



Department
of Agriculture
& Biosecurity

STATE OF HAWAII

JDC – AEN Info Briefing

Impacts of federal policy changes and grant funding

State Capitol
Room 016 / 10:00 AM
October 16, 2025

Sharon Hurd, Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

Impacts of Federal Policies

- **Positive -- Farmers First (includes Ranchers, Growers)**
 - Programs that favor PRODUCTION
 - America First – Hawaii is a STATE – address barriers
 - Payments DIRECT to farmers and ranchers (small state grant)
 - MAHA Opportunities – focus on health, nutraceuticals
 - Restore the “American Diet” – beef, animal proteins, full fat milk
- **Deglobalization and Slowbalization**
 - Global economic trade disruptions
 - Global election tensions, domestic deficits and distractions
 - Climate change – no water, fires “everywhere”
 - Inflation, recession, food production decreasing
 - Social services and support decreasing – insecurity “3 meals”

Federal Grants Awarded FY26/27

Total \$13,552,727

DAB Division	Federal Agency	Description	Amount (\$)	Status
Plant Industry	Dept of Interior	BTS	425,000	Recurring
Plant Industry	USDA / APHIS	Seed Inspection	2,500	Recurring
Plant Industry	USDA / EPA	Performance Partnership	332,325	Recurring
Animal Industry	USDA / APHIS	Animal Health Surveillance Animal Health Tech Services	98,620 24,408	Recurring
Quality Assurance	USDA / AMS	Egg Products Inspection Inspection/Grading of Fishery County of Origin Labeling	37,424 20,000 35,000	Recurring
Agricultural Dev	USDA / AMS	Specialty Crop Block Grant	500,000	Recurring
Agricultural Dev	USDA / AMS	Microgrants for Food Security	3,200,000	Suspended
Chairperson's Office	USDA / FSA	Small States Block Grant	8,899,450	One-time

Federal Grant Activity FY24/25

Estimated loss \$22,162,000

Grant Writer activity (CHR Office)	Federal Partners	Description	Amount (\$)	Status
Farm to School	USDA / AMS	Farm to School	500,000	Submitted 1/10/25 Termination 3/25
WaterSMART	Dept of Interior	Move delivery of water underground	3,000,000	Application started Funding paused
Solar Powered Generator	Dept of Interior	Energy improvements for Rural Areas (Molokai)	4,812,000	Termination 6/9/25
Local Food Purchase	USDA / AMS	Local Food Purchase	1,210,000	Opportunity eliminated
Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resistance	Department of Commerce/NOAA	Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resistance	1,385,000	Submitted 4/16/25
CDS Earmarks	CODEL - Senators	PSPS Back-up for Molokai Clean Plant Initiative	4,000,000 1,750,000	Submitted (moving) Submitted (not funded)
Plant Industry	USDA / 7721	Two projects	322,708	Submitted 8/25
Counties – Kauai, Hawaii, Maui	EDA Disaster Supplemental	Industry Transformation	Up to \$50M	In progress – due 3/26

Impact on Farmers and Ranchers

- Hawaii farms decreased 10% from 2017 to 2022
 - 7,328 to 6,569 (759)
 - Nationally, 2.04 million to 1.90 million – a 6.9% decline
- Agriculture relies on farmers and ranchers
 - Farms are on decline – global pressures
 - Reliance on imports is not strategic when deglobalization and slowbalization is the trend

THANK YOU