

PEA Committee

From: Barbara Barry <begoniabarry@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 17, 2018 9:33 AM
To: PEA Committee
Subject: New KAP land purchase.

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Since the last meeting of August 19th, 2018, I have not received any answers to my questions that were part of my testimony questioning the value and timing of this particular land purchase from A&B.

As a citizen and KAP Committee Member, I feel it's very important for the KAP Committee and the Water Committee to address these questions and make a recommendation to the OED and County Council one way or another.

We now have a new meeting scheduled on October 12, @1:30 Location is tbd. Hopefully this purchase will be on our agenda.

In the meantime, I think it's important not to rush this sale through since it doesn't seem like there is a plan or appropriated funding for development, maintenance and taxes.

I'm seeing 2 different assessed values for this land. The County's assessment of 27, 300 with a 2017 property tax assessment of 200.00 per year and the ACM consultant, Mr. Yamamura's value of 488, 400.00 on page 8 of his report.

Same property tax assessment in 2017 of 200.00 Which is correct?

Where is the universal water agreement with A & B? Where is the assurance of water for the kap farmers? Why is A&B wanting to move the pump out of the ditch and into the reservoir??

We all want affordable farmlands to be available to our farmers to grow food. Is this the best A&B, the State and the County can do for supporting Ag on Maui? Why aren't we being offered important ag land for sale or long term lease?

Is there another way to secure farmland with very long term leases(100 years) with A&B so this Ag land doesn't get resold for millions of dollars when it's current value and tax obligation is very reasonable?

This could certainly be a part of their diversified Ag vision they have for Maui. Maintaining this Valuable Ag land in perpetuity depends on keeping it affordable.

Since the County would be paying the new property tax bill if this sale goes through for over 5 M? Do we know what that may be? Is there a budget for that? Will it go up as the land becomes more valuable?

Ag land needs to remain affordable if we want our farmers to compete with off island imports.

The Ag land sale comparibles do not reflect the same topography or soil conditions as the 262 acres and should not be used for comparison.

I remember A&B installing huge infrastructure underground along Hana Highway a few years ago in the same area as the sale of land along Hana Hwy near Paia to the Developer who plans a commercial venture there.

Did A&B do that as part of the sale? At the time it seemed really strange but after I heard about the sale, it raised some questions about future commercial development there.

I'm seeing 1,100,00. budgeted for new KAP design for 2018. Is this in addition to the 1M the County is investing with the State for the land?

Let's take the time to create a budget and a plan for this proposed Ag Park Development before we move forward with the sale. If this sale doesn't happen, there will be other ways to move forward with expansion of another Ag park.

There is no clear plan to accommodate Organic Farmers in any County run Ag park in Maui County. Traditional, non chemical farmers need their own Ag Park and should be given the same amount of acreage that the Chemical farmers have allocated to them.

The current Administration does not support this huge block of farmers who choose Regenerative, Organic, Permaculture and Biodynamic farming. They are not playing fair.

What about the land in Ha'iku that the County owns already?

What happened to the sale of Organic farmland with Haleakala Ranch a few years back?

The current Ag Park should be audited for a clearer picture of how well that Park is being managed and how this resource is being maintained. This should be done before the new administration take over the reins in January.

Only a few people really know how this County asset is being managed.

This appears to be a sweetheart deal for A&B, not necessarily for chemical farmers who will be saddled with high water rates from costly electricity required to pump water uphill or County taxpayers who will be funding the management and property tax expenses of this sale.

I urge you to delay voting on this item today. We need more information and more farmland available for non chemical food farming. It's the way of the future.

Mahalo,
Barbara Barry