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7 **Minutes of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity**
8 **March 24, 2026**
9

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 March 24, 2026, at 9:06 am by Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
15 Chairperson, Sharon Hurd. The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom and in-
16 person from:
17

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

22 **Members Present In-Person:**

23 Sharon Hurd, Chairperson, Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity
24

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

26 Dave Smith, DLNR, Ex-Officio Member (joined at 9:15 am)

27 Mark Takemoto, DBEDT, Ex-Officio Member

28 Diane Ley, Hawaii Member

29 Jason Moniz, Member-at-Large

30 En Young, Member-at-Large

31 James Gomes, Member-at-Large

32 Dr. Parwinder Grewal, Dean CTAHR, Ex-Officio Member (joined at 9:15 am)
33

34 **Excused:**

35 Nathaniel Oswald, Maui County Member
36

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

38 DAG Jennifer Waihee-Polk
39

40 **Others Present In-Person:**

41 Leila Kealoha, Pohaku Pelemaka

42 Michelle Tasaki, Pohaku Pelemaka

43 Sophia Horovitz, Pohaku Pelemaka

44 Chris Kishimoto, HDAB/PQB

45 Jonathan Ho, HDAB/PQB

46 Jason Azus-Richardson, HDAB/IT

1 Marci Clingan, HDAB/Office of the Chairperson
2
3 Others Virtually Present:¹
4 Brandi Ah Yo
5 Jodie Rosam
6 Wayne Tanaka
7 Stephanie
8 James Gomes
9 Dean Matsukawa
10 Franny Brewer, BIISC
11 Nicole F
12 Parwinder Grewal, Dean CTAHR
13 BTM B.I.
14 Hawai'i Wildlife Megan
15 ericc
16 Keith Weiser
17 Brandi Ah Yo
18 Jodie Rosam
19 Stephanie
20 W
21 Mike Rivera
22 Koike, K. - DAB
23 Shannon Matson
24 Kawehi Young
25 Julia Kemp
26 Nicole Ferguson
27 LaneKD
28 Jade Miyashiro
29 richard.kim
30 Mason Russo- HISC
31 lindsey.ancog
32 Franny Brewer, BIISC
33 Mark Ladao
34 Khari Lane
35 BTM B.I.
36 Elko
37 Sibley Barnette
38 Dexter Kishida
39 Melissa Kunz
40 Roy Hasegawa
41 Wayne Tanaka
42 Taylor Cozloff

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

1 Janet Ashman
2 LW
3 Rafaell
4 Wayne Takamine
5 Dean Matsukawa
6 HDOAPIO
7 Chuck Chimera
8 Kevin Moore - ARMD
9 Maria McCarthy
10 iPhone
11 Cory Harden Hilo
12 Glenn T. Sako, R&D
13 Nicole F
14 Molly Murphy
15 K. Koike
16 kris
17 Hawai'i Wildlife Megan
18 DAB PIO
19 Arisa Barcinas
20 Sanna Matheny

21
22

23 II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 2/24/26 MEETING

24

25 Motion to Approve: Ley/Gomes

26

27 Public Testimony:

28 None

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30 Board Discussion:

31 Member Hauff he would abstain from the vote as he was not present at the meeting.

32

33 Vote: Approved; unanimously

34

35 III. INTRODUCTIONS

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37 IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DIVISIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

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39 A. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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41 1. Request to Consent to Assign General Lease No. S-4934; CC Repair &
42 Maintenance Service, Inc., Assignor; Honest Greens LLC, Assignee; TMK:

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1st Div/4-1-035:013, Lot 13, Waimānalo Agricultural Park, Phase I,
Waimānalo, Ko‘olaupoko, Island of O‘ahu, Hawai‘i

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

Motion to Approve: Gomes/Moniz

Public Testimony:
None

Board Discussion:
Member Ley noted photos showed neat parcel but limited visible nursery activity; emphasized compliance monitoring due to high-demand lands.

Ms. Manliguis acknowledged staffing changes and said photos are current as of last year, but she will follow-up.

Vote: Approved; Unanimously

2. Request to Approve Right-of-Entry to William Hanson, Jr., Entrant; for Entry onto Premises of Former General Lease No. S-4779 to Remove Personal Items and Clean Property; TMK: 3rd Div/2-2-056:055, Lot 29, Pana‘ewa Agricultural Park, Waiākea, Island of Hawai‘i, Hawai‘i

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

Motion to Approve: Ley/Gomes

Public Testimony:
None

Board Discussion:
Member Gomes requested before/after photos to document cleanup and inform readiness for re-leasing.

Ms. Ah Yo responded that it’s basically overgrown right now and they haven’t done any agriculture activity which is one of the reasons for termination. She added that they’ll be removing some inoperable vehicles, belongings, and rubbish. Once they remove the cars and belongings, the property should be ok.

1 Member Ley said she appreciated staff's support on this request.

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3 Vote: Approved; Unanimously

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6 B. AGRICULTURAL LOAN DIVISION

- 7
8 1. Request for Approval to Activate and Set Parameters for Department of
9 Agriculture and Biosecurity Loan Program to Provide Relief Due to
10 Adverse Effects from the March 13, 2026 Kona Low Storm System

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12 Dean Matsukawa, Acting Agricultural Loan Division Administrator, presented testimony
13 as submitted.

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15 Motion to approve: Ley/Moniz

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17 Public Testimony:
18 None

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20 Board Discussion:

21 Member Ley asked if section 155-9E allow for aquaculturists and aggregators to apply
22 for loans.

23
24 Mr. Matsukawa said aquaculture statutes do not allow for emergency loans.

25
26 Member En Young thanked the department for its support and asked about
27 prioritization, funding pools, and communication; encouraged prompt dissemination to
28 networks.

29
30 Mr. Matsukawa said they're looking at prioritizing all the emergency loans and it is a
31 first-come, first-served basis.

32
33 Member Gomes asked whether AGI factors into approval.

34
35 Mr. Matsukawa said they're looking at the damage and trying to focus on documented
36 damage and repayment capacity with flexible terms. He added that they will try to stay
37 within statutory limits but for certain operations, they'll stretch it if needed.

38
39 Chairperson Hurd said there is a bill going through now to lift the ceiling.

40
41 Vote: Approved; Unanimously

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43

1 C. PLANT INDUSTRY DIVISION

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3 Plant Quarantine Branch

- 4
5 1. Request for: Review and Approval of the Petition From Megan Lamson,
6 Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, and Leila Kealoha, Pōhaku Pelemaka, to Initiate
7 Administrative Rulemaking to Implement an Interim Rule Pursuant to
8 Hawaii Revised Statutes §150A-9.5, to Restrict the Transportation of
9 Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Host Material Which Includes All
10 Genera of Live Palm Plants, Potted Plants of Any Size, Decomposing
11 Plant Material Such as Compost, Wood, Tree Chips, and Mulch, Plant
12 Propagation Media and Other Items Comprised of Decomposing Organic
13 Plant Material Such as Landscaping Material or Erosion Control Socks
14 From a Designated CRB Infested Area on Hawai'i Island to Any Other
15 Area in the State; and Restrict the Transportation, Receipt, Processing,
16 Sale, Barter, Donation, or Otherwise Giving Away of CRB Host Material
17 Within the Designated CRB infested area on Hawai'i Island, by Requiring
18 a Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity Permit or Compliance
19 Agreement to Contain/Slow the Spread of CRB on Hawai'i Island
20

21 Jonathan Ho, Plant Quarantine Branch, presented testimony as submitted.
22

23 Motion to Approve: Ley/Gomes
24

25 Public Testimony:

26 Leila Kealoha urged support; emphasized cultural/food-security stakes (coconut trees,
27 crop variety documentation) and cascading social impacts; advocated six-month
28 evaluation toward permanent rule.
29

30 Corey Harden urged strong support; cited invasive species burdens and warned CRB
31 could be the most destructive.
32

33 Jodie Rosam highlighted palm native palm risks; described collaborative drafting;
34 requested board direct PQB to use Appendix C, allow minor editorial edits, replace
35 "quarantine area" with "infested area," refine Sections 4.1(a) and (c) wording, and
36 correct geography language to match maps.
37

38 Fanny Brewer Urged immediate adoption; noted CRB present in Kona for over a year
39 with human-assisted spread; rules would level the playing field; Big Island Invasive
40 Species Committee (BIISC) prepared to deliver trainings quickly; measures are critical
41 risk reductions.
42

1 Megan Lamson urged strong support and referenced hundreds of supportive
2 testimonies submitted in January; described practical measures (compliance
3 agreements, heat treatment, training, collection bin); requested small wording
4 adjustments and affirmed alignment with PQB.

5

6 Wayne Tanaka provided strong support; praised community partnerships; urged
7 regulatory support for enforcement; referenced minor Appendix C tweaks

8

9 Nicole Ferguson, provided strong support and offered to answer questions.

10

11 Stephanie Easley provided strong support for the interim rule and compliance
12 agreement, disclosing her assistance to the petitioners in preparing these documents.
13 She urged the board to adopt the interim rule (Appendix B) and direct the Plant
14 Quarantine Branch to use the compliance agreement (Appendix C) with minor
15 modifications. She expressed hope that the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity
16 would continue to dedicate resources to enforce and execute the program to slow the
17 spread of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle on Hawaii Island.

18

19 Board Discussion:

20 Member Gomes thanked staff and petitioners; supported collaborative, timely
21 containment; anticipated future tweaks

22

23 Member En Young supported; questioned northern boundary and flexibility to expand
24 infested area; asked about training availability beyond the zone

25

26 Mr. Ho said the board can expand scope as needed; BIISC to conduct training with a
27 lead-in period; training may extend beyond designated area if capacity allows; clear
28 road boundaries aid public understanding; broader training improves early detection.

29

30 Board Member Moniz supported but requested clearer maps (current ones blur when
31 enlarged); asked to send detailed comments on Appendices B and C and meet with Mr.
32 Ho; suggested buffer areas around known infestations.

33

34 Mr. Ho welcomed feedback; interim rule and compliance agreement are adaptable

35

36 Member Smith supported adopting rule with housekeeping recommendations from
37 petitioners and flexibility for chairperson to make non-substantive fixes (punctuation,
38 spacing etc.).

39

40 Chairperson Hurd took another public testimony from Franny Brewer.

41

42 Franny Brewer described in-house trainings for coastal entities with landscaping and
43 maintenance staff. She added that the sign-up website is forthcoming and the training

1 would be open statewide. She said compliance agreements apply to businesses within
2 mapped area; similar measures for movement within/outside the area with extra steps
3 when moving materials out. She concluded with residential outreach will roll out
4 separately with a major push in April; invited email questions.

5

6 Member Ley asked whether county and solid waste partners were engaged.

7

8 Mr. Ho confirmed awareness and support.

9

10 Motion amended to include the four items that were in Hawaii Wildlife testimony.

11

12 Motion to approve as amended: Ley/Gomes

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14 Vote: Approved; Unanimously

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17 V. OLD BUSINESS

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19 None

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22 VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

25

26 Jonathan Ho, Plant Quarantine Manager, presented new business item.

27

28 Mr. Ho said for the Plant Quarantine Branch, an inspector was selected for Kona, a
29 Land Vertebrate Specialist (Jessica Miura) started in March, and an Administrative
30 Specialist (Tara Yamashita) started on the second. Recruitment is ongoing for
31 Biosecurity Inspector positions in Hilo and Oahu, with Maui now fully staffed. Interviews
32 for Master Journeyman positions on Oahu are complete.

33

34 For the Plant Pest Control Branch, the noxious weed specialist position on Kauai is still
35 open, while the Oahu position has been filled and the candidate is expected to start in
36 early April. Several pest control technician positions in Hilo and Kauai are ongoing,
37 including for the apiary program.

38

39 Within the Pesticides Branch, six Environmental Health Specialist positions were
40 created on Oahu.

41

42 Mr. Ho added that a candidate for the Veterinary Program Manager position is expected
43 to start in July. Interviews for the Quarantine Station Manager and Administrative

1 Services Officer are forthcoming, and the Marketing Division Administrator position on
2 Kauai should open soon.

3

4 Overall, the department has 26 job classes in recruitment across the state.

5

6 An update to the CRB interim rule for Molokai is being finalized and is expected to be
7 presented at the April 2026 board meeting.

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9 Public Testimony:

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12 Motion to adjourn: Gomes/Smith

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14 The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 am

15

16 Respectfully submitted,

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20 Marci Clingan

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