



**ALOHA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION**  
**MEETING MINUTES –06/20/2018 - APPROVED**  
**Dixie Grill, Aiea, HI**

Members in Attendance: Desiree Page, Andrew Kendall, Angela Liu, Justin Donahue, Kainoa Holt, J Zambo, Kevin Eckert  
Guests: Diane Eckert

1. Call to Order and Approval of Meeting Minutes of 05/16/18 - The meeting was called to order at 6:34 pm. The May minutes were approved with no changes.
2. Reports of Officers and Standing Committees
  - a) Treasurer's Report – Desiree paid for web hosting by Infoquest, a cost of about \$130.
  - b) Research Committee (Chair: Dudley Hulbert) – The point was made that AAA hasn't been active in the research domain in recent years. A discussion followed, with the points below expressed:
    - AAA should examine whether this is a central part of its mission.
    - Arboriculture practitioners need research on diagnosis and treatments of tropical diseases.
    - There are new pest introductions into Hawaii, with insufficient information known or accessible to practitioners.
    - A few possible research topics were discussed, such as developing a chart for tropical species green wood weight.
  - c) Training Committee (Chair: Andrew Kendall)
    - i) Aerial Rescue Training (Justin Donahue) – The training is proposed to take place at Lyon Arboretum, on the Saturday of either August 11<sup>th</sup> or August 25<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii) Beginner Chainsaw Safety Workshop (Dudley Hulbert) – Tabled.
    - iii) UGC Abiotic Disorders, 09/02/18 (Dudley Hulbert) – Dudley is putting together an outline for the program.
    - iv) Proposed Fids and Fibers Rope Splicing Class (Angela Liu) – An email was sent out to AAA's general subscriber list to advertise this event opportunity. Interested parties were asked to contact Mark Przekurat directly so he can determine if there's enough interest.
    - v) Certified Tree Worker Prep Course (Andrew Kendall) – Andrew is moving this topic off the agenda at this time in order to focus on other events that are currently priority.
  - d) Tree Jamboree Committee (Chair: Andrew Kendall) – Hawaii Island, February 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – Mike Kraus is coordinating with state park officials to reserve the camp and cabin areas. Justin reviewed some of the organizational tasks that will need to be done, such as outlining rules for the climbing events, selecting officials and judges. This event will need a budget estimate. Andrew, Desiree and Justin will be working together to plan the event.
3. Reports of Special Committees
  - a) Western Chapter Regional Conference in Hawai'i, August 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 (Angela Liu) – Planning is under way to hold the conference on Tuesday to Friday on Oahu, Kauai, Maui and Hawaii Island respectively. Facility reservations were being worked out on each of the islands, and AAA is preparing a budget and information worksheet to be provided to Ty McDonald, this year's lead coordinator, to submit to WCISA for approval. As soon as facilities and other critical details have been confirmed, AAA will send out a "Mark Your Calendar" to our statewide subscriber list and market the event.

- b) LICH Annual Conference – Request for Speakers, Arborist / Contractor Track (Sergio Vasquez) – Sergio and Angela contacted potential speakers, with limited results. Justin Donahue and Steve Nimz will be presenting. Other local experts will be contacted to continue the search. The deadline for Speaker Abstracts is July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### 4. Unfinished Business and General Orders

- a) Summer Volunteer Workday (Dudley Hulbert) – Tabled.
- b) ISA Publications order (Angela Liu) – The order was delivered and is in the process of being distributed.
- c) ISA Certified Arborist / Tree Worker Exams, Saturday 04/14/2018 (Desiree Page) – Desiree contacted ISA to gain some insight and feedback on how to improve the Aerial Rescue Training; no results are available yet.
- d) Proposed Changes to AAA Website (Desiree Page) – Desiree is adding a “Members Only” section to facilitate registration for AAA events; the website storage capacity will be increased to accommodate this change. Desiree proposed that AAA redesign its website, in part to meet legal requirements for achieving non-profit status. The proposed cost was about \$1,000. The question was raised as to whether the goals could be achieved with improved maintenance other less costly fixes. She will share a more detailed proposal with the rest of the board when it’s available.

#### 5. New Business

- a) Fundraising for Kauai and Big Island Flooding (Desiree Page) - Bobby Burritt is interested in holding an event to raise donations for victims of flooding from recent months’ rainstorms. The event would be similar to Sherrill Tree’s Arbor Fest. There was general agreement that AAA can offer to publicize the event. Desiree will be in contact with Bobby.
- b) Pest of the Month – Potassium Deficiency of Palms – Presented by J Zambo  
Potassium deficiency causes chlorotic and necrotic speckling of leaflets, scorched leaf tips, and mosaic patterning of various palm species. J shared a highly informative handout from the University of Hawaii, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources. Arborists should understand how to diagnose and treat this common condition.

##### Reference:

- “Potassium Deficiency of Palms in Hawai‘i,” *Plant Disease* (July 2012), PD-89, by Scot Nelson and Erik Patnude, University of Hawaii at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources.

#### e) Announcements

- a) Lyon Arboretum is holding its Tree Party / Centennial Party on August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- b) Jaymie Grzebik of the Master Gardeners’ program is developing an app to connect tree care companies with schools needing mulch.
- c) ***Please join us on:***


*July 18th, 2018, 6:30pm – Monthly Meeting at Dixie Grill, Pearl City*

- f) Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Angela Liu

Handouts:  
(Page 1 provided for reference)



**College of Tropical Agriculture  
and Human Resources**  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

**Plant Disease**  
July 2012  
PD-89


## Potassium Deficiency of Palms in Hawai'i

Scot Nelson and Erik Patnude  
Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences

**O**f the more than one thousand palm species, many play important cultural, aesthetic, medicinal, and culinary roles in indigenous and contemporary societies. Among the leading agricultural palms, *Cocos nucifera* (coconut palm) has fruits valued at more than US\$6 billion annually. Coconut oil accounts for US\$2.9 billion of that amount, and processed fresh coconuts, desiccated coconuts, husk material, and kernel or shell products are worth US\$3.1 billion (Smith et al. 2009).

A key to growing healthy palms in nurseries, on farms, and in landscapes is to ensure that they receive adequate nutrition. Palms in Hawai'i commonly display symptoms of deficiencies of a number of essential elements, including nitrogen, magnesium, boron, and potassium. Various factors may cause these deficiencies, such as insufficient fertilizer applications, heavy rainfall, nutrient-poor soils, bad horticultural practices, and drought or insufficient irrigation.

Deficiency diseases are not infectious, but unless managed properly the symptoms can mar landscapes, prevent the sale of potted palms, reduce coconut yield, and eventually cause plant death. Here we discuss a common nutrient deficiency disease of palms in Hawai'i: the lack of potassium. We illustrate the typical symptoms of this disease and suggest practices that may be combined to prevent or treat it.



**Potassium**

Potassium is one of the key elements necessary for palm health and is required in relatively large amounts. Potassium facilitates many functions in plants, including photosynthesis, enzyme activation, and osmoregulation. It aids in the production of adenosine triphosphate (ATP), which affects the rate of photosynthesis, and acts as a catalyst for over 60 enzymatic processes related to plant growth (Armstrong 2012). Osmoregulation affects the pressure within a plant cell: potassium controls the opening and closing of stomata, the small openings in leaves that regulate gas exchange, plant cooling, and transpiration (Johnston 2010); thus, if potassium levels are low, plant leaves develop symptoms of water stress (Armstrong 2012). Palms may also become more susceptible to disease if important elements, including potassium, nitrogen, boron, and magnesium, are out of balance in soils.

Potassium occurs in soils in several forms. Minerals such as feldspar and mica contain much natural potassium, but it is not available to plants until released. However, soils high in potassium-rich minerals tend to have more available potassium than soils low in these minerals. Mineralized potassium is gradually changed to the plant-available state, the potassium ion (K<sup>+</sup>). The potassium ion is attached to soil particles based on the cation exchange capacity (CEC) of the soil. When K<sup>+</sup> is

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