

## EACP Committee

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**From:** Judy Levy <judylotusheart@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:48 PM  
**To:** EACP Committee; GET Committee; Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura  
**Subject:** Request to create a Maui Dept. of Agriculture

Gentle people, dear Council members,

I was not able to be online to testify today, so I hope you will hear my desires this way and I will be following your attention to this **CRUCIAL** issue.

During this unprecedented time the last three months, we have **FINALLY** seen the general public awaken to the **CRUCIAL** **NEED** and the **JOY** of growing some of their own food! Did you know that we **RAN OUT OF SOIL** (commercially packaged/sold) in **ALL**

the nurseries, hardware stores and big box stores for a couple of weeks. Small "plant farmers" who grow veggie starts have been hard pressed to keep up with this **NEW DEMAND** for backyard gardens.

As a full time island resident for nearly a dozen years, I am a proud "small kine" farmer in Haiku, a small businesswoman and Elementary school Substitute teacher..**AND** a Tutu!

I am also a member of the MFUU and care deeply about Maui becoming "Food Sustainable." It's **CRAZY** that we import so much

of our food when we can grow so much diverse food here.

I urge you to read and seriously consider this very well written and comprehensive proposal for such Dept. of Ag. as this County infrastructure would be really essential to allow Maui's farming to really grow island wide.

FULL cooperation of many organizations and our Cty. Council will ideally help this possible NEW FOCUS on growing more of our own healthy, organic food to flourish.

I live on a lovely 2 acre property in Haiku where I personally planted 12 various avo, citrus, papaya and banana trees, along with a garden of greens as soon as I moved here, 11 years ago, which we are all benefitting from now.

My landlord has now given me permission to cultivate half of the land, but I have not been able to find a grant writer or procure funds to pay younger farmers to implement the plans I have for this food sustainability "mini farm."

If we had a Dept. of Ag. here, I suspect I might be able to "plug into" various sources of funding to begin this process of GROWING MORE FOOD here, A LOT OF FOOD can be grown on an acre.

I hope as we come out of this strange time of quarantine, you and

Mayor V will seriously consider Maui's future with an emphasis on an **AGRICULTURE ECONOMY** rather than so much of focus and

resources going towards the tourist economy.

I love the idea of people having the new possibility of **NOBLE CAREERS** as farmers, rather than just getting "jobs" in the hospitality industry.

**TIME FOR A NEEDED CHANGE OF FOCUS!! A NEW DAY NEEDS SOME NEW WAYS!!** We are watching!

**MAHALO** for all you do to help keep our precious Maui so unique.

Let's get her **HEALTHY!!**

With great respect and gratitude, much **ALOHA** to you all,

Judy Levy

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*Judy's Gems & Journeys ~ On the Road*  
*Books, Crystals, Metaphysical Gifts & Gallery*  
[www.AwakeninginParadiseMaui.com](http://www.AwakeninginParadiseMaui.com)  
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