

July 17, 2017 - PEA-37 ONE FARM PLAN

Good morning Council and Chair Sugimura,

My name is Sydney Smith and I own Maliko Estate Coffee Farm between Makawao and Haiku. I'm a member of the Ag Working Group and I'm the president of the Maui Coffee Association.

I would like to urge you to pursue a One Farm Plan policy. This would save the County money by eliminating redundant information gathering and verification efforts in each department and would save the farmer and rancher days of time filling out different forms and submitting duplicate information in different formats at different times of the year and arranging different inspection schedules. A single form with all the information and one site inspection should be enough if all Departments have access to the information.

I'd also like to ask that you recognize that farms cover more than one tax map key. Dividing the information about your farm by parcel is nearly impossible. The IRS Schedule F form or State of Hawaii G-45 are the key verification documents some departments ask for. These forms do not divide income by parcel. Cows don't know or care when they pass from one parcel to another and neither do coffee pickers. If the plan could encompass the whole farm this would be extremely helpful and would provide more accurate information for the County.

These changes will make the County more efficient and utilize personnel and scarce resources in a better way. The multiple plans currently required of the farmer and rancher are time-consuming and have to be done for every tax map key. I know one farmer that has 5 parcels. That's 15 farm plans.

Creating an online system that all departments can access would be more convenient for the County and the farmer or rancher. Being able to login to fill out one multi-use form would be an excellent way to move us into the 21st century that we are 17 years into at this point.



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