

Draft

**STATE OF HAWAI‘I
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
L & R Farms
2030 Farrington Ave.
Kaunakakai, HI. 96748**

Due to the threat of COVID-19, Governor Ige issued the most recent Emergency Twenty First Supplementary Proclamation dated June 7, 2021 that suspend parts of Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Chapter 92, Public Agency Meetings and Records to, among other things, enable boards to conduct business without any board members or members of the public physically present at the same location.

The OHA Board of Trustees will hold virtual meetings until further notice. The virtual meetings can be viewed and observed via livestream on OHA’s website at www.oha.org/livestream or listen by phone: (213) 338-8477

**Moloka‘i Site Visit Summary
Office of Hawaiian Affairs
Board of Trustees
Summary Report
July 18, 2022 – 10:30 A.M.**

ATTENDANCE:

Chairperson Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Trustee Kaleihikina Akaka
Trustee B. Kalei‘āina Lee
Trustee Luana Alapa
Trustee Keli‘i Akina
Trustee Dan Ahuna

BOT STAFF:

Lehua Itokazu
Kanani Iaea
Dayna Pa
Crayn Akina
Brandon Mitsuda
Reuben Sierra
Pohai Ryan
Anuheia Diamond

ADMINISTRATION:

Capsun Poe,
Alice Silbanuz

GUEST:

Lyn Decoite
XXXXX
RJ
XXXXX
Walter Rawlins

I. Call to Order

Site visit starts at 11:00 a.m. The site visit starts late and everyone gathers on Maunaloa Hwy.

II. Introduction

III. Site Visit

A. L & R Farms



Decoite Shares how he and wife, Lynn both grew up on Moloka‘i working on family farms. Lynn worked on her 3rd generation family farm farming the and he worked

Together, they now grow the sweet potato that Lynns grandmother grew. They are third generation farmers and their kids are fourth generation farmers. They are trying their best to encourage their children to be active in the family farm because it is rare to find forth generation farmers.

They had difficult selling their crop early on and decided to promote their product to hotels and chefs. The story of their third generation owned farm was featured in restaurants and has a specific niche that theya re able to cater to.

He explains that the reason why you do not see their potatos in big chain stores is the cost to grow the potatoes and the market price that they would have to sell it the store would not be profitable. There is no way they could stay in business. They are able to sell a quality potato and a better price by selling to the hotels and restaurants directly, creating value added.

COVID affected their farm because hotels and restaurants were shut down. Product was at a halt and their 500 acres were not producing. They are slowly starting up again and anticipate the Asian markets opening back up. They are are planting an acre a week so that he can harvest an acre a week. The thought behind this is so they do not flood the market. The potato takes six months to grow and this will allow fresh product when needed.

They explain that they use MIS water on the particular property that they showing. The farm is on DHHL land which gives them priority on the first two thirds of water. They explain any water restrictions of cut-backs will affect them and they will uphold the same restrictions for the area they are farming. Having vast amount of land allows the farm to rotate planting or keeping the land fallow. They look forward to getting their product back into the market



IV. Public Testimony

None

V. Announcements

None

VI. Adjournment

The site visit ended at :00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lehua Itokazu
Board Secretary

Site Visit Minutes Approved at Board of Trustees Meeting on XXXXXX, 2021.

Carmen Hulu Lindsey
Chairperson, Board of Trustees