

APT Committee

From: Sydney Smith <malikoestate@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2022 5:39 PM
To: APT Committee
Subject: Ag Working Group testimony APT-64 and 83

APT-64

Notice to Property owners when account is in arrears

My name is Sydney Smith. I'm the owner of Maliko Estate Coffee and the facilitator for the Ag Working Group.

Several years ago our members conducted an informal Poll of ag property owners to determine why more don't offer their land to young farmers and ranchers. The most common reason was the requirement by Dept. of Water Supply to place their precious water meter into the name of the farmer or rancher, thereby putting it at risk.

There is no notification process by DWS to assure owners that they would have a chance to pay the bill and save their meter from removal by the Water Department for non payment.

This even happened to one of our members who would have lost their meter if not for a watchful neighbor who saw it happening and called them.

If we want to give young farmers and ranchers a chance we need processes in place to encourage property owners to offer their land for agricultural use. This is a simple fix.

APT-83

Ag Working Group supports farmers and ranchers being billed for water at the agriculture rate from the first gallon rather than after the 15000 household rate. Agriculture users without any household should not be penalized for utilizing the ag zoned land as it's supposed to be used...for agriculture.

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