

PC-23

From: Sydney Smith <malikoestate@hawaii.rr.com>
To: <don.couch@mauicounty.us>, <pc.committee@mauicounty.us>
Date: 10/30/2013 02:17 PM
Subject: Maui Coffee Association Supports Short Term Rentals

Aloha Councilman Couch,

My name is Sydney Smith and I'm the president of the Maui Coffee Association. I'm currently working with Gina Flammer in the Planning Department to offer two vacation short-term rental cottages on my farm, Maliko Estate Coffee.

In one of our coffee association meetings a couple of months ago I asked the members who attended if any of them were interested in having a vacation rental on their farms. Everyone raised their hands. There were about twenty in attendance that night, although we have over three times that many member farms and coffee businesses in our organization. Two of my other farmers are in the process as well and I expect more to begin.

I would very much support giving farmers this option to bring some much-needed income into the family. We are all getting older and most of our children want nothing to do with taking over the family farm since they see how hard we work. By adding the income from a vacation rental I'm sure some of us could get our kids interested in farming again.

An additional benefit is in the added attraction for our visitors. We can attract the adventure traveler who wants a different experience. We can attract the foodie and coffee enthusiast visitor, the eco-tourist as well since a majority of the farmers I know do not use pesticides.

I really appreciate the time it takes to make changes to the county code since I've been working with Don Guzman on EAR-13. I have new respect for what it takes to make changes to ordinances, even simple ones. But we have to make changes if we're going to keep up with the times. So thank you for taking this on and for hearing us.

Mahalo,

-- Sydney Smith

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