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To: [DBEDT LUC](#); repmartin@capitol.hawaii.gov; [Representative Sean Quinlan](#); [Representative Lauren Matsumoto](#); [Senator Gil Riviere](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] LUC
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Aloha LUC, City and County of Honolulu DPP and all

First of all I would like say a big Mahalo to you the LUC for bringing transparency to this and for all your dedication and all the volunteer time.

The city did not correctly follow the notification process to the farmers who are directly affected, looking at the testimony from yesterday 99.5% of those who gave written or oral testimony did not know about this or that their land was part of this IAL. A direct contact to each landowner should have been done. We did not hear of any focus group meetings, public meetings etc... and neither did most other farmers.

We do not know each other yet we all said the same thing. No one knew about this.

Not everyone reads the paper, or goes to LUC website

Not everyone knew about this meeting yesterday if not for a few people contacting each other as they did not get their April 12 letter.

If this is what you are deciding today please understand that with all that information that the city did NOT fulfill their standard and

WE the people need to be heard.

The City & County of Honolulu has fallen grossly short in ensuring that small farmers are fully informed and understand the implications of an IAL designation of their farm land. We were not fully aware and have not received notifications of meetings and forums regarding IAL. Our family has been farming on Oahu for over 120 years. There has NOT been full transparency from the City & County in how this IAL designation would affect a small farming operation like ourselves. We question their IAL designation procedures and how their criteria was applied to certain ag lands. We don't know who the consultant was or the committee members. If these persons had any farming experience, they would know that the criteria they set would only be detrimental to certain small farmers like us. Why is it that the committee set only 3 criteria for IAL designation when they were supposed to set 8 criteria according to the law?

Why did the C&C not make sure they consulted with all landowners as the IAL law mandates? This provision in the law MUST be followed.

Just sending out meeting notices via their website does not assure that all landowners and farmers have been contacted and are aware of the ramifications of this designations on their family farm.

If the state and city wants to support Hawaiian agriculture for current and future farmers of our state, then we need to take several steps back on the implementation of the IAL and review how this can be better implemented with full transparency and complete communication with all farmers and landowners.

The IAL new rules and regulations will affect all farmers here on Oahu there is no give and take there is only Take from the DPP without any discussion or opportunity to opt out.

The new rules will make it harder for small farmers not easier. Substance farming is important.

Mahalo for your time
Melissa P Ginella

Sent from [Outlook](#)