

HIAMP

Informal Problem Solving For Hawaii's Agricultural Community

How to Get Help before or after the Wheels come off the Car!

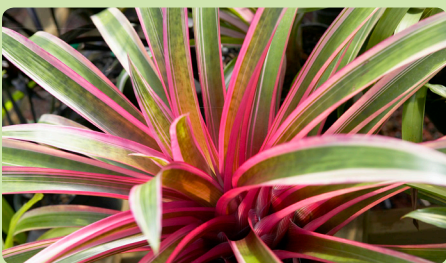
Tomatoes, chickens, papayas, bok choy, anthuriums, and ti leaves. Cows, coffee, melons, watercress and eggs. Hawaii's farmers grow many things. Sometimes we also grow problems.

Some of those are routine. They happen to all of us. Problems pop up with loans, creditors, farm programs or crop insurance. Conflicts arise over wetlands, pesticides, or water. Adverse decisions come down from a federal or state agency.

Hawaii has a new program to help farmers resolve many kinds of problems. It is known as the Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program, or "HIAMP". HIAMP receives a grant from USDA that along with other funding enables it to provide services for free to producers for most matters. HIAMP has been endorsed by Governor Abercrombie and Department of Agriculture Chair Russell Kokubun. Thirty-eight other states have similar programs. Most importantly, it is informal and available on all islands.

HIAMP looks forward to serving the agricultural community in Hawaii. Although no one can predict the future, some things are predictable in agriculture. Running a farming operation will have narrow financial margins, markets will continue to be volatile, weather will not always be cooperative, and federal farm programs will continue to be complex.

All of the above factors as well as the current economic situation create opportunities for problems to arise. These problems can be costly both financially and emotionally. HIAMP is there to help producers, lenders, government agencies, and others in the agricultural community resolve their problems and get back to work.



Here is how it works:

Step 1 Contact!

If you have a problem with an agency, creditor or a lender and you aren't making progress solving it on your own, call Peter Adler at (808) 447-1790 ext 104 or e-mail him at petera@emcenter.org. You can also go to our website at www.hiamp.org and fill out a mediation request form.

Step 2 Background

Peter will talk with you, take down the background information, then make a call to set up a meeting with the others involved. He may assign one of the other HIAMP problem solvers on Maui, Kauai, Hawaii or Oahu to assist. Sometimes, the problem can be resolved with a phone call or two. If not, he or one of his colleagues will bring together a brief face-to-face meeting at a time and place convenient to everyone.

Step 3 At the Meeting

Once together in the same room or on a call, Peter or one of his colleagues will work with the parties to help resolve the problem. We will ask everyone to describe the problem and its impacts, develop a set of pertinent facts, and then explore multiple options. The process is free. If solutions are discovered or created, we will write those up and provide everyone with a copy.

If you are feeling stuck, give it a try. You will be dealing with people with experience and skill. Most of all, you have nothing to lose.