INTRODUCTION:

The AWG meeting focused on creating the framework as a result of the meetings from the AWG general meetings and the subcommittee meetings. The intent is to set a general direction for possible legislative and program proposals. More work will be needed to provide the recommendation and actions on this framework, coming from the subcommittees.

GOALS:

Reaffirm the importance of the role of agriculture in Hawaii’s economic future and provide a package of incentives and supports that promotes and sustains agriculture in Hawaii.

Revise land use framework that distinguishes agricultural areas from rural areas in both the County and State.

State and County develop a comprehensive agriculture strategy/plan in collaboration with stakeholders and fund the implementation.

Common themes from Café that need to be incorporated:

- Home Rule
- Conservation & protection of agricultural lands

Discussion

In the initial merging of information from the café there was an over emphasis on the land use, whereas within the AWG meetings and subcommittee meetings there is more discussion on agriculture as an industry and the viability of that industry.

Common themes:

- Important agriculture lands is only one component of what makes for successful agriculture
- Agricultural activity is what keeps agricultural lands alive
- “Preservation” is a term that is not within the constitution. Instead the term is “conservation.”
- A structure of how IAL is identified because of the constitution tells us that we need to conserve IAL.
- IAL can be whatever we define to support a broad list of ag activities listed in first paragraph of constitution.
- There is no formal designation of important agricultural lands at this time
  - Implementation must be kept in mind
    - Some lands not usable for ag: identified by State, but not implemented by county (e.g. gulches, steep land)
  - Product will provide DOA with a roadmap that enables it to determine how it supports ag and conserves ag lands
  - Rural land use is also a strong theme that has come out of our discussion.
(The following was submitted by Kathy Sokugawa as a way to ensure that the goals are met.)

**DESIRED OUTCOMES**

- A stable land resource, large enough to sustain an agriculture industry today and tomorrow, import- and export-based
- Ongoing opportunities for new farmers, new technologies, and new crops/products
- A reasonable return for landowners
- A reasonable return for farmers (as landowners, families, tenants, or subtenants)
- Support systems that respond to sudden market shifts, economic and resource crises
STATE CONSTITUTION

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution provides:

The State shall conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands. The legislature shall provide standards and criteria to accomplish the foregoing.

Lands identified by the State as important agricultural lands needed to fulfill the purposes above shall not be reclassified by the State or rezoned by its political subdivisions without meeting the standards and criteria established by the legislature and approved by a two-thirds vote of the body responsible for the reclassification or rezoning action.