

Farm Service Agency U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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HONOLULU, HI, Jan. 10, 2022 —The Hawaii State and Pacific Basin U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced the results of the recent county committee elections.

Roy Wall III will serve in Hawaii County representing LAA 2.

Raymond Maki Jr will serve in Kauai County representing LAA 3.

Colleen Lopes will serve in Maui County representing LAA 1.

Ernest Wusstig will serve in Guam County representing LAA 1.

Eugene Ogo will serve in CNMI representing LAA 1, Rota.

"County Committee members are a critical component of the day-to-day operations of FSA," said Shirley Nakamura, Acting State Executive Director. "They help deliver programs at the county level and work to serve the needs of local producers. All recently elected county committee members will take office in January 2022 and will be joining the existing committee."

Every FSA office is served by a county committee made up of local farmers, ranchers and foresters who are elected by local producers.

County committee members impact the administration of FSA within a community by applying their knowledge and judgment to help FSA make important decisions on its commodity support programs, conservation programs, indemnity and disaster programs, emergency programs and eligibility.

County committee members provide a service to local producers through their decision making and ensure the fair and equitable administration of FSA farm programs in their counties. They are accountable to the Secretary of Agriculture. Members conduct hearings and reviews as requested by the state committee, ensure that underserved farmers, ranchers and foresters are fairly represented, make recommendations to the state committee on existing programs, monitor changes in farm programs and inform farmers of the purpose and provisions of FSA programs. They also assist with

outreach and inform underserved producers such as beginning farmers, ranchers and foresters about FSA opportunities.

For more information, visit the FSA website at <u>fsa.usda.gov/elections</u> or contact the your local County FSA office.

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