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October 4, 2017

State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, HI 96804

RE: DR17-59 Monsanto Company, A Delaware Corporation - Petition for
Declaratory Order to Designate Important Agriculture Lands - Kunia, O'ahu,
Hawai'i.

Dear Chair Wong and Commissioners,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Agricultural Foundation (HAF), I am writing to support
Monsanto Hawai'i's petition for Declaratory Order to Designate Important Agricultural
Lands for approximately 1,550 acres in Kunia, O'ahu.

HAF is a statewide non-profit charitable organization created to promote agriculture and
farming. Established in 2007, the mission of HAF is to support and sustain Hawai'i's
agricultural industry by addressing critical needs and services of farmers and the agricultural
industry in Hawai'i, and by better connecting the farmers with the community and vice-
versa. This involves educational and outreach programs in the community, as well as direct
marketing, technical, educational and in-the-field support for farmers.

In 2011, HAF entered into a partnership with Island Palm Communities (IPC) and
Monsanto Hawai'i to create the HAF Ag Park at Kunia. This partnership made available
land, infrastructure and technical assistance to help farmers gain economic self-sufficiency,
scale and access to markets throughout Hawai'i. As part of IPC's and Monsanto's
commitment to supporting the local community, they both agreed that a portion, 220 acres,
be set-aside for diversified agricultural production. HAF was identified as the entity to
oversee, manage, and sublease the lands to supporting small farmers.

Through our partnership, it is evident that Monsanto is committed to the preservation of
Hawai'i's agricultural lands and Monsanto's voluntary petition to designate agricultural lands
as Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) exemplifies their commitment to the preserving
Hawai'i's lands for future agricultural prosperity. We respectfully request your support in
favor of Monsanto's petition.

Sincerely,

Denise Hayashi Yamaguchi
Executive Director



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

October 3, 2017

State Land Use Commission
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, HI 96804

SUBJECT: DR17-59 Monsanto Company, A Delaware Corporation - Petition for Declaratory Order to Designate Important Agriculture Lands - Kunia, Oahu, Hawai'i.

Dear Chair Wong and Commissioners:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports Monsanto's petition to designate lands in Kunia as Important Agriculture Lands.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau has long supported Hawaii's Constitutional Mandate to preserve and protect Hawaii's Important Agricultural Lands (IAL). Since the adoption of Act 183 (2005), the process of voluntary IAL designation has been proceeding. We were pleased when the first lands were designated by Alexander and Baldwin in 2009 totaling nearly 4000 acres in Kauai. Today, we have over 100,000 acres that were voluntarily designated by landowners across the State.

Careful and extensive deliberations during the development of the IAL statute considered the implications of takings law. Even as lands were classified as agriculture, landowners still have the right to petition Counties for redesignation. When lands are designated as IAL, this is the equivalent of a "super agriculture" zoning category and the metrics to change its status from agriculture is defined in statute and requires a higher level of scrutiny. Unlike easements and other conservation programs, the IAL statute does not provide payment for the land. Instead, it rewards landowners and farmers for investments in the land. Public funds expended towards this effort is less than pennies to the dollar used in purchase of development rights utilizing agricultural easement programs.

The first objective was to have landowners voluntarily designate their lands. In exchange landowners would not be asked to designate more than 50% of their land holdings. By voluntarily designating lands, the takings issue becomes insignificant and the State is then assured of long term agriculture on the designated lands.

Among all of the standards and criteria for designation, first and foremost is the presence of viable agricultural activity. Starting new ventures is difficult. Farms and ranches have developed their unique capacities to manage various lands. IAL is not a mapping exercise. Lands designated as agriculture without a farmer or rancher is open space. IAL is an agricultural viability initiative, providing the framework to increase Hawaii's agricultural self-sufficiency and sustainability as required in the State Constitution.

Oahu is by far the most populated island in the Hawaiian chain, and therefore very susceptible to development. Residential development continues to consume much of Oahu's prime agricultural land, so it is essential that Honolulu identify and designate its IAL while enough land remains to make any impact on Hawaii's agriculture needs. It is critical that we support those willing to farm and conserve and protect our most productive agricultural lands.

HFB commends Monsanto for voluntarily designating over 1,500 acres in Kunia as IAL. The designation of these lands as IAL will help ensure that these lands remain in farming and to help with the preservation of Hawaii's agriculture industry. We support the application as written.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation has supported the IAL process since its inception, and thanks Monsanto for its participation in this process. We encourage the Land Use Commission to approve Monsanto's petition to designate lands in Kunia as IAL.



JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAI'I

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September 28, 2017

2017-2018
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State Land Use Commission
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, HI 96804

RE: DR17-59 MONSANTO COMPANY Petition for Declaratory Order to
Designate Important Agricultural Lands

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i (JCCH), I am writing to support Monsanto Company's Petition for Declaratory Order to Designate Important Agricultural Lands for approximately 1,550 acres at Kunia.

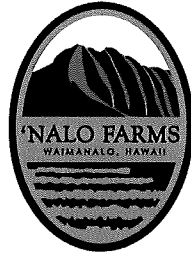
The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i was first introduced to Monsanto in 2007, when they purchased 2,300 acres of West O'ahu land which included the former site of the Honouliuli World War II internment camp. Understanding the historical and cultural significance of the Honouliuli Internment Camp site, Monsanto welcomed JCCH and descendants of Honouliuli internees to visit, explore, research the site and expressed a willingness to donate the land to the National Park Service. In 2015, Monsanto's commitment to preserving the unique history of Japanese in Hawai'i led to the establishment of the Honouliuli National Monument by President Barack Obama.

Today, Honouliuli is an ever-growing hub of research and educational activities including hands-on archaeological fieldwork by University of Hawai'i students and public tours to the site conducted by JCCH. Monsanto continues its commitment to historic preservation through its on-going partnership with the JCCH on educational tours, community outreach, and the Honouliuli Education Center.

Monsanto's petition to voluntarily designate lands as Important Agricultural Lands is in the spirit of their commitment to serving as stewards of the land and preservation for the future. For this reason, I offer my support and humbly ask for your support of Monsanto's petition.

Sincerely yours,

Carole Hayashino
President and Executive Director



October 4, 2017

State Land use Commission
P. O. Box 2359
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Subject: DR17-59 Monsanto Co., a Delaware Corp.-Petition for Declaratory Order to Designate Important Agricultural Lands—Kunia Oahu, Hawai'i

Dear Chair Wong and commissioners,

My name is Dean J. Okimoto, President and owner of Nalo Farms, Inc., and past President for 11 years of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, till 2014.

I am writing in strong support of Monsanto's petition to voluntarily designate approximately 1,550 acres of productive agricultural lands in Kunia as Important Agricultural Lands (IAL).

I was president of the Hawaii Farm Bureau when we passed the IAL legislation, and have always been a strong proponent of the passage of the legislation and for it to be used. The primary intent of IAL was a collaborative effort between the farming community and land owners, to incentivize landowners, farmers, and ranchers to have successful and viable businesses. This IAL concept of Ag business viability provided a greater appreciation how we need to incentivize farmers to farming and thus keeping our Ag lands in productive use. It was to also show the public the importance of keeping Ag lands viable in the state. Hawaii's Ag businesses are having a difficult time being competitive in this global market and need these incentives to encourage more farming, whether it is big or small, to keep farming. The incentive also encourages more voluntary designation of Important Agricultural lands statewide.

I am excited that Monsanto has opted for this voluntary designation, as Kunia is home to some of best remains Ag lands in the state, and wholeheartedly support they petition. I respectfully request your favorable reply to this consideration.

Sincerely and Mahalo

Dean J. Okimoto

Dean J. Okimoto
President, Nalo Farms, Inc.