

On Apr 4, 2014, at 4:08 PM, Chin Lee wrote:

Aloha Ms. Hoban: I want to thank you for your notes you sent in today's e mail. I also want to acknowledge your e mail yesterday and the call message left on my phone; 4/3/2104. At 1022 yesterday, I had just completed class and had an oral "exam" for a graduate student. The afternoon was spent to help my undergraduate and graduate students finalizing their work for the coming CTAHR and College of Engineering Student Research Symposium this Friday. Always a last minute scramble on data, poster layout, practices, etc. Hence next week would be a crazy time given I have 5 students involved.

[\[http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/symposium/\]](http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/symposium/)

I have chosen to copy my response to the following:

- a) Dr. Carl Evenson, Interim Assoc. Dean for Extension.
- b) Mr. Roy Yamakawa, Administrator for Cooperative Extension Service, Kauai
- c) Mr. Matt Stevenson, Extension Livestock Agent, Kauai.

In extension, we work through and with our respective peers as they are the ones closest to the issue.

Hawaii Dairy Farm (HDF)

Although I am aware of this new venture, I am NOT involved. The only involvement are dated below:

- a) Aug. 19, 2013 - 9:25 am a msg. left by Mr. Jim Garmatz (?)
- b) Aug. 21, 2013 - 10:25 am I left a msg. to him as a return call.
- c) Aug. 26, 2013 - talked with Jim G who was in a rushed. Was informed he is from Tx and is the project lead for HDF. Wanted to plant Kikuyu grass. Current site had guinea grass. Was told the recommendation came from their consultants. I had said guinea grass would be hard to eliminate. He had a flight to catch and will call again after his return.

Since the brief conversation, there have been no further contact or communication. Frankly, I do not even know how he looks like. I am aware that my name had been mentioned on numerous occasions.

You will note the following:

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!msg/ar-news/aen-KCHaP48/Mgwi1ive4y8J>

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http://thegardenisland.com/news/local/got-milk-drink-up-kauai/article_4f905fcc-5a4b-11e3-b9da-0019bb2963f4.html

<http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/24117696/dairy-farm-coming-to-kauai>

http://ulupono.com/news_posts/ulupono-initiative-brings-grass-fed-dairy-to-kauai-with-the-formation-of-hawaii-dairy-farms

<http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/news/2013/12/02/pierre-omidyars-ulupono-initiative.html>

http://thegardenisland.com/news/opinion/guest/dairy-farm-proposal-is-no-gift-to-kauai-residents/article_e2f2cd08-7e73-11e3-8b20-0019bb2963f4.html

In all the above news, neither CTAHR nor I was involved. HDF has their own consultants for the project. I think that is very clear.

I fully recognized that there are many experts out in the open market. It is difficult to comment without review the original report. Moreover, we can have our own bias given our experiences. Everyone has an opinion.

There are over 129 species of Kikuyu we are aware of. Only some have data available on growth rate. I am not sure what is being grown.

All plants have growth "zone". It is not uncommon for many home garden books to show this. (Example: <http://www.bhg.com/gardening/plant-dictionary/perennial/iris/>). This zone are for optimal productivity. Hence, the question is not if the plant would grow, but if it would be productive at a given site. The fact that the site was filled with guinea grass to begin with would be telling.

The massive budget cut to UHM in recent years had basically made it impossible for us to visit neighbor islands. Hence I have to make further assumption (now assumptions can be just like opinions littered by biases), some plots must have been planted at the site, Mahau'lepu .To sustain the desire goal you expressed in your mail, the site must yield 80-100 pounds of DM min. per ac. every 18 days. Very challenging (considering this plant, animal and environmental interactions). The evidence may already be on the ground.

However, things can be very different if the number of animals reduced. Then it is a different ball game.

I hope I have provided you with some clarity. It is best and most productive if the concerns could be work through our local extension office. It would allow for greater efficiency and coordinated response. They would also have rapid access to the site for more "trained eye" evaluation.

I want to thank you for the opportunity to assist. I will be tied up much of next week with classes, field trips and the coming research symposium. Have a great weekend

aloha and thank you for trusting and supporting CTAHR/CES.
cnlee