

ADEPT Committee

From: Amber Sudak <ambysudak32@yahoo.com>
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To: ADEPT Committee

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I am speaking on behalf of Coconut Glens, located in Nahiku, Hawaii, on the Eastside of Maui County. My name is Amber Boden, and I am the manager of this establishment. I have been working here for nearly 10 years.

I want to express how taking away or restricting ag zoned food trucks on the Eastside of Maui creates a negative domino effect on the Hāna community. Such restrictions could lead to a 10% increase in unemployment if these businesses are shut down. But it's not just about the employees working at these trucks; it's also about the landowners, farmers, and local producers who supply us with fresh, local ingredients.

We purchase produce from over 40 farmers, including items like passionfruit, coconuts, soursop, bananas, guava, vanilla beans, chocolate, turmeric, honey, macadamias, Hawaiian chiles, durian, strawberries, kava, lavender, citrus, Sernum cherries, lemongrass, ginger, pineapple, and other seasonal fruits, which we use to craft our farm-to-table, plant-based ice creams and other products.

We buy over 1,200 coconuts weekly from more than 15 individual tree climbers. We also have three bakers who use locally sourced ingredients like bananas and pineapples for our baked goods, and we incorporate local lilikoi into our cookies.

Our business directly supports over 50 farmers, climbers, and pickers within our community. I am committed to purchasing locally sourced produce to help maintain the stability of East Maui and support our native Hawaiian farmers, who depend heavily on this income. We take

pride in this effort, and it is vital to the health and sustainability of our community.

We have been practicing sustainable resource use for over 20 years, and this commitment is central to our operations. Small mom-and-pop roadside stops like ours preserve the authenticity of farm-to-table experiences and allow visitors to see firsthand where their food comes from. This educational aspect is integral to our mission.

I understand concerns about the resale of Costco items and believe that ag zoned food trucks should offer at least 50% of their menu with locally sourced ingredients. Currently, we follow these guidelines, often exceeding 75%. It's essential that these standards be recognized and upheld.

These roadside stops on the Hana Highway are nostalgic and meaningful parts of visitors' memories. Not everyone has access to or prefers congested, commercial zoning areas with limited parking, especially in Hana.

It is crucial that farmers, climbers, workers, and landscapers are paid fair wages for their services. I genuinely care about our community and the importance of keeping our local residents making a comfortable living. Supporting these small businesses helps prevent economic hardship, which can lead to higher crime rates. Many of our fruit pickers and laborers struggle with substance use; employment provides them with structure, integrity, and a sense of purpose, which contributes to community safety and peace of mind.

My heartfelt hope is that you understand my concerns and what drives my passion for supporting our community and safeguarding our way of life here on the Eastside of Maui. We depend on one another to keep this place thriving and balanced.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,
Amber Boden
[Email: ambysudak32@yahoo.com]
General Manager, Coconut Glens

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)