

Quinones, Natasha A

From: Hakoda, Riley K
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 6:00 AM
To: Quinones, Natasha A; Orodener, Daniel E; Derrickson, Scott A
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] LUC IAL Follow on Recommendations. John McCauslin TMK 054 85 019 054

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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IAL

From: John McCauslin <john.mccauslin1960@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 10, 2021 10:08 PM
To: Hakoda, Riley K <riley.k.hakoda@hawaii.gov>
Cc: Joanna Miranda <joanna.l.miranda@gmail.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] LUC IAL Follow on Recommendations. John McCauslin TMK 054 85 019 054

I truly appreciate the manner of how the LUC conducted its responsibilities during the two months of Ag owner testimonies, DPP IAL presentations, Q&As and overall accountability of owners, attorneys, DPP and LUC commissioners.

I have attended each meeting, submitted testimony with comments and evidence that my property does not meet the IAL criteria although I feel my farm is important and should be IAL, the DPP IAL program, process and procedures undermine what would actually help owners to farm. The criteria would be too restrictive specifically for small scale farmers such as myself. Both short term and long term milestones, objectives, goals and successes will be hard to achieve.

I would like to make 5 recommendations as follow on to the last LUC IAL meeting if those charged Ag land sustainability are truly passionate towards assisting active Ag property owners do what they do yet potentially impact and benefit our island communities. Ever so evident during the 2020 pandemic food shortages.

These are my recommendations of which I'm willing to engage and assist our island department heads if it will open a line of communication with the intent to unify, encourage, entice, sustain and recruit farmers and generations of farmers.

First, hold a community townhall talk story specifically in each district and with adequate and ample notice. Using the Real Property Assessment Division TMK listing to use towards addressing meeting announcement. Recommend sending announcement to the TMK Ag land owner and not by land owners name as many may have moved, changed address, sold the property or passed the property which may have changed hands. I'd also recommend the Real Property Assessment Div provide their Ag TMK list showing name of owners, address, property total square footage and the sqft of the parcel they identified as residential and sqft identified as Ag. I'd also recommend asking the Board of Water Supply Cross Connect Division to provide a current list of their approved customers. Because to gain Ag Water rates, you must apply annually, have your water lines and property inspected in order to be granted the rates. According to the BOW Cross Connect Div, only 342 Ag owners applied although the DPP IAL identified 1,800 Ag Owners. Seems to be a discrepancy in numbers yet why Ag owners are not using this reduced water incentive as noted by the State.

Second, have persons of community position and influence, elected and non, attend each talk story session. Specifically those district representatives, Department of Ag, LUC, DPP and all POCs charged responsibility of those State and City Ag incentives to explain their programs and provide a Q&A for land owners.

Third, have all Ag land owners provide bullet comments on what they need to be successful farmers, encouraging ways and means to keep farming and how to entice potential farmers. Also suggestions towards those Ag owners not in compliance or consequences for those whom built or intend to build luxury homes and not farm.

Fourth, take the Ag Owners comments and work with the LUC, DPP, Department of Ag and all other POCs charged responsibility to engage, communicate and help each department and ultimately the active Ag owners.

Fifth, relook, reduce, streamline and consolidate each requirement to invest, expand and maintain in both short and long term Ag lands for active Ag owners.

Just my two cents worth.

I would also like to meet to have a simple talk story session chat with the LUC chair on these Ag matters.

Mahalo for all you and your organization is doing.

V/r
John McCauslin
808 927-2250
TMK 054 85 019 054

June 10, 2021

Land Use Commission

riley.k.hakoda@hawaii.gov

SUBJECT: Opt out request Designation of Important Agriculture Land (IAL)

This is regarding the designation of Important Agriculture Land (IAL). We are Karen and Wesley Wong and currently own the property located at 87-1659 Kapiki Road in Waianae with Tax map Key: 870210150000, approximately 2.5 acres. We were notified by the Land Use Commission that our land was being considered as IAL on April 12, 2021. Prior to this we had only heard of IAL in 2017 and wrote a letter requesting our land be exempted from IAL. We did not receive any correspondence regarding this matter until April 12, 2021 in a letter from the Land Use Commission. The law firm of Durrett, Lang, Morse LLLP also sent a letter to our home via U.S. Mail. The City and County of Honolulu did not contact us.

Our property was previously used for livestock farming in the past. It has been almost 20 years since the farm was active. The land is not well suited for crops as the property is mostly coral with few topsoil areas. Our parents, who were farmers, have both passed away. While they were farming, they discouraged us from farming as it was extremely hard work. The property is no longer used for farming and the structures that were previously constructed for livestock are no longer standing. Our family has no plans to farm in the future and plan to leave the property to our children. We are both in our mid-sixties, fully retired, and have no desire to start farming.

Designating this property as IAL is against our wishes and we choose to opt out. We feel there is an underlying reason for this land being designated IAL when it is not suitable for crops. We attended a Zoom meeting on May 12, 2021 and was told that if the designation does pass, a family member must be actively farming the land. We will be unable to use the property or rent it, as the designation required a family member to be farming on the land.

We also attended a previous Land Use Commission Zoom meeting regarding IAL and it seems like quite a few landowners are in our predicament. They were not notified earlier, they do not plan to farm as the land was passed down to them when their parents stopped farming, or they just bought the land and were not aware of their land being designated as IAL. We submitted a letter of testimony to the Land Use Commission for the April 12, 2021 meeting, stating that we wish to have our property exempt from IAL. We hope our position is taken into consideration.

We would appreciate your assistance into this matter. Should you have any questions, please email us at myguja@aol.com or send correspondence to 94-1143 Puhu Place, Waipahu, 96797

Thank you,

Wesley and Karen Wong