



**Aloha Arborist Association
Monthly Meeting
February 16th, 2022 6:30pm**

In attendance: Desiree Page, Sergio Vasquez, Angela Liu, Dudley Hulbert, Nicolette Van Der Lee, Rebekah Morton, Sophia Colella, Tylor Schwartze, Steve Connolly

1. Call to Order - 6:41PM

2. Welcome Guests and introducing Administrative Assistant, Shanda Lee-Barrios

Rebekah Morton- student at Leeward Community College (LCC) in the Sustainable Ag. program. Studying for ISA test.

Guest Speaker – Nicolette Van Der Lee, Program Manager of Hana Career Pathways at University of Hawaii Community Colleges- email NVH@hawaii.edu

a. Offering a preparation course for the ISA Certified Arborist exam

- 3 year work force development grant. 1 of 8 states to receive. \$13.3 million in federal funding.
- What types of short-term trainings to provide to residents to earn a live able wage? The highest top earning jobs are in health care, technology, skill trades (ag & conservation, etc)
- STUDENT CRITERIA- Provide tuition for unemployed or underemployed- less than \$20per hour, working less than 20 hours a week, or earning less than \$38,000 a year.
- Would like to have arborist certification tests available statewide
- Mahi Pono (Maui) looking to add 100's of employees, wants them all to have certifications.
- Wants to collaborate with AAA to develop curriculum.
- Wants training to be statewide
- Train the trainer, travel funds to bring in trainers from other islands available.
- Requirements for trainers- schedule through local community colleges, hired short term. -college degree, 2 years work experience. If no degree, then 7 years work experience.
- Online/ hybrid classes an option
- Multi-island online cohorts within person parts being done at community colleges.
- 50% discount for employed residents (different program?)
- Employers can pay for the course if the student does not meet tuition assistance requirements
- **WHAT THEY NEED FROM AAA:** instructors, program guides, and recruiting.
- With other programs available Native Hawaiian participates can get up to \$1,000 in support.

Steve- Windward Community College held a similar training- night/ weekend classes are a good option, due to industry constraints. Sent contact info directly to Nicolette.

Desiree- are you aware of requirements for ISA certification? 3 years of experience & someone to sign off on experience certificate. **DESIREE TO DO-** get Nicolette in contact with someone to figure out ISA cohort acceptance if it is even possible.

Dudley- has someone to recommend assisting with program guidelines. (NAME?)

-would recommend someone who has already proven themselves in the industry, rather than someone who does not know the industry. Dudley will email contact info to Nicolette directly.

3. Unfinished Business and General Orders

a. Annual Meeting

i. All positions are up for reelection

- Need nominations for all positions
- Angela Liu- historically, AAA has a nomination committee– (Dudley, Sergio, & Desiree)
- Desiree- nominates Tyler for president, Steven 2nd. (2 votes as of now)
- Board of 8- A past president, President, VP, Treasure, Secretary, & 3 additional board members. Need a majority of people for vote for forms. 8 people & president does not vote unless it's to break a tie.
- Board is currently only at 7- president gets to vote.

4. New Business

- #### a. HDOA requesting feedback on Draft Interim Rule and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Compliance Agreement – document is not publicly available yet

STEVE'S COMMENTARY

- HDOA drafted an Interim Rule for transporting mulch on Oahu. This is a Statewide program. Quarantine area will be on Oahu.
- Processed material (chipped material) needs to be regulated.
- Dept of Ag drafting policy & RCUH is enforcing/ regulating/
- If a business generates over 3 cubic yards of mulch, it needs to be delivered to an approved facility. If mulch is delivered to anyone who is not on the approved list, fines could be imposed. (Unsure if this applies to residents as well)
- Only 11 business are currently permitted for processing mulch (Oahu)
- Only 2 businesses accept mulch from the public. (Oahu) Hawaiian Earth Products one of the only companies on Oahu that will/is qualify/ed.
- This interim rule should be free of charge if they want this to be manageable.
- Possible fines and fees may be applied to businesses
- May pass with very little to no public input.
- Is likely to move to other islands
- Trying to line up meeting early march to express concerns. Steve willing to facilitate meeting with other AAA members.
- See section 3 on transport.

- If not disposing green waste at an approved site; 5 criteria must be met. (Input later)
- Desiree- the assumption is that to be hired you have to have this compliance agreement. Restricts companies from operating & trimming. Restricts business owners & property owners from hiring. Restricts green waste facilities from accepting material. **DESIREE TO DO:** follow up and try to get a UpToDate version of the proposed rule..
- The CRB response team has 3 dogs that are trained in sniffing for CRB.
- Sergio- will affect everyone, no one will be able to get mulch. If they are dumping less than 3 cubic yards does that mean it does not have to be dumped at a certified facility? Should notify all the tree companies so they can express their concerns, as they likely do not know about the proposed rule.
- Rebekah-LCC- is a hotspot for CRB. They have not been applying mulch to plants. Compost is in an enclosed box- not efficient.
- Carol Kwan was approached about this Interim Rule- and provided preliminary comments as a member of the industry (not on behalf of AAA).
- Angela- suggested sending out an email to the AAA subscribers & alert them about this.
- Steve- suggest that AAA should wait until we receive a response from HDOA before taking next steps.
- Dudley- how will this be enforced?

5. Committee and Officer Reports

a. Treasurers Report

b. Training

- Certified Arborist exam April 9th, 2022.
- Need to get another training planned soon. Possibly AR & First Aid & CPR

c. Jamboree

6. Announcements

- \$20,000 in accounts combined
- Membership drive will begin soon.

Closed meeting 8:16PM

Join us for our next monthly meeting!

March 16th at 6:30pm via Zoom