Layer Name: Land Study Bureau (LSB) Detailed Land Classification

Layer Type: Polygon

Status: Complete; currently being updated

Geog. Extent: Main Hawaiian Islands

Projection: Universal Trans Mercator, Zone 4, Meters, NAD 83

Description: Land Study Bureau's Detailed Agricultural land productivity ratings for Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Hawaii.

Source: Land Study Bureau's Detailed Land Classification Aerial Photos hand drafted onto paper overlays of the U.S.G.S., 1:24,000 topographic and orthophoto quads. Ratings were developed for both over-all productivity, and for specific crops. This layer represents only the over-all productivity ratings.

Dates of LSB studies:
Hawaii - 1965
Maui - 1967
Oahu - 1972
Kauai - 1967
Molokai - 1968
Lanai - 1967

History: Digitized in Arc/Info version 7.1.1 using ArcEdit by the Office of Planning (OP), 1998.

Note 1: Lands having the LSB rating of "U," which the Land Study Bureau assigned to built-up or urbanized areas (as of the date of the studies), were not digitized.

Note 2: All classified lands falling within the State Land Use Urban District were deleted from the layer using the 1995 LUDB coverages.

Note 3: Although LSB classification polygons falling within the 1995 LUDB Urban District were deleted from the GIS layer, the classifications themselves still exist – they simply are not represented in this GIS layer. Specifically, there is no provision in State law requiring the rescission of the soil ratings that apply to an area that has been reclassified by the Land Use Commission, e.g., from the Agricultural to Urban districts. Similarly, there is no provision in State law requiring the Detailed Land Classification (Land Study Bureau) bulletins to be reviewed and revised to reflect changes to the land areas for which urban development has occurred.

Attributes: Polygons:

AREA	area of polygon (sq. meters)
PERIMETER	perimeter of polygon (meters)
TYPE	Agricultural Productivity Rating
Island	Island
GISAcres	Acreage, as calculated by GIS software

TYPE	DEFINITION
A-E	Agricultural productivity rating, from A to E, with “A” having the highest rating.

Discussion:

From "A Report on the State of Hawaii Land Evaluation and Site Assessment System" February, 1986, Section IV, pp.23-25):

"Land Study Bureau's Overall Productivity Rating (LSB):

The Land Study Bureau of the University of Hawaii prepared an inventory and evaluation of the State's land resources during the 1960's and 1970's. The Bureau grouped all lands in the State, except those in the urban district**, into homogeneous units of land types; described their condition and environment; rated the land on its over-all quality in terms of agricultural productivity; appraised its performance for selected alternative crops; and delineated the various land types and groupings based on soil properties and productive capabilities.

**Office of Planning note: “urban district,” in this context/document, does not refer to the State Land Use District Boundary “Urban District”, but instead refers lands that were observed to have been “built areas” in the aerial photographs.

These properties included:

a. Texture-which refers to the proportion of sand, silt and clay in a particular soil. Medium-textured soils which have nearly equal proportions of sand, silt and clay are generally the most desirable for agriculture because of good tillability and water retention.

b. Structure-which refers to the cohesion of soil material into aggregates or clumps. The size, shape and amount of these clumps affect the pore spaces which contain the air and moisture necessary for growth.

c. Depth-which refers to the distance to which roots can penetrate. Generally, the deeper the rooting depth, the more desirable the soil because more moisture can be stored and more soil volume is available from which nutrients can be obtained.

d. Drainage-refers to the frequency and duration of soil saturation with moisture.

e. Parent material-refers to the geologic material from which a soil has developed. Soils formed from coral have neutral to alkaline reactions and are high in calcium. Most of the soils have developed from volcanic material and under tropical conditions of high temperature and rainfall. These soils tend to be acid and fertility levels are relatively low.

f. Stoniness-affects the productivity of land by limiting the use of machinery and the selection of crops.

g. Topography-refers to slope and surface configuration. Lands with flat terrain are better suited for a wider variety of agricultural uses than lands having steeper slopes. Cultivated lands generally have slopes of less than 20 percent. Lands with slopes between 20 to 35 percent usually are not machine-tilled, but are still suitable for certain uses such as orchards and grazing.

h. Climate-with its elements of temperature, sunlight and rainfall constitutes the exterior environment of land, unlike the soil properties which constitute the interior segment.

i. Rain-is the basic source of irrigation. Ideally, it should fall at the place, in the quantity and at the time when it is needed.

The interaction of particular soil properties, topography and climate served to differentiate land types and provided a basis for correlating and establishing productivity ratings. A five-class productivity rating system was developed with "A" representing the class of highest productivity and "E" the lowest."

From "Detailed Land Classification - Island of Kauai," December, 1967, Land Study Bureau, pp. 25-27:

"Over-all (Master) Productivity Rating:

The Over-all Productivity Rating evaluates each Land Type in its over-all or general productive capacity and not for any specific crop. Two independent methods were utilized in ascertaining and checking this over-all rating: averaging the Selected Crop Productivity Ratings and application of the Modified Storie Index (6) (7).

....The Modified Storie Rating Index is a formula whereby the productivity index of the land is developed by multiplying the several factors in the formula. The higher the product, the better suited the Land Type is for agricultural uses.

Modified Storie Rating Index = A x B x C x X x Y

A = percentage rating for the general character of the soil profile
B = percentage rating for the texture of the surface horizon
C = percentage rating for the slope of the land
X = percentage rating for such factors as salinity, soil reaction, damaging winds, erosion, etc.
Y = percentage rating for rainfall

The percentage rating for each factor (A, B, C, X and Y) increases as the favorableness of the factor increases. Therefore, it follows that as the land productivity index approaches 100 percent, the agricultural quality of the land increases. Conversely, less desirable lands have low value indexes. The following are the Modified Storie Index percentages and their associated Over-all Productivity Ratings.

Modified Storie Index Percentages	Over-all Productivity Rating
85-100	A
70-84	B
55-69	C
30-54	D
0-30	E

.....each factor is discussed briefly to indicate its role in determining land quality for agricultural purposes:

The ratings for factor A take drainage and depth of the soil profile into consideration. Deep and shallow soils are recognized and differentiated. The nature of the surface soil and subsoil are considered. Parent material and degree of soil development are recognized as they affect fertility, structure, depth, aeration and moisture-holding capacity of the soil.

Factor B, which expresses the texture of the surface soil, reflects the relative workability of the soil as well as its composition of silt, sand and clay. Stony lands, including lava lands, are placed in special categories. The soils are separated into textural groups. Soils are usually expected to react quite similarly when of similar textural groups. Texture is closely associated with moisture-holding capacity and workability of the soil.

Factor C accounts for the variations in the slope of the land. The slope classes are designed to differentiate ease of irrigation and use of mechanical equipment, susceptibility to erosion, amount of surface runoff, and suitability for commercial forest production. In general, slopes exceeding 35 percent are considered too steep for cultivated crops, and slopes greater than 80 percent are assumed impractical for commercial forest production.

Factor X includes the miscellaneous land characteristics such as soil fertility, soil reaction, soil salinity, and presence of strong winds.

Factor Y accounts for rainfall and associated climatic feature. As a general rule, lands in the higher rainfall zones are cloudy and therefore lower in productivity; irrigated lands are rated 100 because the moisture requirement is adequately met. It is the general assumption that where irrigation is required, climate is usually satisfactory for crop production."

Note: For more detailed explanations of the Land Rating criteria, refer to the Land Study Bureau's publications for each island:

Detailed land classification: island of Hawaii. , Honolulu: Land Study Bureau, University of Hawaii, Nov. 1965.
Detailed land classification - island of Kauai. , Honolulu: University of Hawaii, Land Study Bureau, Dec. 1967.
Detailed land classification - island of Lanai. , Honolulu: University of Hawaii, Land Study Bureau, May 1967.
Detailed land classification: Island of Maui. , Honolulu: Land Study Bureau, University of Hawaii, May 1967.
Detailed land classification: Island of Molokai. , Honolulu: Land Study Bureau, University of Hawaii, June 1968.
Detailed land classification: Island of Oahu. , Honolulu: Land Study Bureau, University of Hawaii, Jan. 1963.

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