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7 **Minutes of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity**  
8 **February 24, 2026**  
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10 A video recording of this meeting can be found online by visiting this website:  
11 <https://dab.hawaii.gov/meetings-reports/>  
12

13 CALL TO ORDER – The meeting of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity was called  
14 to order on February 24, 2026, at 9:01 am by the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity  
15 Chairperson, Sharon Hurd. The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom and in-  
16 person from: Hawaii  
17

18 *State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity*  
19 *Plant Quarantine Branch*  
20 *1849 Auiki Street*  
21  
22

23 Members Present In-Person:

24 Sharon Hurd, Chairperson, Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity  
25 David Smith, DLNR, Ex-Officio Member  
26  
27

28 Members Virtually Present: Roll call/alone

29 Mark Takemoto, DBEDT, Ex-Officio Member  
30 Diane Ley, Hawaii Member  
31 Nathaniel Oswald, Maui County Member (Joined meeting at 9:21 am)  
32 Jason Moniz, Member-at-Large  
33 En Young, Member-at-Large  
34 James Gomes, Member-at-Large  
35

36 Excused:

37 Dr. Parwinder Grewal, Dean CTAHR, Ex-Officio Member  
38

39 Deputy Attorney General Present In-Person:

40 DAG Jennifer Waihee-Polk  
41

42 Others Present In-Person:

43 Alex, Bio Sec Solutions  
44 Reed Kishinami, Kaz's Nursery  
45 Dexter Lee, Kaz's Nursery  
46 Brandi Ah Yo, DAB/ARM

1 Kevin Moore, DAB/ARM  
2 Khari Lane, DAB/ARM  
3 Lori Buchanan, Moloka'i Aha Kiole  
4 Christopher Kishimoto, DAB/PQ  
5 Jonathan Ho, DAB/PQ  
6 Jason Azus-Richardson, DAB/IT  
7 Marci Clingan, DAB/Office of the Chair  
8

9 Others Virtually Present:<sup>1</sup>  
10 BTM B.I.  
11 User Name (Original Name)  
12 yeong.h.lau  
13 Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i  
14 susan kunz  
15 Everyday Hero Project  
16 GN  
17 AGR - Kau, Brian  
18 Toy Lim  
19 Brian Kau  
20 lindsey.ancog  
21 Jun Coleman  
22 Matt Padgett  
23 Diandra Goodwin-Leung  
24 Jonathan Ho, DAB Plant Quarantine Branch  
25 Thomas Heaton  
26 Paoneakai Lee-Namakaeha  
27 Mark Ladao - Hawai'i Public Radio  
28 Rose Dudoit  
29 DAB PIO  
30 Roy Hasegawa  
31 greg.takeshima  
32 Suresh Prabhakaran  
33 Jeffrey Kaneshiro  
34 Julia Kemp  
35 Accounting  
36 Zoom user  
37 KMC  
38 18082640432  
39 Blane Yoshimura  
40 Dean Matsukawa  
41 Kori Koike - DAB  
42 J Ferrer, HDOA

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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 Dexter Kishida  
2 T  
3 Chris Kishimoto  
4 richard.kim  
5 Stephanie Easley  
6 Christy Martin-CGAPS  
7 K Koike  
8 Janet  
9 Rep. Mahina Poepoe

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12 II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 1/27/26 MEETING

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14 Motion to Approve: Gomes/Ley

15

16 Public Testimony:

17 None

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19 Board Discussion:

20 None

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22 Vote: Approved; unanimously

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24 III. INTRODUCTIONS

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26 IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DIVISIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

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A. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

1. Request for: (1) Approval to Rescind Prior Board Action Approving the Assignment of General Lease No. S-4760; Mountain Meadows, Inc., Assignor; to Pana'ewa Plant Company, LLC, Assignee; (2) Consent to Assignment of General Lease No. S-4760; Mountain Meadows, Inc., Lessee/Assignor; Kaz's Nursery LLC, Assignee; (3) Approval to Amend General Lease No. S-4760; TMK: 3rd Div/2-2-056:039, Lot 13, Pana'ewa Agricultural Park, Waiākea, South Hilo, Island of Hawai'i, Hawai'i

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

Motion to Approve: Gomes/Ley

1 Public Testimony:

2 None

3

4 Board Discussion:

5 Member Gomes asked whether diversified agriculture operations would include an  
6 invasive species control provision in the lease

7

8 Ms. Ah Yo responded not currently; could address during a lease extension. Division is  
9 gradually incorporating invasive species clauses.

10

11 Chairperson Hurd asked if the invasive species language could be added now.

12

13 Deputy AG Waihee-Polk suggested the Board can include invasive species control as a  
14 condition of approval and recommended explicitly adding the condition to the motion if  
15 the Board wanted such language to be included.

16

17 Member Ley commended Raymond Tanouye and family for building a significant  
18 operation; noted Kaz's Nursery appears qualified to continue the successful business.

19

20 Member Smith questioned whether a participation clause could be added to share in  
21 assignment consideration on state land.

22

23 Ms. Ah Yo said newer leases may include participation clauses; this inherited lease  
24 does not. Plant inventory valuation alone exceeded 1,000,000.

25

26 Chairperson Hurd suggested that Ms. Ah Yo add an informational briefing at the next  
27 board meeting and include when the clause was added to the leases and under what  
28 conditions. She asked that a copy of the rules that govern it be also sent to the board.

29

30 Member Moniz asked if this lease currently has an invasive species that is out of  
31 control.

32

33 Mr. Ah Yo said no, not that she is aware of.

34

35 No conditions were added to the motion.

36

37 Vote: Approved Unanimously

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40 2. Request for Approval to: (1) Amend Keāhole Agricultural Park Leases to  
41 Include Language Adding an Invasive Species Control Provision and  
42 Waive Administrative Fee of \$30.00 per Lease for Lease Amendment  
43 Document; and (2) Waive Lease Rent Up to One Year for Keāhole

1                   Agricultural Park Lessees Under Certain Conditions, Keāhole Agricultural  
2                   Park, Phase II, North Kona District, Island of Hawai'i, Hawai'i  
3

4 Brandi Ah Yo, Agricultural Resource Management Division, presented testimony as  
5 submitted.

6  
7 Motion to Approve: Gomes/Young

8  
9 Public Testimony:  
10 None

11  
12 Board Discussion:

13 Member Gomes requested acreage per lease number for all lessees listed and asked  
14 about post-December 31, 2026, compliance protocols.

15  
16 Ms. Ah Yo noted annual property inspections occur; plant industry experts may better  
17 assess technical compliance

18  
19 Member Young raised a concern that the motion read like blanket amendments

20  
21 Deputy AG Waihee-Polk clarified that amendments require lessee consent and the rent  
22 waiver is contingent on executing the amendment and submitting qualifying receipts.

23  
24 Member Ley mentioned that there is language in the invasive species clause that states  
25 if a lessee fails to perform, the department can enter, take action, and charge the  
26 lessee—beyond the one-year waiver. Producers need transparency about ongoing  
27 obligations.

28  
29 Member Oswald said the definition seems overly broad—plants, animals, fungi,  
30 bacteria—most farm organisms could be considered invasive. He asked if this is  
31 targeted to specific pests like Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) or Little Fire Ants  
32 (LFA).

33  
34 Mr. Jonathan Ho, Plant Quarantine Branch, was requested to speak to the board.

35  
36 Mr. Ho responded that the clause is intentionally broad to address new pests over long  
37 lease terms. Specific actionable species are managed through rules.

38  
39 Member Moniz supported assistance but cautioned against overly broad language.

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41 Chairperson Hurd emphasized the need for flexibility due to long lease terms.

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43 Vote: Approved; Unanimously (Reservations – Ley, Oswald, Moniz and Gomes)

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- 3. Request for Consent to Assignment of General Lease No. S-4802; Robert Y. Fujitake, Assignor; Cataline T. Tiamson, Assignee; TMK: 3rd Div/1-5-116:038, Lot 11, Pāhoa Agricultural Park, Keonepoko Iki, Puna, Island of Hawai'i, Hawai'i

Beryl Manliguis, Agricultural Resource Management Division, presented testimony as submitted.

Motion to Approve: Ley/Gomes

Public Testimony:

Catalina T. Tiamson described background, crop trials, partnerships with University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (UH CTAHR), invasive species plan collaboration, and a diversified utilization plan.

Board Discussion:

None

Vote: Approved; Unanimously

- 4. Resubmittal: Request for Approval to: (1) Accept, After the Fact, Annual Lease Rent Amount Determined by Appraisal for the May 1, 2024 Rent Opening Under General Lease No. S-3109 Through the Cancellation Date of the Lease, Milton Coleman, Jr., Lessee; (2) Cancel General Lease No. S-3109, Milton Coleman, Jr., Lessee; (3) Issue Cancellation Document; and (4) Dispose of the Parcel to the Public by Negotiation; TMK: (1) 4-1-018:048, Ko'olaupoko, Waimānalo, Island of O'ahu, Hawai'i

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

Motion to Approve: Smith/Ley

Public Testimony:

Milton Coleman disputed characterization of "no farming activity," citing banana and fruit trees and recent work. Explained inability to meet \$17,000 down payment and sought additional time with external support.

Board Discussion:

Member Gomes asked staff about documentation of financial backing and if staff has had knowledge of this previously.

1  
2 Mr. Moore said no, it's the first they've heard of this.

3  
4 Member Gomes said he'd feel more comfortable if the people who are financially  
5 backing Mr. Coleman would be present to testify today.

6  
7 Member Young said it's a tough situation and he understands the underlying issues but  
8 there's a need for some kind of good faith and maybe it's time to give someone else a  
9 shot.

10  
11 Mr. Moore said staff sent a proposed plan to the lessee, but it was rejected without a  
12 counter.

13  
14 Member Gomes said he feels for Mr. Coleman but thinks that it's time to move on.

15  
16 Member Smith said it appears that Mr. Coleman's lot is not being utilized and that it  
17 could be utilized better for agriculture.

18  
19 Vote: Approved; Unanimously

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22 B. PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

23  
24 Plant Quarantine Branch

- 25  
26 1. Request for Review and Approval of the Petition from Nancy Holman,  
27 Kalaupapa National Historic Park, to Initiate Administrative  
28 Rulemaking to Amend Plant Quarantine Interim Rule 25-1, to Allow  
29 Gravel to be Moved from Any Other Area in the State to the Island of  
30 Molokai if it Has Been Subjected to an Approved Treatment Prior to  
31 Movement

32  
33  
34 The board recessed at 10:33 am.

35  
36 The board returned at 10:42 am.

37  
38 Jonathan Ho, Plant Quarantine Branch, presented testimony as submitted.

39  
40 Motion to Approve: Gomes/Oswald

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42 Public Testimony:

1 Dr. Suresh Prabhakaran, Chief Technology Officer for Douglas Products, said ProFume  
2 has been used for over 60 years. Recent trials with UH and USDA validate control of  
3 CRB across all life stages in gravel and other materials when used as prescribed.  
4 Safety is enforced during the process.

5

6 Alex Rediker, Biosecurity Solutions Hawai'i, said he is in strong support and has  
7 extensive experience with USDA, Douglas Products, UH and PQ and SLN approval.  
8 The treatment demonstrates 100% mortality across all life stages, including eggs up to  
9 three days old.

10 Over one million pounds of treated post material moved interisland statewide over five  
11 years and QPS fumigation is the gold standard; used by over 110 countries. Moloka'i  
12 has capacity; partner company has conducted pre-quarantine fumigation for export for  
13 15 years.

14

15 Lori Buchanan testified against the petition which would allow treated gravel to be  
16 moved to Moloka'i. Representing various Moloka'i community groups and as a  
17 beneficiary of Hawaiian Homelands, she requested the petition be denied or deferred,  
18 citing a lack of transparency and public review of the proposed treatment plan. She  
19 argued that no existing treatment can guarantee the gravel will be free from (CRB) or  
20 other pests, emphasizing the precautionary principle due to the unknown potential  
21 impacts on Moloka'i's unique ecosystem and endangered species. Ms. Buchanan  
22 highlighted that CRB, Little Fire Ant, and Coqui Frog have not been detected on  
23 Moloka'i and that the Kalaupapa Historic National Park (KHNP) has been aware of  
24 biosecurity challenges for years without addressing them or exploring local gravel  
25 alternatives.

26

27 Board Discussion:

28 Member Gomes supported deferral to include stakeholders and asked logistics  
29 questions about past gravel imports, barge schedules, materials, and fumigation  
30 applicability.

31

32 Member Moniz leaned toward deferral; asked about on-island sourcing, source risk  
33 zones, and fumigant efficacy for inorganic materials; suggested post-entry surveillance  
34 requirements.

35

36 Mr. Ho clarified that gravel moved to Moloka'i from anywhere in the state requires  
37 treatment, regardless of whether the source area is designated as infested. He  
38 explained that for a single shipment, staff could be present to monitor offloading and  
39 inspect for CRB, a process previously implemented for shipments to Maui. Mr. Ho  
40 emphasized that the proposed fumigation treatment has proven effective in eradicating  
41 CRB and preventing its spread, acknowledging that complete risk elimination would  
42 mean no movement of materials at all. He also stated that incorporating specific pre-  
43 and post-entry measures into the rule is feasible.

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Deputy AG Waihee-Polk reminded the board that this item is specific to CRB and to avoid discussing other invasive species.

Members Oswald and Young question retreatment timeliness and appropriateness of island-wide rulemaking for a once-a-year use.

Mr. Ho added that the inspections are designed around the shipping schedule, and they ensure everything is treated and contained until it gets to the barge, which is standard practice.

The board deferred the item to a later board meeting.

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.

Mr. Ho said three inspectors are being hired in Hilo, and a candidate for the Land Vertebrate Specialist position has been found. The Plant and Insect Specialist position was downgraded to attract more applicants, and an Administrative Specialist position is also expected to be filled soon.

The biosafety inspector positions are underway on Maui, Kona, Hilo, and Oahu. Two longstanding master journeyman positions on Oahu recently closed, with interviews scheduled for the next two weeks. Interviews are ongoing for a Noxious Weed Specialist on Oahu, and recruitment continues for Pest Control Technicians in Hilo and Kauai. For the Pesticides Branch, two internal vacancies were filled, and external recruitment for their backfill positions will be posted.

Mr. Ho met with the petitioners on February 5th to discuss the Kona interim rule. The petition is scheduled to go before the advisory committee on Friday, February 27th. It is expected to be brought back before the board at its March meeting for review and potential implementation

Public Testimony:

None

1 Board Discussion:  
2 None  
3  
4 The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am  
5  
6 Respectfully submitted,  
7  
8  
9  
10 Marci Clingan  
11