



Agribusiness Development Corporation

Ag Notes

DECEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER

ADC Selects Tenants for Remaining Central Oahu Ag Parcels



Following a nearly year-long process, the State Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) has selected tenants to fill the remaining vacant 1,200 acres of its property in the Central Oahu area.

The ADC board of directors made the selections at its September 29 meeting. Multi-year licenses of up to 35 years have been issued to selectees to farm designated lands or occupy them for pastoral use.

"The selection of these qualified farmers provide a long-term commitment to these ag lands and ensures they remain in agricultural use," said ADC Executive Director James Nakatani. "This also reflects the state's long-term goal in local food sustainability."



Tenants selected by the ADC board included Thomas Law and Tony and Manyvone Law to farm approximately 230 acres of Galbraith Agricultural Lands in the Wahiawa area. The licensees have a combined farming experience of over 50 years.

Another 1,161 acres of ADC property in other parcels in Central Oahu were awarded to three other finalists: Cedar Grove Hawaii Inc., Hawaii Sustainable Agricultural Products LLC, and Ohana Hui Ventures Inc.

Earlier this year, 33 farmers and ranchers submitted applications to fill the remaining vacant ADC parcels. Finalists of the selection process were interviewed by ADC.

ADC sought farmers and ranchers with either a minimum of five years farming experience; or are owner-operators of an established farm conducting a substantial farming or cattle ranching operation. All applicants were rated on a scoring system based on factors such as years of farming experience, whether the proposed harvested crops appeal to consumers and will generate a profit, and the applicant demonstrates adequate financial ability.

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Tenants selected by ADC are gradually moving in to their assigned properties. Right-of-Entry documents have been issued to the selected farmers so they complete their soil conservation plans, irrigation planning for their individual licensed areas so they can begin farming the land.

The licensees will be responsible for securing the property. ADC will continue providing roving security and complete routine inspections of the property.

ADC had removed an initial 150 abandoned vehicles in the past year from its Wahiawa properties. With the assistance of the Hawaii State Department of Health, the remaining vehicles were removed in October.

Mahalo for supporting Helemano Farms this holiday season!



ADC wants to thank the community for its continued support of local farmers, including longtime ADC tenant Helemano Farms in their annual sale of locally-grown Christmas trees, while reducing the introduction of stow-away pests and invasive species into our state.

The Wahiawa operation sold all of its annual inventory of 3,000 trees by the second week of December! This is the second year in a row that Helemano Farms has sold its entire yearly harvest of trees.

“Mahalo for the annual support by the public each year, and for supporting local ag during these challenging times,” said Helemano Farms owner Aaron O’ Brien (pictured here in left photo), who noted that the seasonal tree sales allow him to hire many in the local community to assist with customers.

