

From: dkaaihue@mauigateway.com
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: WAIEHU RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY
Date: Wednesday, October 19, 2022 12:55:02 PM



Regarding the question of rezoning this agricultural parcel (mac nut fields) in Waiehu: The state has set a goal of sustainability. This can only be achieved by preserving ag lands. And not just former sugar cane lands, which are not sheltered from the wind and sun, and have few water resources. Most crops cannot survive on them. "Sustainability" cannot be reached by the production of the current crops of lime and lemon trees.

The mac nut trees may not be indigenous, but they are trees, and climate change absolutely needs trees of any kind to slow down the process. These trees provide shade and cool air for root crops such as cabbage, sweet potatoes, onions, carrots, beets, etc. Even coffee can be grown in the shade of trees. There are so many options to continue agriculture just waiting for folks to step up with ideas, possibly community gardens for one. It is not land that should be given over to outside interests who have big promises of affordability but no care or interest in Hawaiians and their history.

The ag lands of Waiehu have a significant history of agriculture, from the early Hawaiians to the mac nut fields. Before sugar cane, the Hawaiians grew crops here for their sustenance. They had everything needed for food production, including water sources. Hawaiians have occupied this area for literally hundreds of years, possibly 800 or more. This is part of Na Wai Eha, once the largest contiguously cultivated lo'i kalo growing region in all of Hawai'i.. .

Rezoning this land into urban is really unconscionable, for so many reasons, including the above stated goal of sustainability. There are many more appropriate areas for housing; these fields cannot be replicated anywhere else on the island. They are waiting for the right group to come in and get them up and going again. This area is the last greenway in Wailuku, except for Iao Valley. It needs to stay that way.

I appreciate your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Diana Kaaihue
808283 1296
1291 W. Hiahia Place
Wailuku, HI 96793