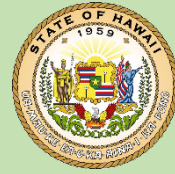


**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**



State of Hawaii

October 14, 2019

Message from a Farmer

“The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) has truly spearheaded the future of local agriculture with farmers. They are providing land, improving irrigation infrastructure, and acquiring more lands to accommodate more farmers. Without their leadership, farmers like me have limited access to long-term licenses that help stabilize our businesses. Mahalo to the ADC and HDOA and their staff for fighting for Hawaii’s agriculture industry and the future of ag.” Larry Jefts, Sugarland Farms



Growing Agriculture: Farming For the Future in Central Oahu



Watermelon



Tomato



Head Cabbage

Governor David Ige recently visiting the agriculture production in Central Oahu as reported in the September 12 Capital Connection newsletter (<https://governor.hawaii.gov/featured/growing-ag-farming-for-the-future-in-central-oahu/>). The Governor Ige heard from the people who are expanding crop potential every day in Central Oahu. They include farmers like Larry Jefts, Shin Ho and Fred Lau and leaders from the state Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

“Developing fallow ag lands into high-production farming operations is part of our strategy to increase our food security,” said the governor. “We want to support more Hawai’i farmers and show that diversified agriculture can thrive on what used to be plantation lands.”

The crops shown represent product that is distributed to local grocery stores and food establishments.

ADC Clears Albizia Trees in Wahiawa



Overgrown Section (Before)



Overgrown Section (After)

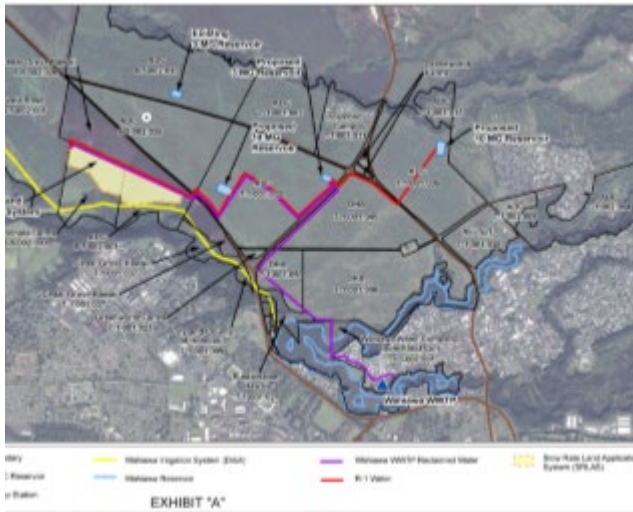


Cleared Area

To prepare land for agriculture production, ADC recently cleared over sixty acres of Albizia (*Falcataria moluccana*) trees in the Wahiawa area. Albizi is a known invasive species and is one of the fastest growing tree in the world. It forms weak, brittle wood, matures quickly, spreads easily through wind-borne seeds, and poses a serious threat to both our natural environment and our public safety.

More information regarding Albizia can be found at <https://www.biisc.org/albizia/>.

New Reservoirs on Galbraith Lands



Agriculture Reservoir

ADC is expanding water infrastructure for farmers on the Galbraith lands. Construction of two new reservoirs will begin mid-August 2019 will take about eight months to complete, weather permitting. Work will be performed during daytime hours and will not require any freeway, ramp, or road closures.

Currently, there is a 3 million gallon reservoir and a smaller reservoir that is shared by the tenants. The new reservoirs will allow farmers access to 13 million more gallons of water, 10 million gallon reservoir and 3 million gallon reservoir respectively. With more access to irrigation the farmers will be able to scale up production.

New reservoirs ultimately mean increased local food production for Hawaii. Current tenants such Sugarland Farm and Ho Farms are now able to scale up production for local consumption. Many of these crops will land straight in markets such as Foodland and Costco, and onto our plates.

Criminal Activity in Whitmore



Abandoned Car Removal

ADC has been addressing the continuing issue of criminal activity on State lands. The red circle above highlights a hotspot off of Saipan Road where an illegal car stripping operation was located. Several cars were removed and access to the area has been blocked. Surveillance will be maintained to ensure the area remains clear.

Whitmore Village Residents Receive Revocable Permits

Last year, Whitmore Village residents along Circle Mauka Street and Circle Mauka Place were advised to vacate and remove all personal belongings from state property. Due to the community's concern, ADC worked with the community to develop a revocable permit process. These permits will allow residents to continue to garden on the ADC owned lands abutting their properties.

So far, the ADC Board of Directors has approved revocable permits for seven residents in Whitmore Village. ADC is currently working with other residents to identify spatial needs and activities with the goal of complete compliance, with the new permit process, by the end of fiscal year 2020.

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