

Key issue for Minoru Kaneshiro regarding Honolulu County's designation of his property as Important Agricultural Land (IAL) under State's land use law to protect and maintain agricultural lands:

As a retired farmer whose children choose not to farm, his property is not under agriculture production. Therefore, he is not in compliance with the law.

Many others share the same situation or have inherited land from their great grand parents who find that farming is not economically feasible or find impractical as in the case of a single mother with several young children in Waianae IAL land. Others have bought agricultural land without knowing about this IAL requirement.

Although the County's Dept of Planning and Permitting (DPP) stated that they do not intend to enforce the law and remove owners from their property, legally, future DPP directors may have to enforce the law, kicking non-complying owners out.

My opinion:

Coercing and intimidating people to farm that many in Hawaii know is exceedingly difficult to make a living by because of farming's inherent high costs is wrong.

If our political leaders would instead focus on removing the causes of the high cost of farming, farmers would become prosperous, and agriculture would expand tremendously without using police state tactics.

If our leaders would act to remove the Jones Act that prevents Asian ships from directly landing in Hawaii, our farmers and all business will have access to low priced Asian supply, materials, especially fertilizer and feed, and agriculture and ranching would boom, competing against mainland products with lower prices.

Also, removing our G.E.T. tax, the highest form of taxation in the country, would also lower farming and all other business costs.

In fact, removing these two cost items would help lower Hawaii's high cost of living.

Gene Dumarán
c/o Minoru Kaneshiro
87-1059 Papaya Rd.
Waianae, HI 96792
TMK# 87018005