



Who Will Mediate the Dispute?

Mediators provided through HIAMP include program staff as well as private mediators throughout the state who are contracted on a case-by-case basis. All mediators have completed mediation training and additional training on agricultural and rural disputes.

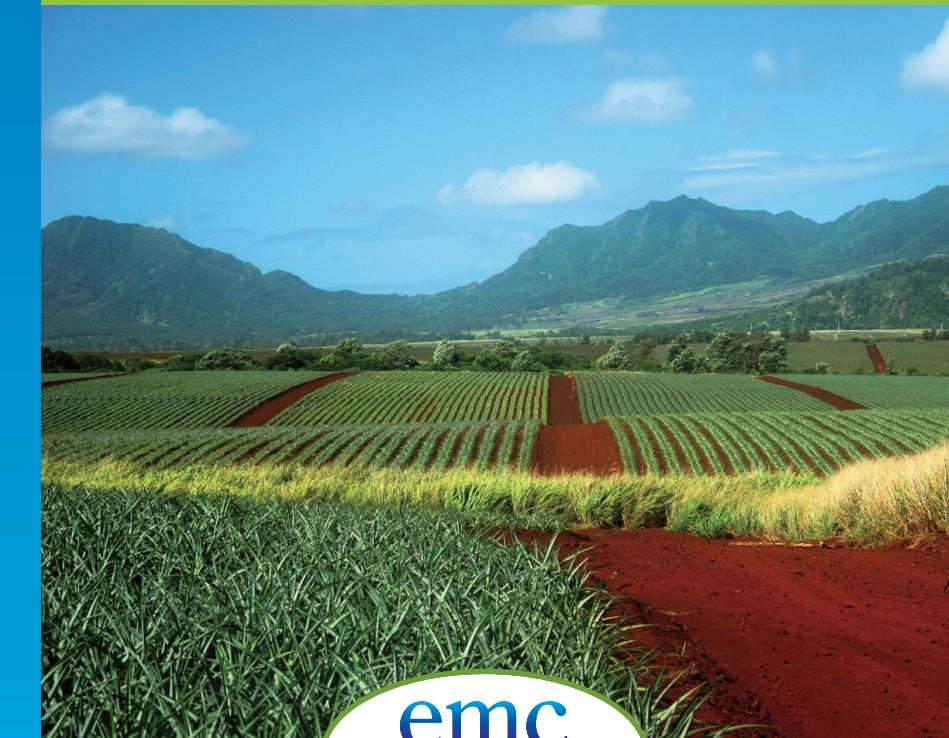


About HIAMP and the Environmental Mediation Center

HIAMP is a program of the non-profit Environmental Mediation Center (EMC). The EMC administers agricultural mediation programs in Hawaii, New Hampshire and Vermont. The EMC also designs and administers dispute resolution programs for governmental and regulatory environmental permitting bodies.

For more information contact:

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What is the Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program (HIAMP)?

HIAMP is the official United States Department of Agriculture certified agricultural mediation program for Hawaii. HIAMP provides mediation services to the agricultural community to help resolve disputes before they end up in court.

What is Mediation?

Mediation is a process in which two or more parties meet with an impartial person to assist them with the negotiation of their differences. Mediation is a voluntary and confidential alternative to the traditional legal and regulatory process.

The mediator does not have decision-making authority and does not determine who is legally right or wrong. Mediation leaves the decision-making power totally and strictly with the parties. The mediator helps by:

- ※ Eliminating communication obstacles
- ※ Facilitating a calm and rational discussion
- ※ Identifying and clarifying the issues
- ※ Exploring options
- ※ Recording agreements



Advantages of Mediation

Mediation offers several advantages over other processes in resolving agricultural disputes because mediation:

- ※ Provides an informal and impartial setting in which to openly discuss all issues involved, including sensitive financial matters and personal issues
- ※ Allows the parties who are most familiar with the dispute to devise their own solutions tailored to their interests
- ※ Helps restore communication between disputing parties and preserves and enhances important business relationships
- ※ May save all parties time and money as compared to litigation
- ※ Has fewer implementation issues since the parties agree to all terms

"The Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program provides producers, lenders, and others in the agricultural community in Hawaii free mediation services on a variety of agricultural disputes.

Mediation is a non-confrontational way to resolve disputes that often saves parties time and money. Should you be involved in an agricultural dispute, please contact the program to see if they can help you resolve the issue."

– Russell S. Kokubun, Chairperson, Board of Agriculture, State of Hawaii



What Kind of Agricultural Disputes Can Be Mediated?

- ※ Adverse Decisions from USDA agencies
- ※ Compliance Issues with USDA Farm and Conservation Programs
- ※ Farm and Rural Development Loans
- ※ Wetlands Determinations
- ※ Crop Insurance
- ※ Pesticide Issues
- ※ Other Agricultural Disputes

How Much Does Mediation Cost?

HIAMP receives an annual grant from USDA to provide free mediation services to the agricultural community in Hawaii on the issues listed above. For other agricultural issues, HIAMP will provide the mediation services free of charge when other funding sources are available. In some cases, HIAMP may ask parties to pay based on a sliding scale.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.