

Date: October 28, 2024

To: ADC Board of Directors & Attorney General's Office

From: Wendy Gady, Executive Director, Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC)

Subject: Weekly Report (October 28– November 1, 2024)

End-of-Week Debrief

1. Grant Submission:
 - Meeting for DCIP Debrief (10/28/24) is scheduled.
2. Incident Report:
 - None.
3. Conference Attendance:
 - Lt. Governor Luke opened the conference
 - i. Recent trip to DC/USDA showed top to bottom HI Ag Community
 - ii. US needs to protect HI not just 48 states
 - iii. Need to have a Master Plan/Map/Vision
 1. Ability to offset imports
 2. Ability to develop exports
 - iv. Ag Crime is a \$15M issue
 - Congresswoman Jill Tokuda presented
 - i. Access to Microgrants via HDOA for Food Security
 - ii. Creating a Tropical Crop Initiative for our Specialty Crops which are our Sustenance
 - Hawaii Farm Bureau 2025 Legislative Initiatives Impacting ADC
 - i. Funding for CIP for Various Irrigation Systems Statewide
 - ii. Request for Funding for Waiahole Irrigation System CIP- \$2M
 - iii. Appropriation of funding for paying off the Waiahole Bond Debt
 - CTAHR Dean Presentation Highlights
 - i. Gaps CTAHR is focused on: Workforce Development, Lack of Facilities & Support Staff, Expanding Educational Opportunities, Gaps in Research & Extension Expertise, Need for Extension Programs Needing Expansion
 - ii. Leg Priorities: Adding Ag Technicians and Support Staff for CARES Centers, CIP Request for Facility Repairs and Upgrades at the Waimanalo CARES Center, Aquaculture Research & Extension Facility at UH Manoa
 - HDOA Chair Hurd Highlights:
 - i. Survey Result of Top 14 Issues Impacting Economic Viability in Ag (in order of votes): Invasive Species, Labor Costs, Equipment Cost, Plant Diseases, Workforce Housing Availability, Access to Capital, Access to land, Skilled Labor Availability, Water Infrastructure, Access to Vali
 - Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) Highlights:
 - i. 2019 USDA reported ag theft and vandalism cost Hawaii farmers \$14,400,000
 - ii. 2020 report showed 66 cases of felony ag theft, 30 cases of trespassing and 48 cases of related offenses

- iii. DLE will have an office at the ADC Whitmore Ag Industrial Park & will expand statewide
- iv. Focus of DLE: reduce ag crime in HI, improve law enforcement's response to ag crime using information gathering, data driven enforcement, new training curriculum, and **NOTE NEW AG CRIME TIP LINE: 808-427-3323** (report illegal or suspicious activity anonymously)
- v. University of Hawaii Community Design Center had a booth highlighting the ADC Projects:
 - Ken and Frankie attended a State Procurement Conference which was very helpful in making connections

4. Meetings and Collaborations:

- Eat. Think. Drink. Event featured a panel discussion about Institutional Food Purchasing and included Senator Dela Cruz, Representative Kristin Kahaloa, HDOE Superintendent Hayashi and an individual from the Zippys Centralized Kitchen. ADC's Agricultural Industrial Park was mentioned during a lively discussion around the HDOE Central Nutritional Center at Whitmore. I would recommend checking out the presentation below:
 - i. [Content - Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz](#)
- ADC BOD Meeting Key Items
 - i. Approval of several new licensees
 - ii. Appointment of a PIG for Small Disadvantaged Farmers Recommendation of Licensees for Oahu (Kauai to follow)

5. Ongoing Projects:

- Continuous meetings regarding CIP projects.
- Preparing for the 11/7 Ag Leadership Summit presentation with Deputy Director Wicker
- Wrapping up work with the CIP Permitted Interaction Group (PIG) and staff on Report for 11/21/24 ADC BOD meeting.
- Working with the Value-Add, Land and Distribution Services PIGs on wrapping up Reports by year end.
- Drafting MOU with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation for Field Days 2025.
- The Waiahole System had training 10/29 for the operation of a skid steer, tractor and excavator. The Team is also working on a schedule for refresher herbicide training.
- Met with a future user of the Haleiwa-Wailua-Wahiawa Irrigation System who outlined their plans and needs and inquired about the timetable.
- Met with a future strategic partner interested in ADC's water projects.
- Attended the CEDS Report Update and a focus for the future will be at worker housing.
- Attended the Eat. Think. Drink. Event (see attached presentation).
- Attended debrief for the DCIP Grant which was extremely helpful for drafting a new submittal in CY25.

6. Staffing and Operations:

- Work continues on the ADC Annual Report due in December.
 - Hiring updates: offer extended to Accountant IV position-awaiting her decision, submitted paperwork for Climate Resilient Food & Product Innovation Network Manager, completed Form B forms for the Kauai staffing positions. Forms are routed through ASO, Director and then Governor.
 - Ongoing UHCDC work regarding the forage drying facility and FPINs projects, now being called the Entrepreneurial Product Innovation Network (EPIC)
 - Wrapping up due diligence for Wahiawa-Haleiwa-Waiialua, awaiting final appraisals.
 - The Waiahole System Team are testing four GPS systems for future placement on vehicles to keep workers safe.
 - New office cubicles will arrive 11/12-14 to provide a location for new staff joining ADC.
 - New phones and computers are awaiting installation dates.
 - Purchase of vehicles for Kauai Staff has started.
7. UHCDC had a booth which included a scale model of the FPIN Concept for Whitmore including models of the two different size HPP machines (55 @ LCCVAPG and the 525 which we have issued an RFP).
8. Capital Improvements:
- Advancing projects such as Aahoaka Reservoir, Christian Crossing Bridge, Kekaha Ditch Bridge Crossing, and Kekaha Post Harvest Processing Center (Ken has submitted forms for fund release).
9. Grants and Agreements:
- DLNR requested input regarding the transition of future Irrigation Systems to ADC Portfolio.
 - Drafted MOAs with the AG's office for HIDEOE (Kauai & Oahu) for review.
 - Held meetings regarding the Waimea Watershed Agreement to determine the next steps.
 - Working on contract extension with Spire, a forensic accounting company. Of the original 8 projects, 6 have been completed with the funding allotted and we are refining the scope moving forward.
 - Collaborating with staff to create the FY26 budget, which includes FY24 actuals.
10. Project Management:
- Continuing oversight on the HPP (Received 6 Notice of Intentions from Companies who will be bidding) and Central Oahu Food Hub projects.
 - Managing LOI for Oahu parcels and planning next steps for PSAs.
 - Staff are working to create a Land Portfolio by Year End.
 - Staff are also proofing an Accounting System Manual.

Events and Conferences

November 7-8: Hawaii Ag Summit @ the Convention Center (ADC working session on Strategic Plan Input from the Ag Industry)- please advise Ingrid if you would like to attend. Ethics has approved the attendance of additional BOD at the presentation 11/7.

November 11-13: Culinary Institute of America, San Antonio
November 22: Cattlemen's Council Meeting.
November 25-28: Out of office/vacation.

Upcoming Deadlines & Events

November 21: ADC Board meeting.
December 5: ADC Board meeting.

Strategic Planning

1. Permitted Interaction Groups (PIGs):
 - Land PIG: Abolished after ADC BOD report 10/24; new one will be established 11/1.
 - Distribution Services & Value-Add PIG: Information shared, ongoing discussions.

2. Strategic Plan Updates:
 - The MOU for OPSD to post the RFP for additional work on the ADC Strategic Plan is under review.
 - The current RFP rewrite is with OPSD for scope changes, as per budget adjustments.
 - Ken is working on a new RFP for PR Firm- current contract has expired.

Projects

For a detailed overview of ongoing projects, please refer to the attached Gantt Chart.