

AGENDA
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY (BAB) MEETING

Date: April 28, 2026
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Place: In person access - Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity
Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-3100

and

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*Members of the public may submit written testimony via e-mail to:
DAB.BOARD.TESTIMONY@HAWAII.GOV, via postal mail to the
BAB Chairperson's Office at 1428 S. King Street, Honolulu, HI 96814-2512;
or via fax to the BAB Chairperson at (808)973-9613. Please include the word
"testimony" and the subject matter following the address line. We request submission of
testimony at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to ensure that it can be distributed to the
Board members.*

*Copies of the Board Packet will be available for on-line review at:
<http://dab.hawaii.gov/meetings-reports/>. Copies of the board packet are also available for
inspection at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity at 1428 South King
Street, Honolulu, HI 96814.*

INTERNET ACCESS:

*To view the meeting and provide live oral testimony during the meeting, please use the above link. You will be asked to enter your name in order to access the meeting as an attendee. The Board requests that you enter your full name, but you may use a pseudonym or other identifier if you wish to remain anonymous. You will also be asked for an email address. You may fill in this field with any entry in an email format, e.g., *****@***mail.com.*

As an attendee, your microphone will be automatically muted during the meeting unless you are providing testimony. For each agenda item you wish to testify on, please click the Raise Hand button found on your Zoom screen. Board staff will individually enable each testifier to unmute their microphone. When recognized by the Chair, please unmute your microphone before speaking and mute your microphone after you finish speaking in order to prevent audio feedback. When testifying, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization, if any, that you represent. Each testifier will be limited to two minutes of testimony per agenda item.

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IN-PERSON ACCESS:

There will also be one meeting location, open to the public, which will have an audio-visual connection. That meeting will be held at:

*State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity
Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-3100*

For internet, telephone, and in-person access, when testifying, you will be asked to

identify yourself and the organization, if any, that you represent. Each testifier will be limited to two minutes of testimony per agenda item.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 3/24/26 MEETING

III. INTRODUCTIONS

IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DIVISIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

A. AGRICULTURAL LOAN DIVISION

1. Request for Approval of the Amended HAR chapter 4-8 Agricultural Loan Division Rules

(See attachment 2 for a summary of the specific proposed changes and locations for viewing)

2. Request for Approval of One (1) Emergency Loan for OCR Inc. dba Small Kine Farm, and Fung Yang

B. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

1. Request for Conversion of General Lease No. S-4519; Rodolfo V. Dieguez and Rajita A. Dieguez, Lessee; TMK: (2) 2-7-015:026, Former Kaupakulua School Lot, West Kaupakulua, Makawao (Hāmākualoa), Island of Maui, Hawai'i
2. Request to Approve Right-of-Entry to General Lease Nos. S-4445, S-4636, S-5905, S-4760 and S-4775, for Akinaka & Associates, Ltd., to conduct an Environmental Assessment for the Construction of Non-Potable Water Wells on Various Lots Located in the Pana'ewa Agricultural Park and Pana'ewa Farm Lots; TMK Nos. (3) 2-2-056:039, (3) 2-2-056:054, (3) 2-4-049:022, 026, 027, 028, and 029; South Hilo, Island of Hawai'i, Hawai'i

C. PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

Plant Quarantine Branch

1. Request to: (1) Allow the Importation and Possession of Twenty-seven (27) Plains Bison, *Bison bison*, an Animal on the List of Restricted Animals (Part B), by Permit, for Breeding and Commercial Meat Production, by Aloha Bison, LLC; and (2) Update Permit Conditions for the Importation and Possession of Plains Bison, *Bison bison*, an Animal on the List of

Restricted Animals (Part B), by Permit, for Breeding and Commercial Meat Production, by Aloha Bison, LLC.

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

3. Request to:

(1) Approve Proposed Chapter 4-69, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Entitled "Plant and Non-Domestic Animal Quarantine Pest Designation Rules" to Proceed to Public Hearing, Provided that the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals Subsequently Reviews and Does not Recommend Substantive Changes to the Proposed Rules; and

(2) Authorize the Chairperson to Schedule Public Hearings and Appoint One or More Hearings Officers in Connection With the Adoption of Chapter 4-69, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

(See attachment 1 for a summary of the specific proposed changes and locations for viewing)

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. NON-ACTION ITEM: Discussion Regarding the Information Provided by the Department at the April 15, 2026, Joint Informational Briefing Before the Senate Committees on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Agriculture and Environment, Related to Biosecurity Activities Covered Under Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 150A.

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***\*The Board may go into Executive Session pursuant to exceptions provided under Section 92-5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), including to consult with the Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities, pursuant to Section 92-5(4), HRS.***

*The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability, or any other class as protected under applicable federal or state law, in administration of its programs, or activities, and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity does not intimidate or retaliate*

*against any individual or group because they have exercised their rights to participate in actions protected, or oppose action prohibited, by 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, or for the purpose of interfering with such rights.*

*If you have any questions about this notice or any of the Department's non-discrimination programs, policies, or procedures, you may contact:*

*Rae Gee, Non-Discrimination Coordinator  
Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, 1428 S. King Street, Honolulu, Hawaii  
96814, (808) 973-9591, [dab.titlevi@hawaii.gov](mailto:dab.titlevi@hawaii.gov)*

*If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to a Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity program or activity, you may contact the Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above.*

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*If you need an auxiliary aid/service or other accommodation due to a disability, contact Rae Gee at (808) 973-9591 or [dab.titlevi@hawaii.gov](mailto:dab.titlevi@hawaii.gov) as soon as possible. Include a description of the accommodation you will need and tell us how to contact you if we need more information. Make your request as early as possible. Last-minute requests will be accepted, but may be impossible to fill.*

*Upon request, this notice is available in alternate/accessible formats.*

Listed below is a summary of the specific proposed changes to:  
Chapter 4-8  
Hawaii Administrative Rules.

HAR chapter 4-8 title is amended to address challenges and barriers that agricultural producers face in accessing capital necessary to cover the rising land and water costs, labor shortages and infrastructure needs for farmers, ranchers, and to expand their current operations. The Act 069 (2025) provides for the department to modify the state agricultural loan program to ensure equitable access to capital for farmers of all scales, with a focus on enabling sustainable, community-based and diversified production by small and mid-sized farms is essential to further Hawai'i's food security, economic resilience and self-sufficiency. Most of the participants would meet the statutory definition of small businesses.

The following are the changes under Chapter 4-8 Hawaii Administrative Rules are to be considered:

§4-8-1 "Definitions":

- "Cooperatives" definition is added
- "Department" adds biosecurity to department
- "Division" adds biosecurity to division
- "Food hub" definition is added
- "Import replacement loans" definition is added
- "Line of credit" definition is added
- "Loan officer" adds business loan officer and agricultural loan officer

§4-8-6 "Application for loans" Biosecurity is added to department. Address, Hilo office address is updated to "75 Aupuni Street #104," Maui office is deleted, Kauai office is deleted.

§4-8-8 "Letters of decline" requirement is updated to one (1) credit denial from private lenders, members of farm credit systems, and the Farm Service Agency. No denials for certain new farmers

§4-8-12 "Interest rates" are updated to a flat rate of four (4) per cent for most qualified classes and three (3) per cent for new farmers and others specified loan classes. Interest and conditions for emergency loans will be determined by the Department of Agriculture board.

§4-8-13 "Collateral" procedures are updated to change farmers home administration to Farm Service Agency.

§4-8-15 "Emergency loans" purpose is defined as providing relief and rehabilitation to distressed agricultural producers. The board of agriculture and biosecurity's authority is clarified.

§4-8-20 "Loans to farmers' cooperatives, corporations, food hubs, and food manufacturers" loans are defined including terms, limits, qualifications for farmers, ranchers, cooperatives or corporation. Also covered are facility loans, operating loans,

exportation of crops and livestock. Food Hub definitions and requirements are added.

§4-8-21 "Line of credit loans" has been added to provide agricultural producers with liquidity to cover working capital and operational needs with. Line of credits loans can be secured by sufficient crops, livestock, and facility assets or capital and real estate assets. Definitions and procedures have been added to further describe the line of credit purposes, procedures and usages including repayment, security, finance and charges, annual review. Also defined are requests that require approval by Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity

§4-8-22 "Import replacement loans" has been added to encourage farm expansion to grow import replacement crops. Crops are to be produced sufficient scale on a regional, island wide, or statewide markets. Applicants shall be a qualified farmer with sound credit and ability to repay the loan. Limit \$2,500,000 at 3 percent interest. Per year.

§4-8-43 "Subchapter 3" is deleted since the North Kohala loan and Grant Program has sunset.

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Copies of the proposed rules may be reviewed by accessing the department's website at: <https://dab.hawaii.gov/blog/main/proposed-administrative-rules/> or in person during normal business hours at 1428 S. King St., Honolulu, HI 96814.

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Listed below is a summary of the proposed adoption of Chapter 4-69, Hawaii Administrative Rules.

1. Adoption of chapter 4-69, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), entitled "Plant and Non-domestic Animal Quarantine Pest Designation Rules".
2. Adds Subchapter 1 General Provisions, including:
  - a. §4-69-1 Purpose
  - b. §4-69-2 Definitions
  - c. §4-69-3 Severability
3. Adds section 4-69-1 Purpose, is to enable the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to designate specific species as a pest.
3. Adds Section 4-69-2 Definitions, as follows:
  - a. The definition "Board" is added.
  - b. The definition "Department" is added.
  - c. The definition "Pest" is added.
4. Adds Section 4-69-3 Severability, to ensure if a specific provision of the rule is deemed invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the rule remains in effect.
5. Adds Subchapter 2 Pest Designations, including:
  - a. §4-69-4 Designation of pests for import inspection
6. Adds Section 4-69-4 Designation of pests for import inspection, designates the species on "List of Insects, Mites, Other Pests, and Plant Diseases, Designated as Pests for Control or Eradication Purposes by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, dated December 16, 2008," attached to chapter 4-69A, HAR, as pests for import inspections.

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Copies of the proposed rules may be reviewed by accessing the department's website at: <https://dab.hawaii.gov/blog/main/proposed-administrative-rules/> or in person during normal business hours at 1849 Auiki Street, Honolulu, HI 96819.

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