

DOUGLAS & KATHIE STEWART
41-712 MOOIKI STREET
WAIMANALO, HAWAII 96795

SENT VIA E-MAIL: dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov

Honorable Jonathon Scheuer
Chair
Land Use Commission
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2359

SUBJECT: Opposition to Proposed Important Agricultural Lands Designation

Dear Chair Scheuer and Members of the Commission,

We are Douglas & Kathie Stewart and we are landowners/farmers in Waimanalo and own two 2 acre parcels (TMK: 41024028 & 41024105). We recently received letters from the Land Use Commission dated May 11, 2021 informing us that our properties have been designated by the City and County of Honolulu as Important Agricultural Lands (IAL). Further, we were informed that the Land Use Commission may be taking action to accept the City and County of Honolulu's Important Agricultural Lands designation which includes our properties in Waimanalo.

We live in and have been farming in Waimanalo for nearly 35 years. We were disappointed to hear that LUC meetings were being held in April and we received no notification from the LUC. Fortunate for us, the law firm of Durrett Lang Morse, LLP sent us a letter that we received after the fact informing us of the LUC April meeting and provided a very informative Webinar thereafter.

We follow the guidelines of the LUO and know how very important agriculture land is in Hawaii. Four years ago we purchased an abutting 2 acre property that was abused by dumpster firms and illegal dumping of trash, rocks, old cars and trucks, etc., which all by the way were reported numerous times to authorities by others to no avail. We took on this property to restore as best we could to a viable ranch with pasturing. Needless to say, this has taken an enormous amount of time, energy and money for us two kupuna to take on but we persevere still each day. We purchased these properties fully knowing the agriculture land requirements and until our individual concerns have been heard and the current LUO is enforced, we request the ability to opt out.

We object to the designation of our properties as IAL for the following reasons: the process for the IAL designation was flawed and did not fully inform landowners of the designation's impact; the LUC process did not provide adequate information as to how the acceptance of these maps would impact our properties; there was not clear guidance on how we could opt out of the IAL designation; and lastly the process was rushed and has left us confused and perplexed.

Please consider our concerns and reject the City and County of Honolulu's representation that it has followed all procedures with respect to state statute. The IAL designation process needs more vetting and landowners must be better informed about their options, how such designation will impact their lands, and whether or not they have the ability to "opt out" of such designation.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Douglas & Kathie Stewart