



David Rietow

Agriculture

Introduction to David Rietow

- ▶ President of Agricon Hawai`i, Inc.
- ▶ Involved in Hawai`i's agriculture for 40 years with diversified crops
- ▶ His experience includes operations management for pineapple, cut flowers, macadamia, and tropical fruit. Within the scope of operations management is project planning and economic analysis for tropical crops, irrigation design and installation, and water systems management.

Productivity Classifications

- ▶ Land Study Bureau: B, C, D and E
- ▶ ALISH: prime Agricultural Land, Other Agricultural Land

Agricultural Suitability of HoKua Place

- ▶ Strong trade winds throughout the property are a negative factor for agriculture
- ▶ Costly windbreaks would be required to protect crops
- ▶ Salt spray can limit crop selection, damage production and decrease quality and sale price
- ▶ Proximity of Kapaa Middle School and residential subdivisions requires extensive buffers and care in farming practices to prevent dust, spray drift and noise

Lack of Agricultural Infrastructure at HoKua Place

- ▶ County water is available, but expensive
- ▶ Must install irrigation system, farm roads, and equipment and materials storage building
- ▶ Must design and plant windbreaks
- ▶ Extensive brush clearing and application of soil amendments required

Agricultural Land on Kauaʻi

- ▶ 139,305 acres classified for agriculture of which 63,244 acres in active agriculture on Kauai
- ▶ All except 21,310 acres in livestock (pasture)
- ▶ Only 2,314 acres in production of food crops, primarily taro and tropical fruit
- ▶ 76,000 acres of ag land on Kauai not presently in production

Food Sustainability on Kauaʻi

- ▶ Lack of skilled and unskilled agricultural labor on Kauai
- ▶ Lack of agricultural infrastructure
- ▶ Lack of marketing
- ▶ Cost of food security and transportation - Imported food is cheaper than locally grown

Conclusion on Agricultural Suitability of HoKua Place

- ▶ Reclassification of 96 acres of ag land surrounded by urban development will have a minimal impact on Kauai's ability to feed its population
- ▶ Lack of farmers and farm labor a bigger problem