We've just completed my 2nd full year as Director and I can’t express enough how grateful I am to our employees and partners for all the extra effort they give to make PIA the premier conservation agency in the Pacific. We’re serving more customers, putting more conservation on the ground, and collaborating more with traditional and new conservation partners. In total, we’ve obligated almost $14 million dollars in financial assistance; this is the highest amount PIA has ever obligated and it means that more conservation practices will be implemented to conserve and protect critical natural resources on private lands. In collaboration with our partners, we’ve written conservation plans for almost 30,000 acres across the Pacific. Our team should be proud and excited about what we’ve accomplished and what that means for the health of agriculture and our lands across the Pacific.

Our upcoming year, 2020, brings with it new challenges and opportunities for success; we’ll roll-out the Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool, implement the 2018 Farm Bill to its fullest extent, begin the process for streamlining our conservation delivery system in PIA, and focus more on priorities developed through the strategic planning process. Most important will be the relationships we will continue to build with each other, our partners, and our producers. Together, we can accomplish anything we set our minds to; last year’s results showed exactly what we’re capable of doing as a team. Thank you for a great year and I look forward to an even better 2020!
PIA offered the following initiatives in 2019:

- **Regional Conservation Partnership Program project “The Rain Follows the Forest,”** in partnership with Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), protects Hawaii’s forest watersheds and the islands’ ground and surface water by controlling invasive species, planting native trees and shrubs, and fencing to exclude non-native ungulates.

- **Working Lands for Wildlife - Nene** works with landowners on Kauai, Maui, Molokai and Hawaii willing to provide suitable habitat for Nene with the goals of improving habitat and maintaining multiple self-sustaining populations.

- **Two-Lined Spittle Bug Initiative** helps producers in Kealakekua restore cover, prevent erosion, protect water quality and sensitive coral reefs, and prevent degradation of grazing land plant communities affected by the two-lined spittle bug.

- **Joint Chiefs’ Landscape Restoration Initiative “Wildfire Prevention and Invasive Plant Control in West Maui,”** in partnership with the Forest Service and DOFAW, maintains and improves fuel breaks in the wildland-urban interface of West Maui to prevent wildfire damage to forested watershed.

- **Hilo Bay National Water Quality Initiative** targets the reduction of turbidity and nitrate-nitrite levels in Hilo Bay through the implementation of conservation practices on crop, pasture and forest land.