January 15, 2019

Mr. Daniel Orodenker
Executive Officer
State Land Use Commission
Department of Business, Economic
Development and Tourism
P. O. Box 2359
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Dear Mr. Orodenker:

SUBJECT: DR18-63 Petition for Declaratory Ruling to Designate Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) in Malaekahana, Koolau Loa, Oahu, Hawaii
Tax Map Key: 5-6-006: Portion 018

We have reviewed the subject petition and recommend that the Land Use Commission (LUC) withhold its decision until the Honolulu City Council (Council) transmits its recommendations on lands proposed for Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) designation to the LUC. Our recommendation is based on the following:

1. The City and County of Honolulu’s (City) Oahu IAL Mapping Project (Report), dated August 2018, was transmitted to the Council on August 31, 2018. The Report includes maps of the City’s recommendations on what lands are being proposed for IAL designation. The Report recommends that nearly all of the lands owned by the Petitioner, within the State Land Use Agricultural District, be included in the IAL designation.

2. In its review of the Report, the Council passed Resolution No. 18-201, which requests the Council’s Agricultural Development Task Force (ADTF) review the Report and make recommendations on the proposed IAL designations, and suggest possible incentives for IAL.
The ADTF held a meeting on the Report on November 20, 2018. The ADTF discussed the need for IAL incentives and decided to continue the meeting to a future date to be determined. We anticipate that the ADTF will transmit its recommendations to the Council in early 2019 and that the Council could complete its review and make recommendations to the LUC by mid-2019.

Should you have any questions, please contact Raymond Young, of our staff, at 768-8049.

Very truly yours,

Kathy K. Sokugawa
Acting Director