

GET Committee

From: Bobbie Patnode <bobbiepatnode@fastmail.fm>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 8:34 AM
To: GET Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Please vote to confirm Will Spence

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Aloha Councilmembers,

I am writing to support the confirmation of Will Spence as Housing and Human Concerns Director.

As a member of the Ag Working Group, I worked with Mr. Spence on several issues related to use of agricultural zoned land. Mr. Spence attended several Ag Working Group meetings and also designated staff to work with us. He ensured we were aware of issues that were coming before the Planning Commissions. He took the time to understand farming issues and help us to learn how to amend bills and work in the County legislative system and the Planning Department. I also had the opportunity to work with Will in my role as part of the Cost of Government Commission, as I looked for ways to save the County money in administering Title 19 in the Ag zoned lands, and found him very receptive to starting to amend Planning Dept. processes.

In his most recent leadership role, we have been talking about how farmers can help with Maui's housing problems. Farmers have lots of land, but are restricted in how many houses they can build, either for family or for workers. We could fix that. We have also been discussing what will happen to our aging farmers when they need or want to retire. Our current Maui laws for property tax relief only apply to active Ag. We want to keep the land in Ag but also let the farmer retire. We want to work on how to fix this as well.

I believe Will Spence has the qualifications and experience to work on these issues with us. I'd like to keep our momentum going. We know he has the desire to get this right. I think the move to Housing was an excellent move for Will and I hope you will vote to confirm him in this leadership role.

Thank you,

Bobbie Patnode

Patnode Family Farm, Moderator for the Ag Working Group, Kula Community Association Boardmember, Maui Police Commission member