AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP
CRITERIA AND QUANTIFICATION COMMITTEE
MARCH 14, 2003
HAWAII AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER

Present: Myrone Murakami (family farmer); Donna Wong (Hawaii’s Thousand Friends); Bev Kaku (Castle & Cooke); Kapu Smith (Kamehameha Schools-Kawaiola); Jeff Melrose (Kamehameha Schools—Hawaii Island) Ruby Edwards (planner); Jane Stubenberg (realtor); Earl Yamamoto (Department of Agriculture); Karen Iwamoto (Hawaii Association of Realtors).

Myrone Murakami convened the meeting at 1:24 p.m.

Objectives:
1. Identify characteristics of best agricultural land.
2. Find ways to rate best agricultural land.
3. Identify site factors—such as buffer zones.
4. Come up with criteria to account for the “lesser” lands.

Discussion issues:
1. Is “prime” ag “usable ag”? Is “prime” land “good” land?
2. How do we describe “good” ag land?
3. Where is the agriculture and what makes it happen?
4. Each county is in a different stage of planning. Jurisdictional issues should be incremental.
5. Create an economically sustainable paradigm.
6. Have to discuss more than soil—must address where the water is and where gulches are located.
7. Do designations play an important role?
8. Housing factors need to be discussed.
9. There are 4 systems currently used to describe ag lands—we need to look at the time frame of what was done when.

The Committee discussed what needs to be added to the maps shown to lend clarity to the definition of prime agricultural land. The ALISH maps for Oahu and the Big Island were displayed. The Committee thought that a map which shows parcels should be an overlay of the ALISH maps.

Committee Recap:
1. Use ALISH maps as a tool with overlay of other issues for each island. Identify where county settlement boundaries are.
2. Framed the issue—“What’s in Agriculture”
   a. Discussed inclusion of aquaculture in the definition of Agriculture.
   b. Questioned if forestry could be classified in “Agriculture.”
3. Continue exercise of determining what ag is today with an eye to the future and what can happen.
4. For the next meeting we will have a mapping session to identify where farming is taking place—this is the next level of information we need. The Committee will ask Kathy Sokugawa to help secure a place for the mapping event.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.