



October 16, 2017

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

Via email: [dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov](mailto:dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov)

SUBJECT: DR17-60 Monsanto Company, A Delaware Corporation's Petition for Declaratory Order to Designate Important Agriculture Lands for Approximately 1,084.079 Acres at Naiwa, Manowainui, Kahanui, Moloka'i

Dear Chair Wong and Commissioners:

My name is George Benda, and I represent the Molokai Land Trust. I support Monsanto's petition to designate lands on Molokai as Important Agriculture Lands (IAL). As President of the Board of Directors of an organization with a mission to preserve and enhance the lands and resources of Molokai, I believe the Island will be well served by permanent designation of these lands for agricultural use.

The mission of the Moloka'i Land Trust is to protect and restore the land, natural and cultural resources of Moloka'i, and to perpetuate the unique Native Hawaiian traditions and character of the islands for the benefit of the future generations of all Moloka'i, particularly Native Hawaiians. We actively manage over 2,000 acres of land on our Island home.

In our view, the designation of the Monsanto lands on Molokai under the Important Agricultural Lands program is important and beneficial for the following reasons:

- It reflects and deepens the commitment Monsanto has made to being a good community partner, which has been demonstrated to the Molokai Land Trust through their continuing support of our projects
- In voluntarily committing 1,084 acres to preservation as agricultural lands, Monsanto is solidifying their role in providing a base of agricultural resources for the future generations of Molokai, providing a basis for a more sustainable economy for our Island
- The protections offered by the IAL program afford assurance that these critical lands will remain in productive use and not transformed through any development scheme

- The jobs and local economic activity generated by Monsanto's agricultural activity on these lands provides a significant engine of well-being that is critical to sustaining a vibrant community that can afford to support cultural, environmental, and natural areas preservation and enhancement in an economically depressed area
- As the first designation of land on Molokai in the IAL program, Monsanto is leading by example in ways that land owners can make a permanent improvement in life on our little Island

We humbly ask that you register our firm support for DR17-60 Monsanto Company, A Delaware Corporation's Petition for Declaratory Order to Designate Important Agriculture Lands for Approximately 1,084.079 Acres at Naiwa, Manowainui, Kahanui, Moloka'i. It is a step in the right direction for the Island.

Sincerely,



George Benda  
President  
Board of Directors  
Molokai Land Trust