

World Conservation Congress Legacy Commitment: “Double Local Food Production”



The 2015 Agriculture Land Use Baseline study to identify key lands and water resources was established and released on February 12, 2016. The study states that diversified crops are grown on 16,900 acres statewide. This category includes a wide variety of leaf, root and melon crops, most of which is consumed locally. In 1980, just 7,489 acres of diversified crops were grown statewide, indicating a substantial increase in local food production. The following action items highlight a few important initiatives that the State of Hawaii will pursue in seeking to double local food production:

- The State will increase capital available to farmers by increasing the Agricultural Loan Program portfolio that will give increased capacity for HDOA to provide start-up capital to new farmers. HDOA will submit a request of five (5) million dollars per year for the new biennium budget.
- The State will increase local food production by revitalizing the livestock industry.
 - a. HDOA is working closely with the livestock industry to revitalize the State’s dairy production in the startup of two (2) new dairy operations.
 - b. HDOA working with private partners will increase local egg production with the introduction of a one (1) million hen facility on Oahu.
 - c. HDOA and ADC are working with the livestock industry to develop slaughterhouse infrastructure to grow the State’s grass fed beef operations and develop 2 local feed mills to increase local feed production, lowering input costs for local farmers and increasing the State’s food security.

- The Agricultural Water Resource Project Manager within the Office of the Chairperson of the Department of Agriculture, will coordinate the department’s involvement in statewide agricultural water-related policy decisions, issues, and studies among various government agencies and other stakeholders. The Manager will oversee agricultural water policy activities, and evaluate current government oversight that determines agricultural water policy decisions in the State.

- Consistent with the purchases of land by HDOA and ADC in the past, the State through Session 2016 has identified and proposes to purchase an additional 800 acres of prime agricultural land to increase acreage for local food production and increase the availability of lands for agriculturalists including for small family farms.

- a. HDOA and ADC plan to have 600-900 additional acres of Galbraith Agricultural lands cultivated in the next two (2) years.
- b. HDOA and ADC are also looking to begin an Agricultural Business Incubator in Kekaha, Kauai for over 5,000 acres of agricultural lands to increase the State’s food production.

- The State will continue its advocacy in partnership with the Lieutenant Governor’s Office for a farm to school program for a second fiscal year (Session 2016) with an emphasis on increasing the procurement of locally grown commodities by government agencies. Pilot projects starting in early 2017 with the Kohala Complex followed by Upcountry Maui.
- The State will develop and support the “Buy Local” campaigns to promote and increase demand for locally grown agricultural commodities.

Additional Resources

- Hawaii Department of Agriculture: <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/>
 - <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/chair/new-agriculture-initiatives/>
 - <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/add/md/>
- Ho’āla Loko I’a Permit Application Guidebook: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/occl/hoala-loko-ia/>

