



ATTN Land Use Commission (LUC)

admin

to:

luc

09/20/2016 04:31 AM

Cc:

"Laurie Ho", "Ryan Oyama", "Johnny Gordines", "Sherwood Conant"

Hide Details

From: admin@kauaicountyfarmbureau.org

To: luc@dbedt.Hawaii.gov

Cc: "Laurie Ho" <laurieho1@hawaiiantel.net>, "Ryan Oyama" <royamahi@gmail.com>,

"Johnny Gordines" <gordines@kauaiflowers.com>, "Sherwood Conant"

<sherwood.c.conant@gmail.com>

1 Attachment



2016 September 20 support ltr to LUC regarding IAL Robinson Fam.pdf

**RE: KCFB letter to LUC - supporting the Robinson Family application to dedicate their land to Important Agricultural Lands (IAL).**

Mahalo,

Laurie Ho, President

Kauai County Farm Bureau

P.O. Box 3895

Lihue, HI 96766

(808) 855-5429

Attachment 1

## Kauai County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation

P.O. Box 3895, Lihue HI 96766-6895

808-855-5429

[admin@kauaifarmbureau.org](mailto:admin@kauaifarmbureau.org)

**The Voice of Kauai's Agriculture**



DATE: September 20, 2016

TO: Dan Orodener, Executive Officer  
State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission  
PO Box 2359  
Honolulu HI 96804-2359  
State Office Tower  
Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building  
235 South Beretania Street, Room 405  
Honolulu HI 96804-2359

FROM: Laurie K. Ho, President  
Kauai County Farm Bureau

**SUBJECT: Docket No. DR16-56  
Petition for Declaratory Order to Designate Important Agricultural Lands (IAL)  
Petition dated June 27, 2016**

PETITIONER: Robinson Family Partners

LOCATION(S): Waimea and Hanapēpē

Aloha,

**First, mahalo iā 'oukou pākahi a pau** for taking time out of your busy schedules to hold the first public hearing on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 regarding the Petition for Declaratory Order to Designate Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) filed by Petitioner, Robinson Family Partners to designate 76 percent of the agricultural land(s) it owns, from Waimea to Hanapēpē, to be used purely as Important Agricultural Lands.

**Second**, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Kauai County Farm Bureau, I am writing in connection with the above petition, which we have examined, know the site well, and wish to offer our support to the petition for the reasons outlined below; namely,

According to the Hawaii State Constitution, Article XI, Section 3, *"The State shall conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands. The legislature shall provide standards and criteria to accomplish the foregoing. Lands identified by the State as important agricultural lands needed to fulfill the purposes above shall not be reclassified by the State or rezoned by its political subdivisions without meeting*

*the standards and criteria established by the legislature and approved by a two-thirds vote of the body responsible for the reclassification or rezoning action."*

Additionally, the **Hawaii Revised Statutes, section 205-42, Important agricultural lands, definition and objectives**, states (a) *As used in this part, unless the context otherwise requires, "important agricultural lands" means those lands, identified pursuant to this part, that:*

- (1) Are capable of producing high agricultural yields when treated and managed according to accepted farming methods and technology;*
- (2) Contribute to the State's economic base and produce agricultural commodities for export or local consumption; or*
- (3) Are needed to promote the expansion of agricultural activities and income for the future, even if currently not in production.*

*(b) The objective for the identification of important agricultural lands is to identify and plan for the maintenance of a strategic agricultural land resource base that can support a diversity of agricultural activities and opportunities that expand agricultural income and job opportunities and increase agricultural self-sufficiency for current and future generations. To achieve this objective, the State shall:*

- (1) Promote agricultural development and land use planning that delineates blocks of productive agricultural land and areas of agricultural activity from the encroachment of nonagricultural uses; and*
- (2) Establish incentives that promote:
  - (A) Agricultural viability;*
  - (B) Sustained growth of the agriculture industry; and*
  - (C) The long-term agricultural use and protection of these productive agricultural lands. [L 2005, c 183, pt of §2]**

And according to the **Hawaii Revised Statutes, section 205-43 Important agricultural lands; policies**. *State and county agricultural policies, tax policies, land use plans, ordinances, and rules shall promote long-term viability of agricultural use of important agricultural lands and shall be consistent with and implement the following policies:*

- (1) Promote the retention of important agricultural lands in blocks of contiguous, intact, and functional land units large enough to allow flexibility in agricultural production and management;*
- (2) Discourage the fragmentation of important agricultural lands and the conversion of these lands to nonagricultural uses;*
- (3) Direct nonagricultural uses and activities from important agricultural lands to other areas and ensure that uses on important agricultural lands are actually agricultural uses;*
- (4) Limit physical improvements on important agricultural lands to maintain affordability of these lands for agricultural purposes;*
- (5) Provide a basic level of infrastructure and services on important agricultural lands limited to the minimum necessary to support agricultural uses and activities;*

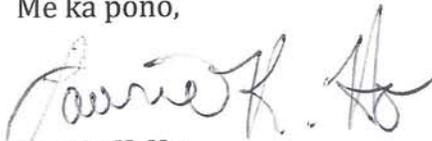
- (6) *Facilitate the long-term dedication of important agricultural lands for future agricultural use through the use of incentives;*
- (7) *Facilitate the access of farmers to important agricultural lands for long-term viable agricultural use;*  
*and*
- (8) *Promote the maintenance of essential agricultural infrastructure systems, including irrigation systems.*  
*[L 2005, c 183, pt of §2]*

**Third, Waiver of 85/15 Reclassification Incentive.** We acknowledge that the Petitioner, Robinson Family Partners, has voluntarily waived any and all rights to assert, claim or exercise any credits pursuant to HRS § 205-45(h).

**Finally,** with all of the above, and along with Senate President Ronald D. Kouchi, and County of Kaua'i Planning Department Director, Michael Dahilig, we, the members of the Kauai County Farm Bureau, humbly request that the Robinson Family Partners petition be designated as Important Agricultural Lands.

**Mahalo** in advance for your time and attention.

Me ka pono,



Laurie K. Ho  
President

cc Kauai County Farm Bureau Board of Directors  
Linda Estes ~ Kauai Representative to LUC