

Testimony/Petition to the Land Use Commission Regarding the Proposed Important Agricultural Land (IAL) Designation

Subject Property:

TMK: 4 1 026 009 (2 acres zoned AG-2)

Address: 41-610 Nonokio Street, Waimanalo, HI 96795

Fee Owners: Thomas J. and Melvine T. Mendes

Date: 4-30-2021

As owners of the subject property, we strongly oppose having our property designated as IAL and respectfully opt out of having our parcel so designated. While we understand and appreciate the broad goals of this effort, we feel that the IAL concept is inappropriate for our property (and perhaps other small parcels like ours) for the following reasons:

1. This property is already zoned for agriculture (AG-2) with its requirements and restrictions that promote agricultural activity. The IAL process is not going to enhance the owner's ability to generate more revenue from small AG-2 parcels like ours.
2. The IAL process was insensitive to the home ownership needs of farmers on small AG lots. AG-2 zoning allows for a single-family residence, a home, not a farmhouse like it is called in the IAL rules.
3. Having lived on this property for 37 years, built our home and raised our family, we have also kept the land productive with agricultural activity. We have photos that show early crops. We sold cut flowers and raised hundreds of pheasants and other gamebirds for the DLNR's hunting program. But this year I will be 80. There is no provision in the IAL designation for a landowner to enjoy retirement on his property.
4. Although well-intentioned, we believe that the IAL process was too broad brush and perhaps more appropriate for very large properties. I was notified of the proposed designation only days ago, seemingly like an after-thought to meet some acreage goal.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. Mendes