

From: [Yvonne Watarai](#)
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Designation of Important Agricultural Lands (My Updated Testimony) For April 28, April 29 2021
Date: Monday, April 26, 2021 3:21:25 PM

AMENDED (WATARAI, YVONNE Y TRUST, TMK: 87018023
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 87-969 PAAKEA RD, WAIANAE, HI 96789

This is my AMENDED Testimony (as in the prior testimony, I was too upset to properly gather my thoughts) against the designation (IAL) , and the improper and inadequate procedure in notifying we land owners:

First of all, many of us are not educated enough to understand what has been going on even though you have sent out notices. We read them, but don't understand them and we just expect the government to do the right thing, not TAKE CONTROL of our properties that may have been in the family for generations.

I feel that small land owners have not had proper notification as many of us don't have the knowledge, the wherewithal to know the seriousness of this process nor the resources like big land owners to navigate this process. You, the government, did not contact landowners adequately to conduct an agricultural economic feasibility analysis on EACH INDIVIDUAL property proposed on the map. (MY PROPERTY FOR EXAMPLE, DOESN'T HAVE WATER, I DON'T HAVE THE FUNDS TO INSTALL A WATER SYSTEM) I would have appreciated if I had gotten a notice to set up a time for an "official" to actually visit my property and inform me of the proposal for my property. We all should have been individually "educated". Not just sent notices saying our properties may be designated as IAL and not inform us of the EXACT DETAILS of what you are planning to do! I feel the government has dealt with this manner underhandedly.

Many of us have not been able to attend meetings. We should have been sent notices of what was covered in the meetings so that we were informed that you are taking away our rights, our inheritances, our estates for our children and grandchildren and the freedom to decide if we want to farm OUR properties. And the notices should be in simple terms, not mumbo jumbo that only an attorney would fully understand.

Also, a property could be listed as a Trust and there could be more than one owner, I know of one family in which, not all owners listed on the trust were notified of what is happening. They only found out that their property is in jeopardy because I called them to find out if they new what the GOVERNMENT may do with their property. And the individual that received notices, told me "hopefully we will be grandfathered in". He's may be in for a big surprise! So as you can see, ALL owners were not adequately notified.

Also, I don't understand... why do these properties need to be designated as IAL? If we need so much land set aside for AG, why did they allow the former sugar cane and pineapple fields be allowed to build homes and shopping centers? I just don't get it. I own only a 5 acre plot of which approximately one acre has two dwellings and the other 4 is currently not farmed because I have no water for farming. I can't afford it and can't find someone to lease/rent the 4 acres. My father purchased the property, informing me to bequeath it to my descendants, now I may not be able to with all of the possible restrictions. We can't even sell it because who will want to purchase it with all of the restrictions. The value of my property will also

probably plummet.

The government is trying to limit occupancy in dwellings to “actively farming tenants only”. This could affect the cost of leases and land AND will limit kupuna and other retired farmers from living on their land on which they worked hard. In my case, the farmer leasing my land retired and I have not been able to find another farmer(he was using water from his property). I have two homes that are being rented. The tenants have been there for over 40 years. If my property becomes IAL...then what? I have to kick them out? They're elderly... where are they going to find reasonable rent?My father always told me to take care of my tenants... what will happen to them. What will happen to my property? Will you take it away, will I be faced with huge penalties? I already pay huge property taxes because I am not able to find a farmer!

Needless to say, I am so unhappy with our City and State Government who are supposed to have their citizens' interest at heart. I now understand why many have expressed distrust with the Government! Please reconsider and do not pass this Designation of IAL.

Thank you,

Yvonne Y Watarai (808) 371-2261