

Resolution 24-129
August 6, 2024

Aloha Council,

My name is Sydney Smith and I'm the chair of the Ag Working Group. I'm testifying today on behalf of myself and the Ag Working Group.

I have personally known Gina Young for over twelve years. I worked with her when she was a planner in the County Planning Department and when she joined Council member Shane Sinenci's staff. When Shane was the chair of the Council Agriculture Committee Gina joined our Ag Working Group meetings and she never minded staying far into the night as we worked through legislation and crafted solutions to our agriculture issues. Even after Council member Gabe Johnson received the Agriculture Committee, Gina stayed active in our group.

The Commissioners for the East Maui Water Authority were approved by this Council. I was at many of those meetings and your deliberations were careful and balanced. The Commission unanimously chose Gina Young among all the applicants. Their deliberations were also careful and balanced with complex questioning about Constitutional issues, public trust doctrine and cultural concerns. I was impressed with Gina's grasp of the issues she will face as the Director of a brand new department. So were the Commissioners.

Please support the choice of the commissioners and confirm her appointment as Director of the East Maui Water Authority.

Sydney Smith
Ag Working Group, chair
Maliko Estate Coffee

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Ag Working Group was formed in 2013 by the Ag Chair of Council who needed input from the Ag community.

Stakeholders must be Farmers or Ranchers.

We are comprised of neutral representatives from:

Maui County Farm Bureau • Maui Farmers Union United • Maui Coffee Association

Maui Cattlemen's Association • Maui Flower Growers Association • Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

Kula and Makawao Community Associations

And include members from Hawaii State Department of Agriculture, Maui County Administration, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and Maui County Council.

