

## PEA Committee

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**From:** Gail Swanson <gailswansonmaui@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2017 9:09 AM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** Kula Ag Park committee

PLEASE protect our island! The Kula AG Park Committee should include local organic farmers, not a Monsanto employee and big business.

I encourage you to support a more grass roots, organic approach to our environment before it is too late for our precious late.

Jamie Davidson and Brandon Shim do not represent what is needed.

Thank you! Gail

Gail Swanson  
Singer/Songwriter  
[www.GailSwanson.com](http://www.GailSwanson.com)

## PEA Committee

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**From:** mauivort@shamal.websitewelcome.com  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2017 9:59 AM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** I strongly oppose the nominees for the Kula Ag Park Committee. GROW ORGANIC!

Aloha Policy, Economic Development and Agriculture Committee,

I strongly oppose the current nominees for the Kula Ag Park Committee, and insist that small organic farmers be placed on the committee. Maui needs forward thinking organic farmers as members, who realize Maui needs to increase the production of chemical-free, organic food for us to eat. We do not need, or want, more GMO Frankenfood.

Healthy food security is vital to Maui's future. Any disruption in the world oil market (an earthquake in the Bosphorus, or a civil war in Saudi Arabia, or other unforeseen events) and oil prices would skyrocket, the economy would collapse, and food shipments to Maui would plummet, leaving stores empty in days ... then what?

We need to just say NO to more GMO! Monsanto "farmers?" poison our air, land, and water without producing any food for us to eat! Maui voters have clearly shown that we don't support Monsanto's "chemical farming," and that we want to support more small, local organic farmers.

Maui's government is supposed to represent the public good, not to employ corporate cronies to protect corporate profits. Envision an organic Maui!

## PEA Committee

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**From:** Lanikai Farms <info@lanikaifarms.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2017 10:43 AM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Cc:** Elle Cochran; Kelly King; Robert Carroll; Stacy S. Crivello; Yukilei Sugimura; Mike White  
**Subject:** Kula Ag Park

Dear Council Members,

The members of Kula Ag Park Committee need to represent all of our society in terms of farming.

Representative Cochran wrote the following that you need to understand on a deep level. "Maui voters have shown that they don't support Monsanto's "farming". Looking towards a sustainable and healthy future, we must support small, local food farmers. This is why we founded the Farmers Union. As it's first president in 2010, we set a target of 3,000 small farms growing healthy food, food without questionable or proven dangerous man-made chemicals.

Support the goals set by public conscience and do not approve Jamie Davidson or Brandon Shim, but replace them with leaders we the people can count on to move towards a healthy food-sustainable island.

Thank you.

LLoyd Fischel  
Hawaii Hero of Agriculture in Education 2010  
[LanikaiFarms.com](http://LanikaiFarms.com)  
Tel. 808-572-2269  
"Where Ecology Guides Us"

## PEA Committee

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**From:** Brian Murphy <bmurphy420@mail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2017 11:16 AM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** I strongly OPPOSE the current nominees for the Kula Ag Park Committee

Aloha Policy, Economic Development and Agriculture Committee,

I strongly OPPOSE the current nominees for the Kula Ag Park Committee.  
Please, add a couple small farmers from the Farmers Union,  
with preference to organic farmers.

Brian Murphy  
Pukalani, Maui, HI

## PEA Committee

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**From:** David Kahn <dmkahn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2017 12:31 PM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** Kula Ag Park Committee nominees

It's my understanding that our mayor has nominated a Monsanto Employee to be a member of the Kula Ag Park Committee and that the committee has no representatives from the small farming community or organic farming community. It's also my understanding that the 2nd nominee is another member of the Farm bureau.

I urge the committee to reject the Mayors nominees and try to find representatives from farmers union and organic farming community here on Maui.

Thank You,  
David Kahn  
Makawao, HI

## PEA Committee

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**From:** Sylvia Cenzano <sylvia@kolealea.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2017 3:34 PM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** Current Nominees for the Kula Ag Park Committee

I strongly oppose the current nominees for the Kula Ag Park Committee, and insist that small organic farmers be placed on the committee. Maui needs forward thinking organic farmers as members, who realize Maui needs to increase the production of chemical-free, organic food for us to eat.

I speak for many people.....we know the statistics of how many one voice typically represents. Please, consider that there are many individuals whose votes will count, and will continue to grow. We will support the politicians that support us.

Thank you very much for your time,

Sylvia Cenzano

## PEA Committee

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**From:** Robin Ritchie <binkyshawaii@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2017 8:03 PM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** Farm committee

Please nominate an organic farmer.

Have you contacted Kula Farms

O'O farms

Or any non Gmo farmer.

Monsanto is already represented but to listen to the voters of Maui County non Monsanto farmers participation would be more appropriate.

sincerely

Robin Ritchie  
Maui County

Sent from my iPhone

## PEA Committee

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**From:** Marilyn Lopes <mauicountryfarmtours@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2017 9:52 PM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** Kula Ag Park

Dear Mayor,

Please do not appoint any Monsanto employees to our Kula Ag Park. Please know that only harmful results will come to our island from the poisons pesticides and cancer causing chemicals that are used by Monsanto. You know that maui should be transformed, healed, regenerated, restored by organic farming practices and that it is possible as evidenced in other countries which rebuilt thousands of acres destroyed by heavy pesticides. I strongly oppose the current nominees for the Kula Ag Park Committee, and insist that small organic farmers be placed on the committee. Maui needs forward thinking organic farmers as members, who realize Maui needs to increase the production of chemical-free, organic food for us to eat.

I speak for many people.....we know the statistics.

Please, consider that there are many individuals whose votes will count, and will continue to grow. We will support the politicians that support us.

Thank you very much,  
Marilyn Lopes

Marilyn Jansen Lopes  
<http://mauicountryfarmtours.com>  
808 283-9131  
@mauifarmtours  
Maui Country Farm Tours  
661 242-1744



## PEA Committee

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**From:** Joseph Kohn <weareoneent@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 18, 2017 11:44 AM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** OPPOSE Mayor's nominations to to the Kula Ag Park Committee

OPPOSE Mayor's nominations (Jamie Davidson, Monsanto employee and Brandon Shim, Farm Bureau representative) to to the Kula Ag Park Committee. I am concerned that the true interests of small, local farmers who produce our food are not being represented on the Kula Ag Park Committee. Maui voters have shown that they don't support Monsanto's "farming," and that we want to support more small, local food farmers.

The current committee already has a Farm Bureau representative, but no rep. from the Farmers Union.

Thank you for your very kind attention.

Joseph Kohn MD  
Founder, We Are One, Inc. - WAO  
1268 W Hiahia Pl  
Wailuku, HI 96793-9762  
808-359-6605  
[Joseph@WeAreOne.cc](mailto:Joseph@WeAreOne.cc)  
[www.WeAreOne.cc](http://www.WeAreOne.cc)

## PEA Committee

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**From:** Tera Paleka <tera@paleka.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 18, 2017 4:56 PM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** CURRENT NOMINEES FOR KULA AG PARK COMMITTEE

Aloha Policy, Economic Development and Agriculture Committee,

I strongly oppose the current nominees for the Kula Ag Park Committee, and insist that small organic farmers be placed on the committee. Maui needs forward thinking organic farmers as members, who realize Maui needs to increase the production of chemical-free, organic food for us to eat. We do not need, or want, more GMO Frankenfood.

Healthy food security is vital to Maui's future. Any disruption in the world oil market (an earthquake in the Bosphorus, or a civil war in Saudi Arabia, or other unforeseen events) and oil prices would skyrocket, the economy would collapse, and food shipments to Maui would plummet, leaving stores empty in days ... then what?

We need to just say NO to more GMO! Monsanto "farmers?" poison our air, land, and water without producing any food for us to eat! Maui voters have clearly shown that we don't support Monsanto's "chemical farming," and that we want to support more small, local organic farmers.

Maui's government is supposed to represent the public good, not to employ corporate cronies to protect corporate profits. Envision an organic Maui!

Tera L.H. Paleka, CMPS  
Tera@HawaiiFinancialService.com  
NMLS# 357949  
Office: (808) 667-5626  
Direct: (808) 870-3653  
Hawaii Financial Services, LLC.  
NMLS# 1566069

OnTheGoMobileMessage

## PEA Committee

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**From:** cornelia soberano <llbmaui@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 18, 2017 8:56 PM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Cc:** DON GUZMAN; Donald S. Guzman  
**Subject:** Please add a Farmers Union rep - this will make for a balanced decision-making that would benefit all of Maui.

## PEA Committee

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**From:** Jennifer Ahia <jennahia@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 19, 2017 4:25 PM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** Block unethical nominees for Kula Ag Park

Aloha to the Policy, Economic Development and Agriculture Committee members,

I am writing as a tax paying citizen to express my deep concern over over Mayor Arakawa's nominations to the Kula Ag Park Committee. Maui has been overwrought with chemical Ag company insiders having too much influence on policy making and the effects of that are damaging to the health and well being of our communities as well as the health an well being of the land which should be feeding us. The pesticide contamination alone is enough for major concern but combine that with the excessive influence and money these companies and their representatives have and it equals an unconscionable predicament for Maui County. The Kula Ag Park committee should be represented with local farmers who actually produce food for the people of Maui and who don't contaminate our soil and water. Please, please do not approve the Mayor's nominees and instead seek out candidates from the Farmers Union and small scale farmers that practice Aloha 'Aina, who truly love the land and care about it's health and safety for the next seven generations.

Mahalo for your consideration,  
Jennifer Noelani Ahia  
Wailuku, Maui

The Policy, Economic Development and Agriculture Committee will discuss and vote on whether to approve the Mayor's nominations of 2 people to the Kula Ag Park Committee. The 2 nominations are:

Jamie Davidson, Monsanto employee

Brandon Shim, Farm Bureau representative

I am concerned that the true interestst of small, local farmers who produce our food are not being represented on the Kula Ag Park Committee. Maui voters have shown that they don't support Monsanto's "farming," and that we want to support more small, local food farmers.

The current committee already has a Farm Bureau representative, but no rep. from the Farmers Union.

The item was deferred last meeting because some of the other council members were also concerned that the Kula Ag Park Committee is stacked with corporate industrial ag interests, with few or no small farmers and NO organic farmers, and the mayor wants to add a Monsanto rep and another Farm Bureau rep.

*Aloha,*  
*Jennifer Noelani Ahia L.Ac.*

## PEA Committee

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**From:** Bridget Mowat <Christinme3@live.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 19, 2017 6:03 PM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** Mayor's nominations to the Kula Ag Park Committee

Welina mai Committee Chair Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Vice-Chair Stacy Crivello, and members of the PEA Committee,

Thank you all for this opportunity to share my thoughts regarding the Mayor's nominations to the Kula Ag Park Committee. I have learned of the two names nominated by the Mayor, one a Monsanto employee and the second, a Farm Bureau representative. I tried to look up the current structure of the committee but it appears that the website has not been updated to reflect current members. Positions that have expired in 2014, 2015, and 2016 are still listed. It appears that Darren Strand and Lorraine Brooks expire in 3/31/17 for which I am assuming is the reason for these nominations.

I do not find any representation of small, local farmers who produce our foods or in particular a representative of the Farmers Union. I have visited their website and find myself drawn to their farming and food production because they promote food safety and security. I don't see representation on the committee and a person with this commitment and expertise would be an asset.

The Mayor is aware of how voters have shown that they don't support Monsanto's laboratory farming techniques and that we do support small, local food farmers. I find his nomination of a Monsanto employee to be another way to broaden the gap between the Mayor's office and the community.

I do believe the Kula Ag Park Committee is stacked and I want to see representation by the smaller farmer and the organic farmers. If possible, I would like to know of the names of those requesting to be on the committee. I would be surprised if there was not a wider range to choose from.

I truly believe there are other individuals with interest and would be an asset to the committee.

Let's hear from others instead of the corporate, self interest groups who believe in fast cash with the risks. I would like to see farmers who understand the nature of the soil, the earth and the food that is grown. Growing food that is not toxic can be accomplished. True farmers having been doing it for years.

I pray that you all will do the good thing. I pray the governance of this county will work together for what is pono for us all. Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Bridget A. Mowat  
molokaimowat@gmail.com

## PEA Committee

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**From:** Samuel Small <sam@smallwondervideoservices.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 19, 2017 9:20 PM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** Non-Chemical Based Farming Needs to be Represented in Kula Ag Park

Dear Policy, Economic Development and Agriculture Committee

You may recall that around 23,000 Maui voters approved of our 2014 GM Moratorium. Monsanto spent the most money ever spent in a local election lying to Maui voters. Mayor Arakawa lied openly that the county would be forced to raid people's gardens because GM Soy seeds in your dog's food would shit through your dog and sprout in your backyard. He spoke similar lies about Papaya Police. Our Mayor is totally ignorant and does not represent the will of Maui's citizens. His actions show him to be corrupted by Monsanto's influence and his request to install yet more representatives that are committed ONLY to chemical based agriculture is not in the best interests of the people of Maui County. Our Farm Bureau too showed a deep and inappropriate commitment to the Monsanto's lies.

In fact, chemical dependent ag has been shown by UN studies to not be the panacea to world hunger that Big Ag claims it to be.

In fact, internal documents released recently in Federal Court proceedings reveal that members of the EPA have been working in collusion with Monsanto to hide the risks of their massive use of Glyphosate.

Monsanto is a powerful economic force and unfortunately they appear to be deeply corrupt.

Monsanto's interest in Maui is politically and economically selfish. Any loss of authority here, they fear, will be replicated in other municipalities. The amount of money they have spent here and the influence that money has purchased is beyond reason, especially when you consider how vastly more important to Maui's economy tourism is as opposed to Ag exports. This disproportion becomes important when you consider that as Maui becomes more and more identified with Monsanto and Chemical Experiments, tourists, who are increasingly concerned over these issues, will begin to make other plans than to visit here lest they be exposed to the risk of chemical exposure. Monsanto is in a losing battle in public perception and each step they take to monopolize Ag on Maui, including and especially the pending sale of ten of thousands of acres by A&B to Monsanto will be the death knell for Maui's tourism industry. Why risk all that is good on Maui for a few politically corrupt dollars?

So what to do?

Most simply, please deny our Mayor, Monsanto and our Farm Bureau of even more representation in Maui's Kula Ag Park committee.

Instead we have available to us individuals working with Hawaii Farmer's Union United who better represent a balanced approach to farming that includes, rather than excludes, natural farming techniques that are not chemically dependent, that a majority of Maui's citizens do support.

Mahalo for your kuleana.

Sam Small  
Executive Director, Maui Causes

## PEA Committee

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**From:** Warren Watanabe <warrenmcfb@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 19, 2017 9:55 PM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** testimony  
**Attachments:** Brandon Shim ag park.docx

Please find attached testimony in support of Brandon Shim to the Kula Ag Park committee/ Please make copies for committee members for tomorrow's meeting. Thank you.

Warren

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## Maui County

February 5, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE  
County Policy, Economic Development and Agriculture Committee

### **Item PEA-2(3) Nomination of Brandon Shim to the Kula Agricultural Park Committee**

Chair Yukimura, Vice Chair Crivello and Members of the Committee:

I am Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of Maui County Farm Bureau. We are a County Chapter of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, representing 200 farm families and organizations on the island. Our mission seeks to protect and increase the viability of farms and ranches while ensuring the social and environmental wellbeing of the island.

MCFB strongly supports the nomination of Mr. Brandon Shim to the Kula Agricultural Park Committee. Mr. Shim's heritage lies in agriculture from Keokea in Upcountry. Since then he has moved to other areas, never far removed from agriculture beginning his career as a chef. He currently is the Produce Purchaser for HFM on Maui passionately seeking ways to increase locally grown in the marketplace.

Brandon's knowledge of the global market is of great help to farmers. He can articulate trends as well as fluctuations in the marketplace. His insight provides valuable guide to crops that provide opportunity. We all know how difficult a task our farmers face competing in the marketplace. Understanding the markets will provide insight to market access.

MCFB strongly believes that Mr. Shim will be a valuable addition to the Kula Ag Park Committee. We respectfully request your strong support of his nomination.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our views on this important subject.

- March 19, 2017
- Maui News

## Locally grown produce faces stiff competition

### HFM Foodservice on Maui buys 80 percent from outside the state, 20 percent local crops



Kula's Tommy Watanabe describes some of the challenges farmers face in planting, raising and bringing crops to market at a competitive price Wednesday. Watanabe is operations manager of Watanabe Vegetable Processing LLC. Although there's strong demand for fresh local produce, island farmers face strong off-island competition, new regulations and high costs. One Maui buyer gets 80 percent from his company's produce from out-of-state growers and 20 percent from local farmers. • The Maui News / MATTHEW THAYER photo

The trend and movement to buy locally grown Maui produce is strong and will last into the future, but a Maui purchaser said the government should step in to help, especially the small, local producers who have to deal with new regulations and Hawaii's high costs.

Brandon Shim, a produce purchaser at HFM Foodservice on Maui, said he would like to buy more local items, but he must turn to Mainland businesses because they can generate the volume needed for distribution. But Mainland farmers also have lower land and labor costs than local farmers, he said.

"We do local first, whatever we can do local," Shim said Wednesday morning. But he said he cannot get enough local produce to meet his customers' demand.

Currently Shim said he has to import 80 percent of the produce from an out-of-state distribution company, leaving only 20 percent of his produce local, just because of the sheer volume he needs.

Shim grew up on a Kula farm and is a former chef who used local produce. He said he'd rather get produce locally because it only takes several days to get it from the farm to a dinner table. But with Mainland produce, it could take as long as 21 days from harvest to the mouths of Maui's families.





Watanabe Vegetable Processing LLC workers Samuel Claus (right) and Charlie Navarro plant baby bok choy on Wednesday afternoon in Kula • The Maui News / MATTHEW THAYER photo

He called upon the government to help local farmers with things such as tax breaks and for local government to help farmers with water issues.

Another hurdle for local farmers is the federal Food Safety Modernization Act, he said. It sets a new regulatory framework for the food industry. General compliance dates for some companies began in September.

But Shim said that some small farmers may have a hard time complying with some of act's regulations, which include a requirement for farmers to carry high liability insurance. Meanwhile, Mainland and other businesses have the insurance in place and are up to compliance standards, he said.

Shim, along with Maui farmers, a state agriculture official and a local economist, were part of a program, "The Future of Modern Agriculture in Hawaii," held Wednesday evening at the University of Hawaii Maui College. The event was sponsored by the Chamber Commerce of Hawaii, Maui Chamber of Commerce, Maui County Farm Bureau, Maui Hotel & Lodging Association and UH-Maui College.

Maui farmer Nathan Haines of Pacific Produce in Kula, another panelist, said that last year's loss of Hawaii Commercial & Sugar Co. has deprived the state of its biggest agriculture producer and hundreds of jobs.

The tourism industry can only sustain some local employment, but perhaps more can be done to educate and train up-and-coming local farmers, he said.

"How do we get more young people involved in ag here? If all there is is service jobs, there is only a number of them," he said.

Not only can youngsters be educated in traditional farming, but students also could learn about hydroponics — Haines' method of farming.

Hydroponics grows crops without soil, using a mineral nutrient solution in a water solvent.

Pacific Produce grows Waipoli Hydroponic Greens, which can be found in some grocery stores and at Costco. Costco carries two bag varieties, which are three heads of butter lettuce and the other bag is of mixed lettuces.

Haines said Pacific Produce would not see many changes because of the Food Safety Modernization Act because it already is certified and complies with the law.

But he agreed with Shim that some small farmers could have a hard time complying with some of the law's requirements.

Overall, in order for agriculture and the Hawaii food industry to advance and grow, Shim, Haines and Heidi Watanabe, another local farmer, said that everyone must work together, whether it's a small organic farmer, larger commercial farmer and farmers from all industries along with businesses that work with agriculture.

"I hope ag can come together for the betterment of all the state," said Watanabe, who was scheduled to speak at the event but was feeling under the weather. "We need all types of ag."

Watanabe, whose family business is Watanabe Vegetable Processing in Kula, said in an interview Wednesday that the public needs to realize that farming is a business and the government would not give out grants to carry one's business.

She also added that farming is "hard work."

Watanabe Vegetable Processing handles the chopping and slicing of produce for island public schools and is the local outlet of Gate Gourmet, which provides food catering to airlines. The Kula company has other clients and farms green onions and bok choy.

Watanabe also believes there will continue to be a market for locally grown produce. She tries to use all the local produce possible, especially for local schools.

\* Melissa Tanji can be reached at [mtanji@mauinews.com](mailto:mtanji@mauinews.com).

## PEA Committee

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**From:** Lucy Feinberg <feinbergl002@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 19, 2017 10:06 PM  
**To:** PEA Committee  
**Subject:** We need different reps for the Committee.

Dear Don and Committee, please consider different reps for the Committee. We don't need another person from the Farm Bureau. We already have one from there.

We need a rep from Maui Farmers Union United. We need someone who can represent organic farmers and the new farmers who are helping us towards greater self sufficiency for Maui and the State.

We don't need a rep from the ag industry special interests-Monsanto. We need reps who represent the whole community of Maui and our needs and not the needs of a special interest group.

Mahalo,

Lucy Feinberg

129 Hoowaiwai Loop #2104

Wailuku, HI 96793

808-264-0455