

EACP Committee

From: William Greenleaf <bgreenleaf.maui@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2020 11:11 AM
To: EACP Committee
Cc: Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Vickie Conmy; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Resolution for creating a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Aloha Chair Senenci and EACP Committee Members:

Creating a Department of Agriculture is a critical step for empowering the people of Maui County to revitalize an industry that has been in decline for decades. Currently Agriculture concerns/issues are a step child of any County Department that involves a problem or opportunity. Below are some of the vast opportunities for careers with Agriculture as the driver.

Agriculture is not just arable farming for food, it also includes:

- Animal husbandry – including for food, fabrics, nutrient cycling, soil regeneration, and carbon sequestration.
- Aquaculture – including the cultivation of fish, shellfish, bi-valves, plants/algae; whether within near shore waters, natural ponds, or holding tanks.
- Forestry – for both harvesting and conservation, includes hardwoods or bamboo used for building materials, fruiting trees, or native fauna.
- Horticulture – encompasses crops and gardens for food, flowers, medicinal plants, herbs or fibers; landscaping for ornamentals; and forestry (see above)
- Bio fuels – includes horticulture (i.e. sunflowers), aquaculture (i.e. algae), and animal husbandry (i.e. off-gassing capture enclosures)
- Animal processing facilities – establish a larger capacity processing, affordable, public facility.
- Nutrient recycling – composting management for different climates and materials, both green and human waste streams.
- Seed Banking – continuous growing for seeds, establish a dry down/ climate controlled bank to ensure seed longevity.
- Markets – two categories, direct sales: farmers markets, CSA boxes,; and indirect sales: grocery stores, restaurants, added-value product makers
- Imports – collecting data on agriculture streams coming into the County,
- Exports – supporting/creating industries that aid farmers in expanding growth potential off island
- Added- value products – includes foods, beauty products, and household cleaning products; provide data on the types of ingredients being sought/requested, and connect farmers to product makers.
- Invasive species – establish/increase inspection protocols for incoming agriculture products (i.e. potted plants)
- Research and development – new and emerging industry research, integrated pest management, farming technologies, processing and distribution technologies, soil remediation, effects of climate change on the local agricultural sector
- Support and advocacy for our farmers and producers
- Workforce Development
- Agricultural Engineering
- Personal care products
- Alternative Plant-based Plastics & packaging
- Textiles
- Maintain records of growth and development in ag-sector
- Oversee Ag budget items in a responsible and accountable process
- And so much more!

A missing piece of the Paradise Puzzle will fall into place when Maui is a Garden of Eating. A Department of Agriculture can create partnerships with the Hawaii Tourism Authority and Maui Tourism Authority, using budgeted tourist dollars to fund the development of Agriculture Tourism on Maui.

A ROBUST AG SECTOR WILL CREATE CAREERS NOT JOBS.

Currently, a landowner of an Ag Parcel must farm 51% to apply for a building permit on their land. *How do they do this without cheating?*

- A County Agriculture Department can match farmers with Ag Land Owners, creating opportunity to fully utilize Ag Land as the ordinance requires.

What about OED or MEO overseeing Agriculture?

- OED cannot take on anymore responsibilities, they are already maxed out on their work load. They are currently switching directors and also have just transferred a large group of grants to the Office of the Mayor to manage. The timing is immediate.

Here is an example of a Department of Agriculture in an area of California...

<http://cms.sbcounty.gov/awm/ConsumerProtectionDivision/Agriculture.aspx>

Sincerely,
Bill Greenleaf
Greenleaf Farm
Maui Tomorrow Sustainable Agriculture Chair.
Agriculture Working Group
FAM Founder