

34  
35 Mr. Moore said he doesn't know if they'll continue a business relationship or not.

36  
37 Member Oswald said if they're vacating, he's wondering if there's an alternative hauling  
38 or if there will be an increase in cost now that the equipment is not on site.

39  
40 Chairperson Hurd said Kevin is referring to a site visit that was conducted out there.  
41 HL&L will continue to have the need to move cattle from wherever it's dropped off to the  
42 slaughter and American Hauling seems to be a likely candidate to continue that service,

1 but nothing is in writing or has been decided. She added that they still need the service  
2 and that HL&L does not provide on their own so the relationship will probably continue.

3  
4 Vote: Approved; Unanimously  
5  
6

- 7 3. Request that the Board of Agriculture Delegate Authority to the Chairperson  
8 to Further Negotiate and Execute a Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA),  
9 and Other Relevant Documents, Regarding the Purchase of the Wahiawa  
10 Dam Spillway, Pursuant to Act 218, SLH 2023; TMK (1) 7-1-012:014, Island  
11 of Oahu  
12  
13

14 Glenn Okamoto, Agricultural Resource Management Division presented testimony as  
15 submitted.  
16

17 Motion to Approve: Gomes/Cabral  
18

19 Discussion:

20 Member Gomes asked if this dam was originally owned by Dole Corporation and  
21 Sustainable Hawaii now has it. He said if so, how long have they been the owners.  
22

23 Mr. Okamoto said he believes it was leased to Dole, but he is unsure for how long.  
24 Sustainable Hawaii and Dole leases it so they are responsible for pretty much  
25 everything.  
26

27 Member Young asked if they could ask questions or if this is the final version.  
28

29 Mr. Okamoto said yes, this is the final version.  
30

31 Member Young asked regarding clause 3.6, if there is a chemical material, or e-waste  
32 or construction debris, is it not part of the PSA that would have to be removed before  
33 the State takes possession? He asked if we'd be responsible for that.  
34

35 Deputy Attorney General Kelcie Nagata came forward to speak and informed the board  
36 that she has been working closely with the other deputies in this transaction. She said it  
37 was a negotiated term that the parties were sufficiently satisfied in accepting the parcel  
38 as is. Seller will make reasonable efforts to remove individuals that may be squatting on  
39 the property as well as remove hazardous materials as prescribed by the PSA. This was  
40 a negotiated term pursuant to the contract.  
41

1 Chairperson Hurd said she wanted to make a note that the Agricultural Resource  
2 Management Division (ARM) will be providing the board with a historical record of the  
3 property which is quite extensive. This will be available to the members.

4  
5 Vote: Approved; Unanimously  
6

7  
8  
9 V. OLD BUSINESS

10 None  
11

12  
13 VI. NEW BUSINESS

- 14  
15 1. Invasive Species Action Plan Updates Including: 1) Updates on Departmental  
16 Activities Related to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Statewide; 2) Updates on  
17 High Profile Pest Hotline Reports Including Captured Snake in Kaimuki and  
18 Possible Wild Cat in Manoa; and 3) Updates on the Status of New Plant Industry  
19 Division Positions Authorized Under Act 231, SLH 2024.  
20

21 Chairperson Hurd reminded the board that we are limiting this discussion to agenda  
22 items only per the Sunshine Law. There is no decision making at this meeting.  
23

24 Jonathan Ho, Plant Quarantine Branch presented new business item.  
25

26 Discussion:

27 Mr. Ho said the Department is working with a multitude of partners for Coconut  
28 Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB). For Oahu, the tree removals on the West side have been  
29 completed. They are now working on Central Oahu and on the North Shore as well. The  
30 staff are going to be working with the contractor and reaching out to the county to  
31 expand the removal efforts to outer islands, particularly on Kauai. The Department has  
32 worked with the City and County of Honolulu for the treatment of trees in public parks.  
33 The Department has provided them with some chemicals for the parks and a few other  
34 high priority areas such as Royal Palm Drive. The Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) staff  
35 are working with some State agencies, including DLNR and the Department of  
36 Accounting and General Services (DAGS) to treat trees in select parks and public  
37 areas. Iolani Palace is scheduled sometime next week for treatment. The Department is  
38 working with the Kauai Council and the Mayor's office to expand education and  
39 outreach on Kauai. The Plant Pest Control (PPC) staff are working to treat the trees  
40 around the ports of entry on Kauai and Maui. On Hawaii Island, there have been no  
41 other detection of CRB in the Waikoloa Village area since 2024. For the Kona area,  
42 there have been 24 beetles that have been found, including one grub. The PPC staff  
43 are continuing treatments of the areas with a lot of treatments occurring in the Keahole  
44 Ag Park. There have been recent finds in the Kiholo and Palamanui areas. The

1 Department is working with the county to enact a voluntary restriction on CRB host  
2 material which would be similar to H5N1 voluntary restriction.  
3 On Lanai, there was a single grub that was found by Lanai staff at the end of last month.  
4 Four PQB staff went to Lanai to go through all the plants that were in the shipment. This  
5 was two 24-foot containers worth of plants. They were able to find 2 other CRB larvae  
6 and were pupated. All plants were destroyed by deep burial which is a 6-foot-deep  
7 trench so the beetles can't emerge. The grubs were transferred to the university so  
8 more information can be gathered. The Department will be adjusting the certification  
9 measures as it relates to the larger 15-gallon potted plants. There wasn't much breeding  
10 material in these pots, so it appears the grubs crawled into the pots which is unusual.  
11 The Department will make them de-pot or tell folks to not send them.

12  
13 There was a snake that was found in the Kaimuki area. It was initially seen in the  
14 homeowner's garage, and that homeowner had thought it was a toy until it had moved  
15 later in the evening. The homeowner called the Honolulu Police Department (HPD),  
16 HPD called the Department, which arrived at the residence in about an hour and was  
17 able to pick up the animal. It was a rare color morph of a ball python so it may have  
18 been a pet. The animal was very docile and wasn't striking.

19  
20 DLNR Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement and Division of Forestry  
21 and Wildlife initially responded to a report of a large "cat" at the end of May in Manoa.  
22 The Department was able to get out to the site on the 31<sup>st</sup> and interviewed the reporter.  
23 Staff hiked out to the particular rock that the animal was on, and it was found that the  
24 animal was significantly smaller than what it appeared to be. It was almost 400 feet  
25 away from the actual site that the animal was witnessed from. The Department put out  
26 trail cameras for 3 days and could not find any evidence of a large cat. No one has  
27 reported another sighting of it since. There is no evidence to definitively determine  
28 whether there is or is not a wild cat. This is an area with a lot of people activity so it  
29 could potentially be a homeless encampment as staff saw a bunch of items all over the  
30 place. There were no signs of the animal feeding so it's very likely that it could have  
31 possibly been a dog that was in that area.

32  
33 Mr. Ho said PQB has 10 positions and 5 of them have position descriptions and are  
34 completed. An internal vacancy announcement for one of the Entomologists and  
35 exempt positions for Plant Pest Diagnostics. There were no internal applicants, so it'll  
36 be put out for external applicants. There are 5 additional positions that are being worked  
37 on for finalizing the position description so it can be put out for recruitment. The  
38 Pesticides Branch has 9 positions and interviews are occurring now for 2 of them.  
39 They've completed the interview process for one of them and that person will be  
40 brought on board. The Environmental Health Specialist VI positions are finalized but are  
41 currently vacant. There were 22 positions for PQB. 7 of the Oahu Line Inspector  
42 positions are finalized and are in recruitment. 3 of those positions are currently filled  
43 with 89-day hires. The first round of interviews have been completed and 2 applicants

1 passed and have been offered the position. The final 15 position descriptions are being  
2 finalized with the Human Resources Division. These positions are the outer island  
3 inspector and mid-level supervisory positions.  
4

5 Chairperson Hurd asked Mr. Ho if he can elaborate on the 89-day-hire process which  
6 would help people get into the Department and familiar with the work they'll be doing.  
7

8 Mr. Ho said for Plant Quarantine, they can bring in inspectors at the line level without  
9 having specialized experience. The Department has found the 89-day-hire process and  
10 Hele Imua to be useful in for recent graduates who are looking to get into the workforce  
11 and seeing if they like the work. This enables them to see how the work is and how the  
12 work functions. If they pass the interview process for the position, they could already  
13 potentially have 2-3 months experience. It has been a great return for the Department.  
14

15 Chairperson Hurd said the Department will be actively seeking to increase the number  
16 of 89-day applications that we look at because it's been successful.  
17

18 Mr. Ho said the Department is working with Department of Human Resources (DHRD)  
19 to help clarify the type of coursework that the Department is looking for staff that meet  
20 the Minimum Qualifications.  
21

22 Stephanie Easley, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS). Ms. Easley  
23 said testimony was submitted regarding potential options that were available to the  
24 Department for regulatory action to slow or stop the spread of CRB on Hawaii island.  
25 She said she wanted to make a point that a voluntary quarantine may not be enough in  
26 this circumstance, and it may be confusing. People are not required to comply with it.  
27 There's no penalty for failure to comply with a voluntary quarantine, and it can cause  
28 confusion on both sides. On one side it can make customers in the public feel like the  
29 Department and the county are taking an action, so they are protected when, in fact,  
30 they are buying CRB products that may move CRB onto their property because there is  
31 no regulatory side to it. On the other hand, a voluntary approach does not protect  
32 businesses who are using the best management practices. If the Department says this  
33 area is within a voluntary quarantine, how does a business that heats or otherwise  
34 treats its material to kill CRB provide evidence to its customers that it is not violating that  
35 voluntary quarantine? If there's a regulatory quarantine, the Department can issue that  
36 business a permit, and look at their treatments and their temperatures, make sure  
37 they're right, work with partners to make sure that they are not moving CRB off the site  
38 and can still meet customer needs. A voluntary approach also doesn't protect  
39 businesses that feel pressured to continue to move green waste or other CRB host  
40 material to meet customer needs or keep costs down. The State has not tried a  
41 regulatory approach to control the movement of CRB within an island on Oahu or Kauai.  
42 There was a 1-year program on Oahu that that was well received and effective, but it  
43 was stopped. The result has been the continued spread of CRB and many palm trees



1 that have been or need to be removed. CGAPS hopes these islands are lessons  
2 learned, and the Department will take a different approach. It would be particularly  
3 heartbreaking for CRB to spread across Hawaii Island, imposing those environmental  
4 and financial costs when the source of the CRB is State owned land managed by the  
5 Department.

6  
7 Chair Hurd said thank you again to Member Randy Cabral for his many years of service  
8 to the Board of Agriculture and to agriculture in general. She added that his background  
9 and experience as a farmer and rancher has been invaluable to the decisions made by  
10 this board.

11  
12 Motion to adjourn: Gomes/Cabral

13  
14 The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am

15  
16 Respectfully submitted,

17  
18  
19  
20 Marci Clingan  
21