

NOTICE TO WATER USERS

After studying the financial condition of the Irrigation System Program, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) will be proposing increases in the irrigation water rates statewide. Other changes in the administration of the water systems will also be proposed.

The water rate increase proposes to raise the rate in phases over five years, beginning in 2006. Under the proposal rates would increase per 1,000 gallons as follows:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Honokaa-Pauuilo	.40	.46	.52	.58	.60	.62
Waimanalo	.40	.46	.52	.58	.60	.62
Waimea	.40	.46	.52	.58	.60	.62
Molokai	.40	.46	.52	.58	.60	.62
Kahuku	.45	.51	.57	.63	.65	.67

The department has determined that the increases are necessary to ensure the continued operation of the irrigation systems.

The irrigation systems were meant to be self-sustaining; however, operational expenses have been higher than the fees collected and the revolving fund is nearly depleted. HDOA has made severe cuts in expenses to slow the drain on the fund; however, those cut backs also endanger the operations of the water systems. The rate increases will help to keep the systems operational. Without the increases, irrigation services will likely be severely cut back or terminated.

HDOA is preparing to present the issue at the monthly meeting of the Hawaii Board of Agriculture, which will be held on:

Tuesday, August 10, 2004
Plant Quarantine Branch Conference Room
1849 Auiki Street, Honolulu
9:00 a.m.

Water users are welcome to testify in person or submit written testimony. Written testimony may be sent to HDOA, 1428 S. King Street, Honolulu, HI 96814 or via fax to (808) 973-9613 or via e-mail to HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY@hawaii.gov

At this meeting, HDOA will be asking the Board for approval to send this issue to public hearings, which will be held on Oahu, Molokai and the Big Island. At the public hearings, members of the public, as well as water users, will have an opportunity to express their opinions on the proposed water rate hike.

To view all of the proposed changes to the Irrigation Water System, go to the HDOA website at: www.hawaiiag.org/hdoa/

If you have any questions regarding the proposed rate increase, please call HDOA's Agricultural Resource Management Division on Oahu at 973-9473 or e-mail: hdoa.info@hawaii.gov