



Hawaii Research Center
1-385 Kaunualii Hwy.
PO Box 609
Waimea, HI 96796

May 5, 2022

**Re: SUPPORT for,
Kekaha Agriculture Association Petition to Designate Important Agricultural Lands
State of Hawaii Land Use Commission, Docket No. DR21-76**

Dear Chair Scheuer and Commissioners,

This email is in **strong support** of Kekaha Agriculture Association's Petition to Designate Important Agricultural Lands in Kekaha, Kauai.

I am writing on behalf of Corteva Agriscience, who is a leading developer and supplier of plant genetics and crop solutions that increase productivity, profitability, and sustainability of farmer's agricultural operations worldwide. We operate in more than 120 countries and have been working in Hawaii for over 50 years. We are strong members of KAA and currently farm on ADC lands in Kekaha. Corteva's Hawaii operations focus on developing new crop breeding materials to facilitate our operations worldwide.

Corteva Agriscience understands that IAL designation of the Kekaha Ag lands is expected to make certain tax benefits available to multiple farming entities in the area. We welcome these tax benefits to assist these agricultural activities.

The Commission should grant the petition and designate the Kekaha Ag lands as IAL. This will benefit Hawaii agriculture, support our communities, and help fulfill the State's obligations under the Hawaii Constitution to promote agricultural activities.

For all these reasons, we strongly support the KAA petition and urge the Commission to grant the petition and designate the Kekaha Ag lands as IAL.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Stoutemyer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Stoutemyer, *Hawaii Research Lead*