Agriculture Working Group
DOA Plant Quarantine
June 26, 2003

Agenda

Welcome, Intro

Committee Reports
  - Jurisdiction
  - Criteria (mapping)
  - Agriculture’s Feasibility

Next Steps

Next Meeting
  - July 10 @ 8 to 10 am – Agricultural Feasibility
  - July 10 @ 10 to Noon – Criteria and Quantification of Ag Lands
  - July 24 @ 11-12:45 – Jurisdictional Issues
  - July 24 @ 1 to 4 pm - AWG

Agricultural Working Group

Senate President Bunda attended from an invitation by Representative Kanoho
  - Want to move agriculture from $500,000,000 to billion dollar industry
  - Have hurdles to overcome
  - Leases? What do we need to do to move agriculture forward?
  - Legislator wants to partner with this group
  - Hopes group can reach agreement about recommendations
  - He represents an agricultural community
  - Senate is looking at bill Governor vetoed including Ag bills (especially funding bills. Knows money is there to fund bills.
  - Governor vetoed bill on restrictions. Senate has consensus on some bills, and this one looks like one of those bills.
    - The intent of the bill was good, but it was vetoed because the language was broad, which might have unintended consequences. We can all work together to recraft it. – Kunimoto

Acknowledgement that agriculture’s success is dependent on alignment. Frequently, it needs to occur at the County level because they have jurisdiction in many of these areas.

House Speaker Calvin Say
  - Thanked everyone for participating
  - Voiced support for this working group
  - Looked forward to working with AWG
COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ag Feasibility – 1st meeting of sub-committee

The interim committee chair, Earl Yamamoto, reported the following:
The committee is looking at what is needed for agriculture to maintain and increase its economic viability and contribution to the State’s economy. Simply protecting agricultural land and irrigation water systems will not result in economically viable demand for the same.

The bottom line is to recognize and promote that agriculture is a viable business. It requires identifying issues and implementing the appropriate means to increase economically viable demand for agricultural land and water. There has been confusion about the business of agriculture as the plantation system had many jobs. On its demise, it was assumed that former sugarcane workers were all farmers, which they were not, and farming and open space are equally valuable for protection.

Appropriate role for government may be to nurture all scales and types of agricultural development by offering opportunities to existing farmers to improve their business, generating interest in agribusiness enterprises; providing good and easily accessible data/information, identifying market drivers; assisting in developing the infrastructure. In the mix of diversified agriculture, it is important to include pineapple and sugarcane.

One inappropriate role for government is to identify what the market demands are and to recommend specific crops for farmers to meet those demands.

Government regulation can direct economic growth but not cause economic development.

The committee will identify other key factors that support economically viable agriculture from the landowners’ and farmers’ perspectives.

Criteria and Quantification of Land – Myrone Murakami
This committee has been making great progress in creating the understanding of the issues. There is no doubt that the issues are very complex, but the discussions have been active with a cross section of interests.

- Assessment phase of activities. Each of the counties has been asked to map the areas known for its agricultural activities. In this process, “missing” pieces become apparent
  - Continuing efforts of mapping agricultural activities on each island. Identify features.
  - Identify particular features of agricultural centers or “bubbles” and what is required for success
    - “Feature” characteristics

Enterprise Honolulu 6/27/03
• Centers that occur in regions, eg. Area: Hilo – Flowers; Kona- Coffee
• Try to identify those features that create certain kinds of crops in certain areas.
  o Other issues
  • Need to get Kauai mapped
  • Recommend that all maps utilize the same color coding
• Identifying criteria for distinguishing significant agricultural lands for Hawaii
  o Summarize many points of view – complex
  o Discussion agree that to be solely based on soil and water is not accurate, thus the “center” or “bubble” concept is recommended. Still discussing options. In this process, “missing” pieces become apparent
  o Want to identify more significant agricultural lands with map able criteria
  o Guess: Some combination of physical features (not soil-based) with other components might be used
• Federal GAP project is digitizing state and identifying where crops are located (Dan Dortin). Don’t know when will be complete because may be done in a couple of months.
  o This project is not concerned with plot by plot identification. Looking at larger areas to identify “centers”
  o Still haven’t agreed on whether should be using criteria in this process
  o Some data available at county level, but community hasn’t seen it. In some counties, tax system helps to identify this information/data.

Next Steps
  o Multiple approaches being used now and need to focus on this one
  o This conversation is long overdue. The focus is now not only on lands, but on economic development-- creating an agriculture industry.
    • Two distinct approaches available and they create different strategies. Difference in terminology between designation and identification offer different opportunities.
    • For each region, strategies might differ
    • Get some understanding for differentiation and acknowledge that each area is unique in terms of strategies that will work. Menu-driven
    • “One size fits all” doesn’t work
    • Maui
      o Region by region, different crops identified, asked “why” it exist there
    • Big Island
      o Water systems identified as well as pockets
      o Tried to answer question, where are important agricultural districts?
      o E.g. Kona Coffee belt – there are issues that exist there
      o Agricultural irrigation in Waimea – does pasture make sense?
How are you going to encourage agriculture in Hamakua?

Best Practices
- Napa went through some real extremes with identifying five separate cities and urban growth encourage there
- In the course of fifty years, agriculture has changed from ranching to winery, and the land was there available for that change

Sifting through the information
During this assessment phase, a significant amount of information has been gathered, identifying various tools that have been put in place for agriculture. In an attempt to better understand what we have available, Ruby Edwards at Office of Planning created a matrix that identified all the different legislation that impacts agriculture using different categories to reflect tools being used. Glossary also generated to help describe tools.

Ruby reported that the matrix is not complete as she did not have the entire county’s information.

The information was distributed and is now posted on the website under the Criteria and Quantification Committee Notes.

Jurisdictional Issues
Tracy Stice and John Summers, chair and co-chair, both from Maui were not able to attend. Paul Schwind assisted as the interim chair.

- The group began to analyze the information they had gathered. A central question to this activity is, “What’s an appropriate roles for State and Counties to help agriculture?”

The committee worked together to create a matrix to consider the following issues:
- Identify redundancies or have conflicting efforts, it would provide us an idea of what we need to recommend.
- Identify areas that were not being addressed. This will provide the opportunity to help tagging what kinds of recommendations can be made.

Discussion of Committee Reports
- What did people walk away with AFT presentation?
  - Because this is 1st person brought in, Transfer of Development Rights was highlighted but it might not be right for everyone. Need to look at other alternatives and do this before we bring him back in August
  - Brought us toolbox and many options with examples from all over country. Tools for protecting land as well as supporting agriculture in other ways. Extremely diverse.
Presenter was excellent. Every question he got he could respond to in some way or point people in the right direction. This group needs to sharpen up their knowledge and give presenter greater clarity about focus of his August presentation

- AWG website: [www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ctahr2001/awg](http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/ctahr2001/awg) offers the following information:
  - Follow-up responses to Bob Wagner
  - Summary of presentation already available on site.
  - Smart growth plans one from New Jersey; agriculture as a rural development economic tool

- Hawaii’s situation is really different from mainland examples because of jurisdictional situation. Did the counties pay attention to the presentation? If they didn’t, alignment becomes difficult. Every planning director talked to Bob. They are using material to different degrees (E.g. Kauai – Joanne Yukimura and county budget director were interested in doing plan for county)

- Every effort has to be site-specific and tailored to the particular needs of that area.
  - Legislative recommendation – May not be best to have State-wide plan. What kinds of Legislation is needed to implement State and County levels?
  - What tools or frameworks would allow flexibility in different areas?

Next Steps
- It was recommended that a venue to discuss the AWG issues would be beneficial
  - A conference called, “Changing Times: Creating Opportunities for Agriculture and Landscape Industries is in the planning process for October 16th Agricultural Conference
  - The focus of this conference is the business of agriculture and landscape industries
  - A session is being planned around the AWG information
  - Keynoter for the conference is David Cole, a former Kailua, Oahu resident. He will focus on an economic approach to Hawaii’s agricultural development. He is offering organic beef, fruits, and vegetables from his farm. “software approach” to his farm management.

Education of Group’s Processes -Where are we as a group? Are we going to get to the point where we can come up with recommendations people can live with? (Hashimoto)

- Some concern is about us having to rush to get something done by November. The focus should not be only this piece of legislation, but want to emphasize the importance of the effort to preserve agriculture. Don’t want to rush and as a result effort ends.
- Need to create a brain trust to produce some legislation. Elevate thinking at a high level which is general in nature and can apply to entrepreneurs of all sizes while

Enterprise Honolulu 6/27/03
maintaining open space, environment, sound, etc. Don’t want it focusing on any specific locality. May need drafting committee to start working on this.

- Wants to present some kind of framework to help identify significant agricultural lands. Sub-committee will hopefully generate this information and get agreement on it. Then, it can be presented to larger group.
- Are statewide criteria realistic when it is so difficult to do at even island-wide level?
- Might want to look at specific areas and generate generalized criteria that are necessary. To what extend do they exist in different areas?
- Within each district, community development plan has to identify important agricultural lands. If don’t think it doesn’t exist, need to justify why.
- If go down designation road agreement will be difficult.
- Need to identify where State and County have to invest resources to support agriculture (e.g. support water systems)
- Must come at it in a very intentional way
- Within 60-70 days, have to decide if group is going to develop:
  - Land use mechanism
  - Enabling incentives mechanism
  - Both
- Solution will be mathematical and have economic focus
  - Nothing solves dilemma – all is a feasibility issue > create environment to encourage that agriculture
  - E.g. Kona coffee region – only region to make money

Identify lands – where are the opportunities and provide tools/techniques

- Leave regulatory issues > secondary issue
- Identify regions:
  - Not designate areas not workable

Once identified –

- Not penalized – but provide incentives
  - Climate to become successful enterprises
  - Have to help agriculture
- Certain level of attention to change out of agriculture
- Provide right body of tools

Incentives

- Small amount of land; increased pressure for development
- Development is in appropriate places, but unchecked without regulations – lands will be gone
- Right set of incentives
  - Research, regulatory, community – demand local grown
- If viable – definition in Hawaii changes
  1. What is potential
  2. What is value
  3. Highest/Best use – used to preserve agriculture
  4. Have we accounted for all features
5. What is it contributing
Difficult for group to ever reach consensus
  • But can come up with something meaningful
  • Report identification issues – make it readable/understandable

Task: Assist legislature to show diverse options

Are points of agreement –
  Creating common context
  Focus on few key issues
  Identify key things > create critical mass for change

It is important to remember that the learning curve is steep, but that we are all moving forward, pulling together the puzzle. Often when one wants to sit on a rock and cry, all sudden it all comes together! Let’s stay together and keep working!

Send clear recommendations > learning a lot

It appears that one of the mission elements is Environmental Quality. We must continue to keep environmental questions in equation.

Issues that will drive the industry may be simple and practical such as practical water, land, transportation/marketing, but the demand will be based on issues such as safe foods. Within this framework all issues, jurisdiction, feasibility, criteria – need to be addressed. Though it sometimes appears chaotic, we have come a long way.

It is very much a possibility—we now are forming a common context; and in so doing the legislature will be able to support the industry. It may be able creating enabling legislation that will translate to action. It is very much reality – it can happen!