

Date: 5-3-2021

State of Hawaii  
Land Use Commission  
PO BOX 2359  
Honolulu, HI 96804-2359

Att: Chief Clerk Riley K. Hakoda

RE: Important Agricultural Land (IAL)

My name is Raymond Robert Correia Jr., and I am the owner of the properties located at 87-110 Kula'apuni St. and 87-112 Kula'apuni St. Waianae, HI 96792. I am writing to you about the possible forced action against our properties. My wife and I purchased 87-112 Kula'apuni St. about 5 years ago and 87-110 Kula'apuni St. about a year and a half ago. Since the purchase of these properties, the only notification we have ever received about the Agriculture Recommendations from the State of Hawaii Land Use Commission is dated April 12, 2021. To say we were very surprised of this possible forced action against our property, is an understatement. Until about a couple of weeks ago, I had absolutely no idea of what Important Agricultural Land (IAL) was. I had to wait until the zoom meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> to find out.

Regarding 87-112 Kula'apuni St., this property was a junkyard prior to us taking ownership. I have dug out over 300 tires so far, car parts, complete vehicles, bikes and other types of trash from underground. I am still currently digging out debris from the ground. When we purchased the property, the city and county had liens against it due to the trash/junk issue. Please look at your records and you will be able to verify this. I am still not completely finished removing all trash from the property. I would be happy to provide photos of what the property looked like when we first purchased it, if needed.

Had we known what was being proposed on these properties, it would have greatly affected our decision on purchasing these properties. I am a general contractor, and I enjoy purchasing blighted properties and turning them into beautiful rentals for our community.

The process we use to plant the limited fruit trees we currently have in the property now is: We have to dig enormous holes, backfill with huge amounts of potting soil, water and then plant the trees. Even then, we lose about 30-40% of the trees we plant. I believe the ground is contaminated from all the previous abuse this property has been subjected to throughout the years. We have spent hundreds of dollars so far in buying bags of potting soil to plant the few trees we currently have on the property. The property is also backfilled with blue rock. I believe this property will never be able to sustain commercial farming without incredible amounts of backfill of rich topsoil. I personally will not be able, nor I am I willing to go through that expense to fit within your requirements of the IAL.

Regarding the property located at 87-110 Kula'āupuni St., this property has multiple residences which will never be removed to make room for farming. This property has coral just underneath the surface. I have dug in the past to remove trash. I would implore you to come to the property and see how the houses and driveways are situated. We use the property for the so desperately needed rentals in Oahu. I am not a farmer, nor will I ever farm the land in any kind of production manner.

We strongly disagree with your forceful attempts to designate our property into this Important Agricultural Land (IAL) as we will never use it for farming purposes. We are asking that you reconsider designating our properties for the IAL. If you need to contact me for additional information, feel free to call me at (808)600-4345.

Sincerely,

*Raymond R. Correia Jr.*

Raymond Robert Correia Jr.