

From: [DBEDT LUC](#)
To: [Quinones, Natasha A](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to IAL Proposal
Date: Monday, May 24, 2021 7:25:32 AM

IAL

From: warmandfuzzyllc@aol.com <warmandfuzzyllc@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 6:29 AM
To: DBEDT LUC <dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to IAL Proposal

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

Dear Chair Scheuer and Members of the Commission,

My name is Lena McCormack, and I am a landowner/farmer and owner of Happy Plants Nursery in Waimanalo and I own a small 2.6 acres plot. I recently received a letter from the Land Use Commission informing me that my property has been designated by the City and County of Honolulu as Important Agricultural Land (IAL). Furthermore, I was informed that the Land Use Commission may be taking action to accept the City and County of Honolulu's IAL designation which includes my property in Waimanalo. I understand the current regulations that are in place in regards to owning agricultural lands in Honolulu. My property is dedicated to farming and agriculture for the required ten years. I have done and am doing what the State and City and County of Honolulu has mandated. However, I object to the designation of my property as IAL for the following reasons: The process for the IAL designation was flawed and did not fully inform the landowners of the designation's impact; the LUC process did not provide adequate information as to how the acceptance of these maps would impact my property; there was no clear guidance on how I could "opt out" of the IAL designation; and lastly the process seems to be rushed and has caught not only me but, my family and neighboring farmers by surprise. We are all feeling confused and anxious.

I was able to work through the rules and regulations of the DPP and the DLNR in order to subdivide our family farm. It took almost ten years to plow through the difficult process and now we are faced with this IAL proposal. I feel that this IAL proposal doesn't take into consideration the difficulty the small farmers go through on a daily basis. Farming is a labor intensive job and not very glamorous as people think it is. I challenge anyone to work with me for a week and see if they don't change their mind about farming, which is a seven days a week job. I am not a young person anymore and I do not need nor want the powers that be, to dictate what I can or can't do with my own property. It is a choice and a commitment to do what we do.

If I had clearly understood the earlier letters, I would have tried to opt out of the program. However, the letters weren't clear and I waited for more guidance...five years go by and surprise...it's almost a done deal. It is all pretty frightening. Please reject the City and County's representation that it has followed all procedures, with respect to state statute I don't feel that they have been successful in doing what they claim to have done. The IAL designation process needs more vetting and we landowners must be better informed about our options, and how such a designation will impact our lands, lives and most importantly, whether or not we have the ability to "opt out" of such designation, if we choose to do so. That would be, in my opinion, the right decision. As it stands right now it would be totally unfair to many of us small farmers who are working hard to contribute to our State and City, the best way we know how and then, to have to change everything just because someone thinks they know better than us.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Aina i ka pono

Aloha,
Lena McCormack
Happy Plants Nursery