

Nodie Namba-Hadar and Sam Hadar
Haleiwa, HI

Testimony of Nodie Namba-Hadar and Sam Hadar
With regard to the Conformance of C&C of Honolulu Important Agricultural Lands (IAL)
Recommendation to Applicable Statutory and Procedural Requirements

Commissioners and Board Members of the LUC,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Commission in this hearing. Our names are Nodie Namba-Hadar and Sam Hadar, and we are the owners of one of the properties that is being proposed for designation as IAL by the City and County of Honolulu.

We oppose this because:

- There was very little stakeholder participation or facilitation of “an inclusive process of public involvement”. We, as landowners and major stakeholders, were basically unaware that this was going on.
- Landowner notification was very last minute. The letter from the LUC notifying us of this hearing was received just one week prior, which did not give us enough time to research what it was about and respond appropriately.
- The C&C of Honolulu has done little to educate the landowners on the matter. In fact, the most helpful information we received was from the law firm of Durrett Lang Morse, LLP and even they are unclear on many issues. For example, the legal definition of IAL has three qualifying points, whereas the HRS Section 205-44 sets forth eight standards and criteria.
- The C&C of Honolulu did not, as required by IAL law, develop its maps of “potential lands to be considered for designation as important agricultural lands in consultation and cooperation with landowners...” (HRS 205-47b)
- Much of the land that is being recommended as IAL is utterly unfit for agricultural cultivation, indicating that the C&C of Honolulu did not appropriately research or survey the land.
- The C&C of Honolulu has not made clear the ramifications of an IAL designation to landowners. What are the potential benefits? What are the limitations and restrictions?

Based on these considerations and the fact that the C&C of Honolulu has not complied with legal requirements in connection with this designation of IAL, we respectfully ask that you deny the C&C of Honolulu’s recommendation for designation.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Nodie Namba-Hadar
Sam Hadar