

# Hawaii Agriculture Mediation Program

Joy Gold



ONLINE



FIELD/ 1on1



CLASSROOM



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**For Hawaii Agriculture Producers**

# **Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program (HIAMP)**

**Training Opportunities on Agribusiness and  
Farming Practices – ORC&D**

**Saturday, September 24, 2016**

Visit [www.hiamp.org](http://www.hiamp.org) or Call 1-808-447-1790



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## **Ag Dispute or Problem?**

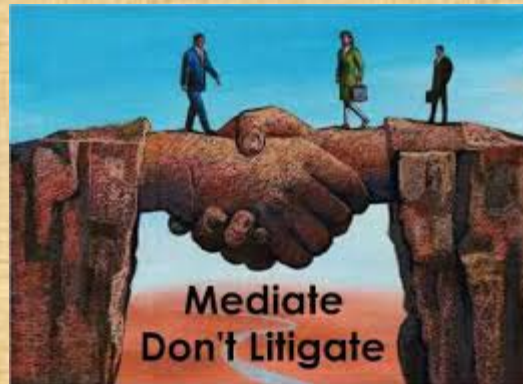
- Government Agency**
- Creditor**
- Neighbor**

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Not Sure Where to Turn For Help?

Mediation is an alternative to litigation





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## What is Mediation?

- ✓ **Where two or more parties meet with an impartial person**
- ✓ **It's Voluntary, Confidential Participation**
- ✓ **Decision making power remains with the parties**

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## What the Mediator Brings to the Table



“Neutral” party who meets **privately** and in **confidence** with the stakeholders

- Identify opportunities and obstacles to building agreement

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### What the Mediator Brings to the Table

- ❖ Creates safe space for discussions
- ❖ Absorbs heat, reflect light
- ❖ Focuses on Issues
- ❖ Prioritizes interests for productive discussion
- ❖ Stimulates discussion to generate options



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### Benefits of Mediation

- ❖ Provides informal and impartial setting
- ❖ Allows parties familiar with the dispute to create tailored solutions
- ❖ Encourages open communication and relationship building

May save parties time and money







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# When Is the Best Time To Mediate? The Earlier, The Better

- Flexibility of parties
- Increased number of options
- Prior to being stuck in positions



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### Obstacles for Early Mediation

- ❖ Hope that problem will go away
- ❖ Ripeness – Perception that situation is not ready
- ❖ Personal Negotiation Style
  - Straightforward, good faith
  - Ask for more, compromise



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## **INTRODUCING HIAMP**

- ❖ USDA and HDOA certified agricultural mediation program for Hawaii (2011)
- ❖ Program of the non-profit Environmental Mediation Center (Vermont, New Hampshire, Hawaii, California)

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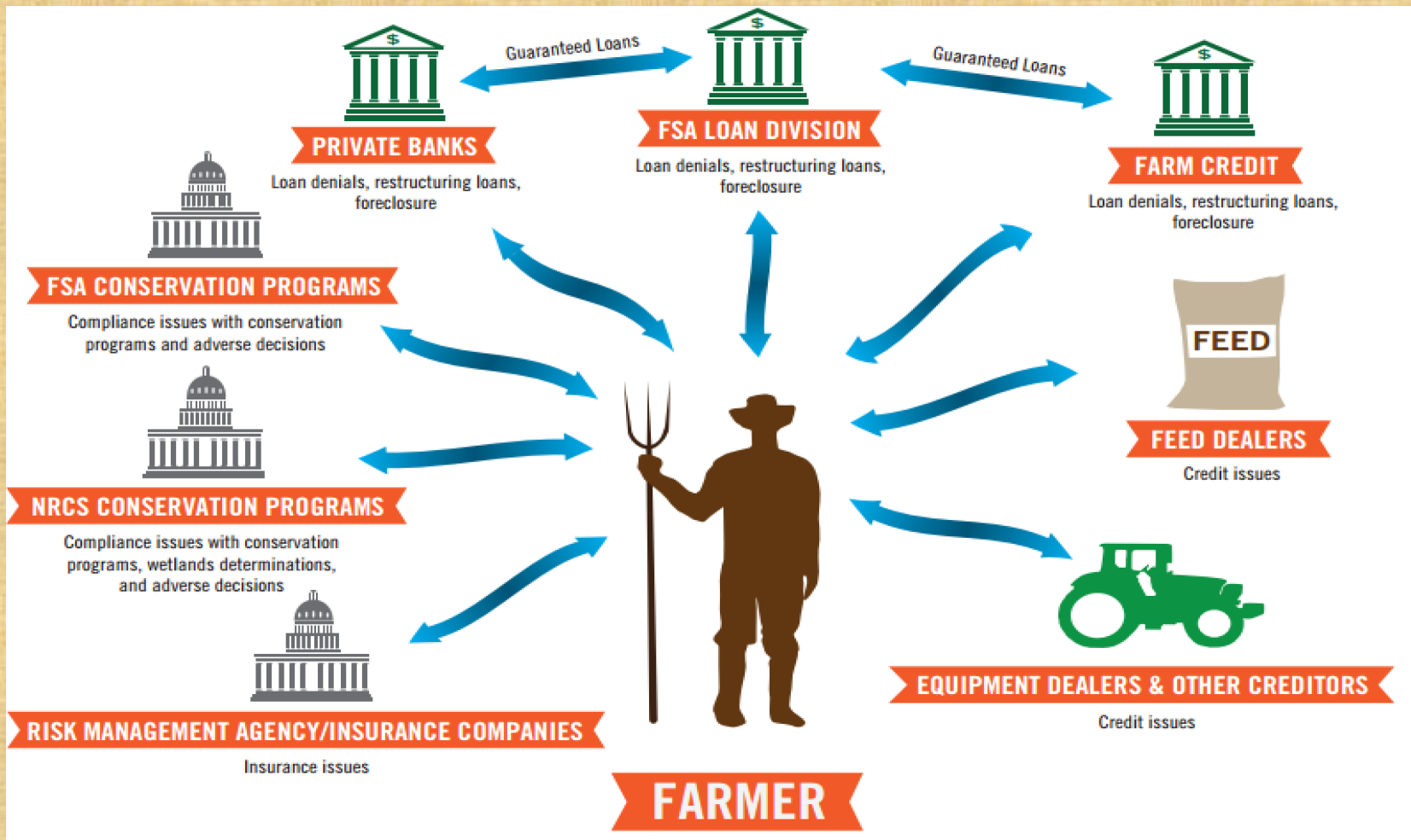
### HIAMP PURPOSE

- ❖ Assist agricultural producers, their creditors and USDA agencies address loan problems, creditors and various other agricultural disputes.
- ❖ **40** States do this in a confidential and non- adversarial setting outside of the traditional legal process of foreclosure, bankruptcy, appeals and litigation.



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## Cost of Mediation?

- ❖ Free for Issues Within the USDA Program
  
- ❖ Other agricultural issues
  - free if there is available funding,
  - otherwise fee charged

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## WHO WILL MEDIATE THE DISPUTE?

HIAMP'S local, qualified mediators with specialized training in agricultural issues





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# **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Hawaii Agricultural Mediation Program  
c/o Hawaii Department of Agriculture  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
Matt Strassberg, [info@emcenter.org](mailto:info@emcenter.org)  
 [\(808\) 447-1790 ext. 101](tel:(808)447-1790)  
[Toll Free: \(800\) 511-2213](tel:(800)511-2213)

Outreach Coordinators  
Oahu and Kauai: ext. 106  
Big Island: ext. 107  
Maui, Molokai, Lanai: ext. 108





**Title:** Agriculture Mediation Services

**Organization:** HI Agriculture Mediation Program

**Location:** All Islands

**Duration:** Varies

**Estimated cost:** Free for Covered Situations

**Outcome:** Knowledge about problem solving tool for farmers

**Website/link:** [www.hiamp.emcenter.org](http://www.hiamp.emcenter.org)