

APT Committee

From: Beth Haiku <bethhaiku@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 15, 2022 11:34 AM
To: APT Committee
Subject: STRONG SUPPORT for Bill 105, TO ESTABLISH POLICIES RELATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Aloha,

I am in strong support of the proposed legislation and I am urging the County Council to support Bill 105 to establish policies related to the Department of Agriculture. I support the bill because we need the roles and responsibilities of the Department to be clearly defined in order for it to be successful and work for our community. We all want the new Dept. of Ag on Maui to be successful and responsive.

This legislation was created in collaboration with the community impact working group, which worked very hard to create a framework based on the needs of the community and the agricultural sector. Through outreach and various surveys, these areas of need and reporting requirements were drafted and I support this legislation because it is what we need from the Department to create a more sustainable and self-sufficient food system that befits residents, the economy, and our delicate island ecosystems.

The points in this legislation had lots of community feedback before they were solidified and will help guide the Department through different transitions in leadership that the Department will face over the course of the years. The reporting requirements will help with the huge need for comprehensive data collection and will allow the Department to track its successes, evaluate the ever-changing needs of the ag sector and also help everyday stakeholders and policymakers, such as yourselves, make more informed decisions. The policies we are asking to be outlined are also very thorough and comprehensive, and as a community, we feel that the Department will benefit from this guidance and it will allow it to make the biggest positive impact possible.

This legislation is also in alignment with the strategic plan that has been submitted to the administration and council and the prior legislation that has been approved for the Department. I thank you for all the support the Council has shown for the

Department of Agriculture to date and urge you all to continue that support and approve this bill.

Mahalo,

Barbara "Beth" Savitt Haiku-Peahi, Maui