



BIOGRAPHY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FARM SERVICE AGENCY

December 2010



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Diane Ley is the Hawaii State Executive Director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency in Hawaii and the Pacific Basin.

Diane previously served as the Deputy Director of the County of Hawaii's Department of Research and Development where she oversaw programs in agriculture, energy, tourism, economic development, and community engagement. Prior to that, Diane was the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Hawaii State Board of Agriculture. She also operated a vegetable farm in Volcano and was an administrative assistant with the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

Diane's work and business experience and volunteer efforts have provided her with deep insight into the challenges and opportunities facing agriculture in Hawaii today. She also has a strong grasp of the legislative process at the county, state, and federal levels. She served as a legislative assistant to the Hawaii County Council and this coupled with advocacy efforts for the Farm Bureau has strengthened her skills in affecting policy. Her previous employment with the Hilo Main Street Program provided opportunities to facilitate a small business community in determining its preferred future.

Now a resident of metropolitan Honolulu, Diane relies on her background of 35 years living in rural Volcano to guide her understanding and maintain a strong commitment to Hawaii's rural communities. An alumnus and secretary of the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii, Diane was trained in system-thinking, facilitation and strategic planning.