



October 10, 2018

TESTIMONY
POLICY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

**APPROVING THE ACQUISITION OF APPROXIMATELY 262 ACRES
IN PULEHUNUI AND OMAOPIO (MAKAWAO) (PEA-71)**

Maui Council Chamber
October 15, 2018
9:00AM

Dear Chair Sugimura, Vice Chair Crivello and Members of the PEA Committee:

We urge the Council to vote for this ag park.

VIP Foodservice is committed to supporting local ag. We see that there is a big demand for local produce and for more variety. During our 2017-2018 fiscal year ending on September 30, 2018 our company purchased and sold 133,198 cases of various produce items. Of this total 37% or 49,283 was from local sources including the islands of Maui, Oahu and the Big Island. 63% or 83,915 cases were purchased from the mainland. There is a demand for locally grown produce especially with the farm to table initiatives in the restaurant industry. We try to purchase as much locally grown produce as we are able to however due to limited availability of local produce you can see that the bulk of our produce products must come from the mainland.

This new agricultural park will provide more opportunities to local ag and help Maui growers to produce more locally grown produce products.

Please feel free to call me for any questions or further information needed at cell: 808 870 1129.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nelson T. Okumura'.

Nelson T. Okumura
President

PEA Committee

From: Nelson Okumura <nokumura@vipfoodservice.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 4:02 PM
To: PEA Committee
Cc: Carol Reimann
Subject: Testimony in Support of - PEA71
Attachments: Xerox Scan_10102018155948.pdf