



**Minutes of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
August 26, 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 and Biosecurity was called to order on August 26, 2025, at 9:07 am by Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity Chairperson, Sharon Hurd. The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom and in-person from:

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

Members Present In-Person:

Sharon Hurd, Chairperson, Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

Members Virtually Present: Roll call/alone

Ryan Kanaka'ole, DLNR, Ex-Officio Member

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

Mark Takemoto, DBEDT, Ex-Officio Member

Diane Ley, Hawaii Member

Nathaniel Oswald, Maui County Member

James Gomes, Member-at-Large

Excused:

En Young, Member-at-Large

Deputy Attorney General Present In-Person:

DAG Jennifer Waihee-Polk

Others Present In-Person:

Kunani Nihipali

Ipo Nihipali

Kamaehu A-Duldulao

Jane M. Goodsill

Raymond Sin

1 Lori Buchanan
2 Mailaua Acedillo
3 Pauline Sato
4 Wayne Tanaka
5 Jillian Scheibe, DAB/Ag Loan
6 Buddy Nichols, DAB/Ag Loan
7 Brian Kau, DAB/ARM
8 Brandi Ah Yo, DAB/ARM
9 Jonathan Ho, DAB/PQ
10 Chris Kishimoto, DAB/PQ
11 Jason Azus-Richardson, DAB/IT
12 Marci Clingan, DAB/Office of the Chairperson
13
14 Others Virtually Present:¹
15 HDOA IT
16 User Name (Original Name)
17 Elizabeth Speith
18 mendonsagj
19 gregory kahn
20 Jan
21 Robert H. Pahia
22 alex
23 DAB HR
24 Heather Place
25 Richard Kim - HDAB
26 'Imiloa Borland
27 Kapua
28 Kelcie Nagata, Esq.
29 Indrajit Gunasekara
30 Dustin Lee
31 Patricia Tummons
32 Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe, Sierra Club of Hawai'i
33 Bianca A- Pono Outdoor Program/ Pomaikai Aina Farm
34 BTM B.I.
35 kasidyk
36 Mahina Poepoe
37 Lesley H
38 **Sheryl S
39 18089870620
40 Francis Duran
41 dickenson
42 Arisa Barcinas

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

1	Rob
2	KipapaLL
3	Nākai'elua Villatora
4	Nanz - Kahinu
5	Keani Rawlins-Fernandez
6	iPhone
7	Kalei Kailikini
8	leikalipi
9	Malia Waits
10	Leimana Ritte-Camara
11	iPhone
12	Kilia Purdy-Avelino
13	Hawaii Invasive Species Committees
14	Kori Koike - HDOA
15	Greg
16	Pomaikai Aina Farm
17	Kahakuhailoa Poepoe
18	Georgia - Maui Farmer Support Network
19	Malia Lightner
20	Bryan Kozlovich
21	Claire Orodio
22	Janet
23	Rae Gee
24	Clare Ronquillo (Office of Rep. Kahaloa)
25	Nina Wu
26	lindsey.ancog
27	Waianae District Comprehensive Health & Hospital Board, Inc
28	Senator Lynn DeCoite
29	Catherine Pactol
30	Chris Kishimoto
31	Rob Hauff, DLNR
32	Liko Wallace
33	Dexter Kishida
34	iPhone
35	Chuck Chimera
36	Kahakuilaila Ritte-Camara
37	'Ohana Ka'ahanui - Molokai Bred
38	Kealoha
39	Sharde Freitas
40	Mahealani Bright-Wilhelm
41	Stephanie
42	Bridget Mowat
43	John Villiarimo

1 Franny Brewer, BIISC
2 Alex Redekr
3 Kehau's iPhone
4 U'i Kahue-Cabanting HFU Molokai/HHA
5 Toy Lim
6 Dean Matsukawa
7 CGC
8 Lori Pastrana
9 Kanu Ka 'Ike (Kahaku Ritte-Camara)
10 Bobby Pahia
11 Ho'aka Mana - Native Hawaiian Organization
12 Nani
13 Tara Rojas
14 Kaukaohu Wahilani
15 Maria McCarthy
16 Christy Martin-CGAPS
17 Molly Murphy
18 Shanna Willing
19 Seta Malufau, Office of Sen. DeCoite
20 Renovatio
21 Kainani Merrill
22 GN
23 KHON2 Court Observer
24 Lu Ann Faborito
25 Roy Hasegawa
26 Mark Ladao - Hawai'i Public Radio
27 Kawehi Young
28 Kana Sanchez-(Naki Ohana)
29 Sibley Barnette
30 wayne tanaka
31 Eli Warren
32 Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA)
33 Laa Poepoe
34 Aldric Ulep (LTG)
35 Keomailani Hanapi Hirata
36 BK
37 Bridget Mowat
38 Jonathan Ho, HDOA Plant Quarantine Branch
39 Diandra Goodwin-Leung
40 Alison Miller
41 yamamoto earl
42 Leialoha Kealaiki
43 Sumu

1 Kahaku
2 Kevin Moore - ARMD
3 Kali Arce
4
5

6 II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM July 22, 2025, MEETING
7

8 Motion to Approve: Ley/Gomes
9

10 An amendment was made to reflect on page 5, item B1, that the Board of Agriculture
11 and Biosecurity (the Board) voted to approve the action unanimously. The vote was not
12 previously indicated in the Board minutes.
13

14 Public Testimony:
15 None
16

17 Board Discussion:
18 None
19

20 Vote: Approved; unanimously
21

22 III. INTRODUCTIONS
23

24 IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DIVISIONS AND ADMINISTRATION
25

26 A. AGRICULTURAL LOAN DIVISION
27

- 28 1. Request for Approval of one (1) Class A Loan for co-borrowers Minerva
29 Ilagan, Gloria Ilagan and Diana Ilagan-Clifford.
30

31 Jillian Scheibe, Agricultural Loan Division, presented testimony as submitted.
32

33 Motion to Approve: Gomes/Ley
34

35 Public Testimony:
36 None
37

38 Board Discussion:
39 None
40

41 Vote: Approved; Unanimously
42

2. Request for Approval of one (1) Class A Loan for co-borrowers Mark Takizawa and Mika Yuping Huang Takizawa.

Jillian Scheibe, Agricultural Loan Division, presented testimony as submitted.

Motion to Approve: Ley/Gomes

Public Testimony:
None

Board Discussion:
Member Gomes asked about the potential risks of exporting to China and Taiwan due to tariffs. Ms. Scheibe responded that the applicants have not seen a drop in interest from buyers and also have a local market for their products.

Vote: Approved; Unanimously

3. Request for Approval of one (1) Class F Loan for Bianca Sophia Antonio.

Jillian Scheibe, Agricultural Loan Division, presented testimony as submitted.

Motion to Approve: Gomes/Grewal

Public Testimony:
None

Board Discussion:
Member Gomes raised questions about the property's previous ownership and the water source, expressing concerns about the logistics and potential need for a pump depending on the well's location relative to the property. He asked if she is purchasing this property from Kamehameha Schools.

Ms. Scheibe said it is RDP Simple and it is under a private owner.

Bianca Sophia Antonio was called forward online to speak. She said this is a separate well that was created in this private subdivision and is not related to Kaupo Ranch well that is on Kaupo Gap Road. She added that there is a contract through Kamehameha Schools that if their well breaks down, they would utilize her well to help cover water needs. This property is below ranch headquarters, and the well is not under the County of Maui.

1 Vote: Approved; Unanimously

2
3
4 4. Request for Approval of one (1) Class A Loan for co-borrowers Evan
5 Goldstein Ryan and Danielle Little Ryan

6
7 Richard “Buddy” Nichols, Agricultural Loan Division, presented testimony as submitted.

8
9 Motion to Approve: Gomes/Ley

10
11 Public Testimony:

12 Raymond Sin, a former high school teacher and active member of the United States Air
13 Force, testified on his thoughts on education and agriculture. He emphasized the
14 importance of civic engagement for students and the role of technology and artificial
15 intelligence in transforming agriculture and education. He also highlighted the
16 significance of public and private partnerships for ecotourism and cultural practices. Sin
17 expressed gratitude for the traditions and education he received from the Japanese
18 farming community and the Aloha spirit in Hawaii. He acknowledged the history of
19 Hawaii and the importance of understanding and respecting it.

20
21 Tara Rojas testified acknowledging the applicants' positive community impact but
22 raising concerns about the historical context of land ownership in Hawaii.

23
24 Chairperson Hurd reminded everyone that the comment period is for the issue at hand.

25
26 Board Discussion:

27 None

28
29 Vote: Approved; Unanimously

30
31
32 5. Request for Approval of one (1) Class A Loan and one (1) Class C Loan
33 for co-borrowers Hamakua Heritage Farm, Inc., Robert M Stanga and
34 Janice M Stanga.

35
36 Richard “Buddy” Nichols, Agricultural Loan Division, presented testimony as submitted.

37
38 Motion to Approve: Ley/Gomes

39
40 Public Testimony:

41 None

42
43 Board Discussion:

1 Mr. Gomes expressed his support, highlighting the farm's strength, stability, and
2 succession plan for the next generation.

3
4 Vote: Approved; Unanimously
5

6
7 B. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION
8

- 9 1. Request for Approval to Add and Withdraw Officers to Hawaii Land &
10 Livestock, LLC, General Lease Nos. S-3138 and S-8500, TMKs: (1) 9-1-
11 031:001 and (1) 9-1-031:025; Hono'uli'uli, District of 'Ewa, Island of
12 O'ahu, Hawai'i
13

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

17 Motion to Approve: Gomes/Ley
18

19 Public Testimony:
20 None
21

22 Discussion:
23 Member Gomes inquired about the removal of a trucking operation and a potential solar
24 farm on the property. Chairperson Hurd confirmed the trucking company had vacated
25 the premises and offered to share photos. Member Gomes also requested that photos
26 be included in future agenda items for better context. He added that they were looking
27 at putting up solar panels on the property and one of the stipulations was to get them
28 out of there.
29

30 Vote: Approved; Unanimously
31
32

- 33 2. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO CONFIRM AUTHORIZATION OF
34 TEMPORARY ACCESS TO THE WAIMEA IRRIGATION SYSTEM TO
35 PRESERVE ANIMAL LIFE AND SETTING OF A DELIVERY RATE;
36 WAIMEA, ISLAND OF HAWAI'I, HAWAI'I
37

38 Brian Kau, Agricultural Resource Management Division, presented testimony as
39 submitted.
40

41 Mr. Kau notified the Board that on the back page of the submittal, Attachment A does
42 not exist, and it was an erroneous inclusion.
43

1 Motion to Approve: Ley/Gomes

2
3 Public Testimony:

4 Raymond Sin spoke on the philosophy of Ho'oponopono (balance and harmony with
5 nature).

6
7 Tara Rojas spoke about the broader water crisis, the drought's impact, and urged the
8 Board to 'decolonize their mindsets' and amend the bylaws as needed.

9
10 Board Discussion:

11 Member Gomes asked if the county would be able to use the reservoir water in case of
12 a brush fire.

13
14 Mr. Kau said they are on Board with that.

15
16 Member Gomes added that during a drought, they plan for rain and when there is rain,
17 they plan for drought. The droughts are getting worse every year.

18
19 Member Oswald questioned the four-month duration of the water provision for ranchers,
20 asking how difficult it would be to extend it if the drought continues. Mr. Kau replied that
21 it wouldn't be difficult but would require an amendment, and any extension also depends
22 on reservoir levels. Member Oswald also asked if there were set reservoir height
23 thresholds for conservation measures, to which Mr. Kau explained that it's a floating
24 target dependent on the time of year and weather dynamics. He also inquired about
25 protections for existing priority users. Mr. Kau confirmed that Section 4-157-4H
26 prioritizes preserving crops and animal life, and the local farmers support diverting some
27 water for ranchers.

28
29 Member Ley asked if outreach had been done to all cattle producers. Mr. Kau
30 responded that the cattlemen have been communicating well with each other, and the
31 program primarily helps high-level ranchers who need to haul water.

32 Chairperson Hurd gave kudos to the Agricultural Resource Management Division for
33 their quick action upon realizing from the public that there was a dire need.

34
35 Vote: Approved; Unanimously

36
37
38 C. PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

39
40 Plant Quarantine Branch

- 41
42 1. Request for Review of the Petition From Kunani and Ipo Nihipali to
43 Initiate Administrative Rule Making to Implement an Interim Rule

Pursuant to Hawaii Revised Statutes §150A-9.5, to Prohibit the Transportation of Plants, Soil, Gravel, and Other Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Host Material Including Decomposing Plant Material Such as Compost, Wood or Tree Chips, and Mulch, Plant Propagation Media and Other Items Comprised of Decomposing Organic Plant Material Such as Landscaping Material or Erosion Control Socks, to the Island of Molokai From Any Other Area in the State to Prevent the Spread of CRB.

Jonathan Ho, Plant Quarantine Branch, presented testimony as submitted.

Motion to Approve: Kanakaole/Gomes

Member Ley sought clarification on the motion, which was confirmed to be an approval of the staff's recommendation and not the petition itself. Member Gomes expressed concern about the timeline and the need for interim protection for Molokai while new rules are being formulated.

Public Testimony:

(The Board received 219 written testimonies in support of the petition.)

Public testimony was given by a representative for the petitioners, who spoke on the cultural and subsistence significance of coconut trees (Niu) on Molokai, the devastation caused by Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) elsewhere, and urged the Board to act immediately to protect their island and cultural heritage.

Multiple testifiers from Molokai and other islands spoke in strong support of the petition. They emphasized the cultural and economic importance of coconut trees and other plants threatened by the CRB. Speakers highlighted that Molokai is the last island free from CRB and that prevention is crucial. Testimonies pointed out the failure of current inspection systems, citing the spread of CRB to other islands despite them. Concerns were raised about the devastating impact of CRB on Oahu and other islands, serving as a warning for Molokai. The high cost and difficulty of eradication compared to prevention were repeatedly mentioned. Speakers urged the Board to act proactively to protect Molokai's food security, cultural heritage, and self-sufficiency. It was also mentioned that there is a lack of enforcement, inspection, and treatment capacity on Molokai's ports.

Board Discussion:

The Board discussed that the motion was too general and did not reflect the urgency and specific direction the Board wished to convey. There was a consensus that a more specific motion was needed to direct the division to expedite the rulemaking process, including taking the petition language to the advisory committee and ensuring it returns to the Board by the next meeting. Member Ley supported prioritizing action on the

petition with guidance from the Plant Quarantine branch, ensuring broad transparency, and increasing inspections for shipments to Molokai.

The motion was amended to:

Move the petition and the proposed interim rule as submitted forward and instructing the Plant Quarantine Branch to initiate the interim rulemaking pursuant to HRS section 150A-9.5 referring the matter to the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals for review and recommendation and returning to the Board for approval at its next meeting.

Amended Motion: Kanakaole/Gomes

Vote: Approved; Unanimously

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. NON-ACTION ITEM: Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

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

Presentation:

Update on federal funding for biosecurity, specifically for brown tree snake interdiction and the Hawaii detector dog program. Approximately \$400,000 is received annually, with the grant cycle typically between April and June. This year, the grant was initially announced in December 2024 with an April 2025 submission date, then re-released in July of this year with an August 2025 submission date.

A large-scale hiring event was held at the Plant Quarantine branch, with interviews on August 20 and 21, and a job fair on August 20, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. This event was the first of its kind and proved to be very successful.

For CRB response on Kona, two large piles of green waste (approx. 1,500 cubic yards) in the Agricultural Park (Ag Park) were found infested with CRB. Department staff, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, and Department of Transportation were involved in the initial thorough survey and treatment. On August 13, all piles were tarped and fumigated. An additional pile (~2,300 cubic yards) was found and treated last week. Treated green waste was taken to a processing facility, ground, and immediately composted to raise its temperature, preventing re-infestation. Widespread surveys and tree treatments (injectable or crown sprays) are ongoing throughout the Ag Park and Kona area.

1
2 Plant Quarantine is working on getting sustained funding to expedite vendor selection
3 and treatment/removal of infested piles, aiming for rapid response capabilities in each
4 county across the state to avoid procurement delays.
5

6 Public Testimony:

7 Nākai'elua Villatora testified that there was an ongoing lack of county and state support
8 despite communicating with the Department of Agriculture and the pesticide branch.
9 Concerns were raised about insufficient action and the need for urgent, on-the-ground
10 interventions targeting CRB at all life stages, not just adult beetles caught in traps.
11

12 Motion to adjourn: Gomes/Ley
13

14 The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm
15

16 Respectfully submitted,
17
18
19

20 Marci Clingan
21