

Sent From: rasikaleue@gmail.com

Rasikashekara Leue
85-1373 Waianae Valley Road, A
Waianae, HI 96792

Monday, May 3, 2021

Re: Petition to Remove TMK# 85004089 from "IAL"

To Whom This May Concern:

Aloha,

My name is Rasikashekara Leue and I am writing to petition you to please REMOVE our family's small 1-acre parcel of land (TMK# 85004089) from the "important agricultural lands" designation/zoning on Oahu.

I'm very concerned, how will this effect our family? Our ohana live on this land, have lived here for over 15 years, and we hope they will continue to live here for many, many years to come. If our land is put into the "IAL" designation, it is my understanding that our family will no longer be allowed to live here if we each individually are not actively farming this land. My kupuna lives here. My keiki lives here. My 78-year-old mother cannot physically work on the land. My children are young, they cannot be farming the land. This is not our second or third home, this IS our home. Will our kupuna and keiki be forced to leave our land when this "IAL" goes into place? Where will they go?

This is essentially taking away our home. This is NOT a good fit for us.

It is not right to simply place our land in "IAL" designation and rezone it without our written consent. We received a notice in the mail about a year ago essentially letting us know that our land would be added to the "IAL" designation without any real explanation of what that would mean for us.

Currently, we are in AG-2 zoning. Every 10 years, we dedicate our land to agricultural uses because we have a small mango/tropical fruit orchard and care for goats/small animals. We have not been forced to do this. This is something we do because we feel it's important for our children to know what real fresh fruit is, what it feels like to milk, or shear, or bottle feed, and take care of a living breathing animal. We don't want to be forced to do this.

Please also consider, it seems that smaller parcels weren't really meant to be chosen for this designation. This "IAL" designation seems designed for larger-scale farms to help sustain Oahu's people. Our land is only one acre.

So, I ask you please to REMOVE our small parcel from the "IAL" designation.

I would be happy to be contacted regarding this letter or any questions (808) 492-9329.

Mahalo,
Rasika

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 29th 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 residentials 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.