

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI

POLICY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

December 21, 2018

**Committee
Report No. _____**

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Policy, Economic Development, and Agriculture Committee, having met on July 17, 2017, and December 3, 2018, makes reference to County Communication 17-262, from Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, relating to the One Farm Plan.

By correspondence dated November 27, 2018, your Committee Chair transmitted a document entitled "One Farm Plan Application," effective 2020 Assessment Year. The form was a collaborative effort between the Department of Finance, Department of Planning, and Department of Water Supply to help consolidate the process for farmers applying for benefits related to real property tax rates, water rates, and building permits on land zoned agriculture. The form incorporated suggestions from the Agriculture Working Group.

Your Committee subsequently received a revised application form from the Department of Finance.

A representative from the Department of Finance said the one farm plan process would require the submittal of one application and one farm plan instead of three separate applications and three separate farm plans for each of the three departments.

The updated process would involve submitting the completed application to the Department of Finance, Real Property Tax Division, in person or via an electronic option to www.onefarmplan@co.maui.hi.us. Once the Real Property Tax Division receives the form, staff would scan the form into a data storage system to enable access for all three

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
POLICY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Page 2

Committee
Report No. _____

departments. The Department of Finance agreed to conduct agriculture inspections for all three departments, when appropriate.

A representative from the Department of Planning said the one farm plan process is still necessary for bed and breakfast permits or short-term rentals on agricultural-zoned land. In order to obtain a special use permit, the applicant must provide evidence of agricultural activity on agricultural-zoned land.

Your Committee discussed the challenges of creating a one farm plan process involving the Department of Finance, Department of Planning, and Department of Water Supply when each department utilizes a different definition of agriculture. Further, the information derived from the one farm plan application is used differently by each department. Each department also has their own set of administrative rules that govern how the farm plan is applied.

Your Committee discussed the Agriculture Working Group's recommendation that qualified inspectors conduct agriculture inspections for the County.

Your Committee further discussed the Agriculture Working Group's recommendation to file one application for multiple tax map keys.

Your Committee agreed it was important to include farmers' input on this matter. Your Committee also agreed that further discussion was needed before the One Farm Plan Application form could be implemented.

Your Committee recommended the matter be filed to allow further revisions to the One Farm Plan Application and continued discussions with the Department of Finance, Department of Planning, Department of Water Supply, and members of the Agriculture Working Group.

Your Committee voted 5-0 to recommend filing of the communication. Committee Chair Sugimura and members Atay, Carroll,

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
**POLICY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**

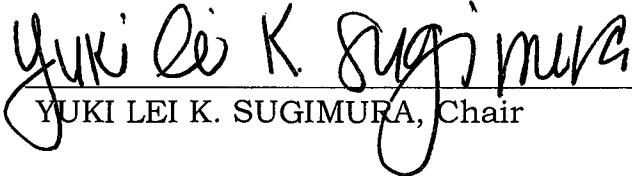
Page 3

**Committee
Report No. _____**

Cochran, and Hokama voted "aye." Committee Vice-Chair Crivello and members Guzman, King, and White were excused.

Your Policy, Economic Development, and Agriculture Committee RECOMMENDS that County Communication 17-262 be FILED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair

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