



USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office

In cooperation with:



Department of Agriculture

STATE OF HAWAII

Agricultural Development Division

# Hawaii Taro Millings

June 17, 2009

## Taro for Poi Production 5 percent Below Year Ago

The USDA, NASS, Hawaii Field Office estimates taro for poi production at 895,000 pounds for the first quarter of 2009. This was 5 percent and 21 percent less than the same quarter of a year ago and the fourth quarter of 2008, respectively.

Taro millers used 315,000 pounds of taro in January a drop of 17 percent from December 2008. The amount of taro used for poi millings then dipped 10 percent to 285,000 pounds in February. Taro for poi millings then increased 4 percent to 295,000 pounds in March.

Weather conditions, during the first quarter of 2009, were mixed. At times conditions were dry, while at other times conditions were wet. Each month in the quarter encountered some unstable

weather conditions which produced some heavy rains and/or flash flooding. A series of cold fronts passed through the State during January producing brief periods of moderate to heavy rainfall, followed by cool northerly winds. Minor flooding accompanied these fronts but no serious damage occurred. February saw brief periods of heavy rainfall during the first half with some minor flooding, especially in Waipio Valley. The second half of the month was noted for its relatively strong cool, dry northerly winds. Trade winds dominated the weather during March, with a couple of heavy rainfall events occurring around the mid-month time period. Moderate to heavy rainfall was generated along with some minor flash flooding. The Hanalei River briefly overflowed its banks during the

Monthly Taro for Poi Millings, State of Hawaii, 5-year average, 2008, and 2009.

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
	<i>1,000 Pounds</i>												
5-year average <sup>1</sup> .....	351	332	349	319	326	330	374	400	381	400	371	407	4,340
2008 <sup>2</sup> .....	330	290	320	335	320	320	425	445	380	380	375	380	4,300
<b>2009</b> .....	<b>315</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>295</b>										
<u>Percent changes:</u>	<i>Percent</i>												
2009/5-year .....	90	86	85										
2009/2008.....	95	98	92										

<sup>1</sup> Years: 2004-2008.

<sup>2</sup> Revised.

Mark E. Hudson, Director  
King Whetstone, Deputy Director

Nils Morita, Research Statistician

# Monthly Taro for Poi Millings State of Hawaii: 2008, 2009, and 5-year averages

