



Testimony Regarding Docket No. DR16-56 Robinson Family Partners Petition for IAL Designation

Uyehara Joshua USWM

to:

luc@dbedt.hawaii.gov

09/16/2016 06:19 PM

Cc:

Douglas Codiga, "ignacio@hawaii.rr.com", "blaise.boyle@basf.com", "steven.lupkes@basf.com", "james4shrimp@aol.com", "joe.munehika@gmail.com", "judith.rivera@pioneer.com", "mark.takemoto@pioneer.com", "kyap@gayandrobinsom.com"

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From: Uyehara Joshua USWM <joshua.uyehara@syngenta.com> Sort List...

To: "luc@dbedt.hawaii.gov" <luc@dbedt.hawaii.gov>

Cc: Douglas Codiga <dcodiga@schlackito.com>, "ignacio@hawaii.rr.com" <ignacio@hawaii.rr.com>, "blaise.boyle@basf.com" <blaise.boyle@basf.com>, "steven.lupkes@basf.com" <steven.lupkes@basf.com>, "james4shrimp@aol.com" <james4shrimp@aol.com>, "joe.munehika@gmail.com" <joe.munehika@gmail.com>, "judith.rivera@pioneer.com" <judith.rivera@pioneer.com>, "mark.takemoto@pioneer.com" <mark.takemoto@pioneer.com>, "kyap@gayandrobinsom.com" <kyap@gayandrobinsom.com>

1 Attachment



G&R IAL Testimony.pdf

To Edmund Aczon, Chair, and Members of the Commission,

Please find attached my testimony regarding Docket No. DR16-56 on behalf of the Kekaha Agriculture Association (KAA).

In addition to my testimony on behalf of the KAA, I would like to mention that I have many fond memories of helping on branding drives with Makaweli Ranch, where my father was a paniolo for over 30 years. The activities of the ranch represent one of the oldest current and unbroken traditions of local food production in the area. As such, I would also like to express my personal support for the petition and for securing the continuation of productive agricultural activity on the lands in question.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joshua Uyehara  
President of the Board of Directors, KAA

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**KEKAHA AGRICULTURE  
ASSOCIATION**

A NON-PROFIT AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE  
Est. 2003

September 16, 2016

Edmund Aczon, Chair  
and Members of the Commission

Mr. Daniel Orodenker  
Executive Officer  
Land Use Commission  
235 South Beretania St.  
Suite 406  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Petition for Declaratory Order to Designate Important Agricultural Lands  
Docket No. DR16-56 Robinson Family Partners 20,888 acres in Makaweli, Kauai

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Kekaha Agriculture Association, this is to provide testimony in support of the above-referenced petition by the Robinson Family Partners to designate 20,888 acres in Makaweli, Kauai as Important Agricultural Lands ("IAL").

As you may be aware, KAA members are actively engaged in large-scale agriculture and aquaculture enterprises in West Kauai and therefore are familiar with and interested in promoting farming activities in the region that benefit Kauai and the State.

The KAA supports the petition because it will benefit agriculture in West Kauai and is consistent with the policy in favor of IAL designations. The petition states that it seeks to continue and expand current agricultural activities into the foreseeable future, including an expansion of water infrastructure to add an additional 1,000 acres of field to support cattle ranching and seed corn production activities. The Makaweli lands have historically been used for agriculture and are currently used in agricultural use. There appears to be sufficient water resources to support continued agricultural use. Further, it is the KAA's understanding that the County of Kauai Planning Department has determined IAL designation would be consistent with development plans for Kauai County.

Accordingly, the KAA wishes to express its strong support for the Commission to grant the petition.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Joshua Uyehara  
President of the Board of Directors