

## GET Committee

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**From:** Barbara Barry <begoniabarry@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, June 15, 2020 10:13 PM  
**To:** EACP Committee; GET Committee; Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura  
**Subject:** Dept of Agriculture in Maui County

Aloha to all,

Mahalo to all of you for your consideration about this important topic today.

With the current pandemic, it is a very timely issue on food security, community resilience, economic diversity and career development.

I strongly support this effort as we have the political will and islandwide need to accomplish this new, bold and very valuable vision for Maui County.

We can create this vision with funding, organization and leadership.

We are in a very unique position to promote all types of agricultural industries in Maui County while securing our local food source and caring for the 'Aina. We can inspire and promote a new reality to share with people who come to visit. There is so much here that is brilliant. Please support forming this Department.

As a member of the Kula Agricultural Park, I support this because there must be funding and strong direction to accomplish these goals. The current system needs support and direction. We have acres of land that was purchased for a second Ag park over a year and a half ago. It's still nowhere near having any farming take place on it.

We must do better. People are waiting for this farmland to become available. There's not even a waiting list being taken and the current park doesn't have availability. There is no farmland supported by the County exclusively for organic growers to avoid pesticide contamination and drift. Organic produce and flowers are in big demand. Ask Costco.

We also must address the need for Regenerative farming since it is our future. The soil must be healed and nurtured to get nutritious quality food. We must understand that chemical farming is not the way forward since it completely relies on fossil fuels, which promotes climate change as well as water pollution. Everything we spray on the plants and put in the soil, land in our oceans. It affects our cultural practitioners, sea life and reef health. The tumors on our turtles are a direct result of what goes into our coastal waters. We need to do better by our pollinators as well.

This is for our future but we need to start now.

Mahalo to all the people who have worked so hard on this effort. The time is now.

Let's do it.

Sincerely,

Ms. Barbara Barry

Ha'ikū

## GET Committee

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**From:** Judy Levy <judylotusheart@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 16, 2020 8:48 PM  
**To:** EACP Committee; GET Committee; Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura  
**Subject:** Request to create a Maui Dept. of Agriculture

Gentle people, dear Council members,

I was not able to be online to testify today, so I hope you will hear my desires this way and I will be following your attention to this CRUCIAL issue.

During this unprecedented time the last three months, we have FINALLY seen the general public awaken to the CRUCIAL NEED and the JOY of growing some of their own food! Did you know that we RAN OUT OF SOIL (commercially packaged/sold) in ALL

the nurseries, hardware stores and big box stores for a couple of weeks. Small "plant farmers" who grow veggie starts have been hard pressed to keep up with this NEW DEMAND for backyard gardens.

As a full time island resident for nearly a dozen years, I am a proud "small kine" farmer in Haiku, a small businesswoman and Elementary school Substitute teacher..AND a Tutu!

I am also a member of the MFUU and care deeply about Maui becoming "Food Sustainable." It's CRAZY that we import so much

of our food when we can grow so much diverse food here.

I urge you to read and seriously consider **this very well written and comprehensive proposal for such Dept. of Ag. as this County** infrastructure would be really essential to allow Maui's farming to really grow island wide.

FULL cooperation of many organizations and our Cty. Council will ideally help this possible NEW FOCUS on growing more of our own healthy, organic food to flourish.

I live on a lovely 2 acre property in Haiku where I personally planted 12 various avo, citrus, papaya and banana trees, along with a garden of greens as soon as I moved here, 11 years ago, which we are all benefitting from now.

My landlord has now given me permission to cultivate half of the land, but I have not been able to find a grant writer or procure funds to pay younger farmers to implement the plans I have for this food sustainability "mini farm."

If we had a Dept. of Ag. here, I suspect I might be able to "plug into" various sources of funding to begin this process of GROWING MORE FOOD here, A LOT OF FOOD can be grown on an acre.

I hope as we come out of this strange time of quarantine, you and

Mayor V will seriously consider Maui's future with an emphasis on an AGRICULTURE ECONOMY rather than so much of focus and

resources going towards the tourist economy.

I love the idea of people having the new possibility of NOBLE CAREERS as farmers, rather than just getting "jobs" in the hospitality industry.

TIME FOR A NEEDED CHANGE OF FOCUS!! A NEW DAY NEEDS SOME NEW WAYS!! We are watching!

MAHALO for all you do to help keep our precious Maui so unique.

Let's get her HEALTHY!!

With great respect and gratitude, much ALOHA to you all,

Judy Levy

*Judy Levy*  
*Judy's Gems & Journeys ~ On the Road*  
*Books, Crystals, Metaphysical Gifts & Gallery*  
[www.AwakeninginParadiseMaui.com](http://www.AwakeninginParadiseMaui.com)  
*(808)-891-1114 store*  
*(808)-269-7762 cell*  
*Celebrating Life.... Creating Precious Moments*

## GET Committee

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**From:** Dawn Lono  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 8:06 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony for GET Committee  
**Attachments:** Maui County Department of Agriculture - QV.pdf

Aloha,

Please find attached testimony regarding GET Department of Agriculture item scheduled for 6/23 meeting.

Mahalo, Dawn

## QV's Preliminary Research Supporting Establishment of Maui County Department of Agriculture

### Definitions (according to USDA Economic Research Service)

**Direct Marketing (or Direct-to-Consumer Marketing):** “Local food marketing arrangement in which producers sell agricultural products directly to the final consumers, such as sales to consumers through Farmers’ markets, CSAs or farm stands.”

### Studies assessing economic impacts of local food systems

A handful of research studies from various geographies in the US show that local food sales result in greater regional sales, employment, and GDP.

#### 1. Sacramento Region Case Study:

- For every dollar of sales, direct marketers in the Sacramento Region generated twice as much economic activity within the region compared to producers who were not involved in direct marketing.
- Direct marketers generated \$0.44 additional output within the Sacramento Region for every dollar of production compared to producers not engaged in direct marketing.
- “Greater economic impact of direct market producers [was] primarily attributable to the much larger percentage of their inputs being purchased within the region (89 percent versus 45 percent).”

Source: [University of California Cooperative Extension. \(Spring 2016\). \*Economic impact of local food producers in the Sacramento Region.\*](#)

#### 2. Missouri and Nebraska Case Study:

- Local food producers added significantly greater contribution to GDP than conventional foods. Local foods had a greater multiplier effect of an additional 0.47 to 0.69 points, compared to conventional agricultural sales.
- There are even greater *indirect* employment and sales generated by local food systems.

Source: [Rossi, J., Johnson, T. G., & Hendrickson, M. \(2017\). \*The economic Impact of local and conventional food sales. Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics\*, 49\(4\),555–570.](#)

#### 3. West Virginia, Oklahoma, Iowa, and Mississippi Case Studies:

- **West Virginia:** 34 farmers markets yielded a gross increase of 119 jobs, \$2.4M increase in output, \$700k increase in income

- **Oklahoma:** 21 farmers markets yielded a gross increase of 113 jobs, \$5.9M increase in output, \$2.2M increase in income
- **Iowa:** 152 farmers markets yielded a gross increase of 576 jobs, \$59.4M increase in output, \$17.8M increase in income
- **Mississippi:** 26 farmers markets yielded a gross increase of 16 jobs, \$1.6M increase in output, \$200k increase in income

Source: [Union of Concerned Scientists. \(2011\). Local and regional food systems provide positive regional economic impacts.](#)

### Environmental and health impacts of local food systems

**4. While there is mixed data regarding the carbon footprint of local food systems, flying food for exports and imports do result in significant greenhouse gas emissions. Having a local food system in Maui County would significantly reduce emissions from transporting food.**

- In 2018, transportation was the #1 source of US greenhouse gases with a 28% share of greenhouse gas emissions, whereas agriculture ranked #5 with a 10% share of greenhouse gas emissions.

Source: [EPA. \(2018\). Inventory of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions and sinks.](#)

### 5. Richer, more diverse nutrition in locally produced and consumed fruits and veggies

- Hawaii's leading causes of death in 2017 were heart disease, cancer, and stroke. Up to 80% of heart disease and stroke are preventable with a healthier diet and lifestyle. Having greater access to nutritious foods can help prevent such cardiovascular diseases that currently cost up to \$1B a day in the US.

Source #1: [Rodale Institute. \(2013\). Why local food is better for you.](#)

Source #2: [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. \(2017\). Stats of the State of Hawaii.](#)

Source #3: [American Heart Association. \(2018\). Federal priorities: CDC prevention programs.](#)

### Other Resources

- The Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS) published an annotated bibliography of local food in community and economic development literature in 2016. You can find this document [here](#).

## GET Committee

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**From:** Lucia Maya <luciakmaya@me.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 9:29 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Aloha,  
Lucia Maya  
Makawao, HI



## GET Committee

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**From:** Debra Kennedymott <debrakennedymott@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 12:57 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui 's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,  
Debra Kennedy-Mott

## GET Committee

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**From:** Mailani Souza <mailani22@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 1:12 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** In Support of Maui County Dept. of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui 's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,  
Rene Souza  
(808)345-5477

## GET Committee

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**From:** Havilah Mills <havilahmills@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 9:24 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Maui Co Dept of Ag

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui 's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,  
Havilah Mills

## GET Committee

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**From:** Zelie Duvauchelle <zelieduvauchelle@me.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 6:23 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui 's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Zelie K Duvauchelle  
8714 Kamehameha V Hwy  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

## GET Committee

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**From:** David Johnston <hawaiidhr@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 2:13 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

- **To:** Maui County Councilmembers  
**Subject:** I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui 's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

David Johnston

## GET Committee

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**From:** Harriet Witt <harriet@passengerplanet.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2020 11:10 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** support creating a Department of Agriculture

Aloha,

Please support amending the charter by adding: Chapter 18 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE. We need this urgently if we want avoid going hungry. I've been a Maui resident since 1988 and I grow much of my own food because of our dangerous dependence on the mainland for food. Not everyone on this island can do what I do, so we need a Department of Agriculture.

Mahalo,  
Harriet Witt  
43 Puu Koa Place  
Haiku HI 96708  
808 575 9231

## GET Committee

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**From:** William B. Hess <wbhess@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2020 1:17 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Ag testimony

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. I am located in Haiku and have an orchard on my property which produces citrus, nuts and other produce for consumption within the community. I employ local residents to maintain this orchard. Maui's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. I recognize the need for Maui to be as self-sufficient as possible to produce produce for our community. Local farmers need all the assistance that can be made available to help in their efforts to provide food for our population.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism. We need more locally grown and produced food.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a Department of Agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision-making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
William B. Hess

## GET Committee

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**From:** Terese Masters <ihilanimasters@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2020 1:29 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** SUPPORT of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture.

I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui 's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

[Your Name]



## GET Committee

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**From:** Terese Masters <ihilanimasters@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2020 1:31 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** SUPPORT of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui 's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Terese Masters  
Haiku, HI

## GET Committee

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**From:** Hilary Harts <hilarymaui@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 10:05 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Maui Ag Dept

Dear Committee,

It is urgent that Maui has a special department of Agriculture to oversee the extensive ways that this island can move towards self sustainability. I fully support that one is created with open voices for the small farmer as well as the large one. I also don't want high chemical usage as in Monsanto but clean healthy agriculture for all so we can before more independent from Mainland sources.

Aloha,

Hilary Harts

Sent from my iPhone

## GET Committee

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**From:** Stacy L <stacyandolivia@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 10:05 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Proposed Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am the council to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Maui's agricultural sector was facing huge obstacles even before Covid 19. However, now we are at a breaking point and need to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture. I know I will.

Thank you for your time,

Stacy Moke

## GET Committee

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**From:** Claudia Imperato <claudiaimperato@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 10:30 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Cc:** claudia imperato  
**Subject:** Dept of Ag.

Subject: I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui 's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

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It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Claudia Imperato

Mahalo, from my iPhone.

## GET Committee

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**From:** Petra Zoeller <zoeller.petra@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 10:47 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** in support of a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

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It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Sincerely,

Petra Zoeller (registered voter living in Wailuku)

## GET Committee

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**From:** Jessica Marshall <jlynnmarshall@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 10:54 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

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It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Jessica Starman

## GET Committee

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**From:** Danielle <thegreenroomwax@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 11:04 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui 's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,  
Danielle



## GET Committee

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**From:** Ron Hansen <ronhansen99@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 11:05 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Charter Amendment--A Dept of Agriculture

Subject: In Support of a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Maui's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and provide permanent jobs.....which will suit numerous skill levels.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and challenging issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture are what our community has been requesting for years.

It is time that the County takes initiative for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Ronald Hansen

190 Hauoli St, Wailuku, HI 96793

## GET Committee

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**From:** Nick Drance <nick@themaui miracle.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 11:28 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Department of Agriculture

Aloha Mike!

I'm writing in support of a Charter Amendment that would establish a Department of Agriculture as written by Shane and Bill Greenleaf. Culturally, this honors the Hawaiian tradition of being One with the land and water and cooperating for the good of the whole. Economically, we could gain some degree of food sustainability. Obviously, in terms of the security of the island, we are taking a big chance by relying so much on imported food. This Department could provide a source for employment as well.

I believe that the fundamentals of the establishment of a Department of Agriculture are good, wise and strong. I think it's fair to say that additional benefits, perhaps ones we don't even envision today, could grow out of this initiative.

As always, Mahalo for the good work you do.

Aloha,

Nick



Nicholas James Drance  
Kihei, HI 96753

## GET Committee

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**From:** Julie Watts <zensistahmaui@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 12:01 PM  
**To:** GET Committee

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,  
J. Watts

## GET Committee

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**From:** Quoia Nakomis <awakennow13@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 12:58 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Sovereignty for Maui NOW

Dear Maui Ohana County Councilmembers,

I write to you in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. We the people of Maui are in a critically vulnerable position as the global system is crumbling. It is not hard to imagine the probability of our island home being cut-off from mainland food sources as well as fuel, medicine and countless other necessities. The time for sovereignty is long overdue. We must end our dependencies and pull together, united for the common good of our island family. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and grant decision making power to the people. The voters of Maui can determine if establishing a Maui County Department of Agriculture is in our best interests. No longer can we deny the necessity of food sovereignty as our economy has reached a critical breaking point and many of us are already going hungry and facing homelessness. I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously... it may already be too late! We must unite and make big changes fast in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will inevitably be coming.

The time to step out of polarized positions is now. Finding our commonality so that co-creative potentials are possible seems a reasonable course of action.

Please hear the call of the people.

*"Uncertainty is an uncomfortable position, but certainty is an absurd one."*

*- Voltaire*

*"You never change things by fighting the existing reality. To change something, build a new model that makes the existing model obsolete."*

*- Buckminster Fuller*

In kindness and unity,

Quoia Nakomis

Sent from my iPad

## GET Committee

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**From:** caitlin matteson <caitlinyoga@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 1:29 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui 's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

**Caitlin Matteson da Silva**

Sent from my iPhone

## GET Committee

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**From:** grace pretre <gracelovemaui@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 1:43 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui 's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

Maui County could lead the way in being an example of sustainability, to attract visitors that are conscious of our environment and interested in conservation, culture & natural living.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Grace Manon Pretre

## GET Committee

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**From:** Kachina Palencia <kachinala@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 3:49 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** CREATE A MAUI AG DEPT. with a Charter Amendment

I am in favor of creating a Maui Ag Dept. with a Charter Amendment.  
Sincerely, Pamela Palencia

## GET Committee

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**From:** Marty Martins <mauimanokane@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 4:40 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Maui needs its own Dept. of Agriculture

Aloha Councilmembers,

If this virus shutdown has taught us anything, it's that Maui must have a more diverse economy and encouraging more local agriculture - not just growing, but harvesting, packaging, marketing, and shipping -- should be aided by a county agency advising, not controlling, the entire island.

People talk about food sustainability but it needs more than lip service and pious pronouncements, and the effort needs to start now in conjunction with Maui's recovery from this currently collapsed economy. Don't wait until the next bad hurricane, shipping strike, or other natural or man-made disaster! If any island can sustain its population with locally-produced crops, eggs, poultry, pork, and beef, it is Maui.

We don't need some expensive, bloated bureaucracy, but a slim, dedicated department staffed by people with education and experience in agriculture, agronomy, and animal science and maybe one field agent assigned to cover two or three of Maui's moku.

Please, do it now and don't get a year or two down the road and say, "We should've done this" or "Why didn't we do that?"

Respectfully.  
Marty Martins

Mahi'ai iki

Kīhei



## GET Committee

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**From:** charlotte sandoz <charlotte.mandala@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 5:31 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Support for Maui agriculture department

Aloha council members ,

I want to add my support and prayers for a Maui agriculture department.

It is such a fragile situation to depend on the mainland and distant countries for our food supplies . Plus at a time when people need to build up their immune sytem, what could be healthier than fresh, local food.

I like the idea of becoming a model of sustainability and believe that by working together we could take care of the land, the ocean and provide employment and the necessity of life for all residents. We have so much knowledge of traditional agriculture as well many wonderful farmers ready to share their skills.

So yes, I am in favor of a department of agriculture for Maui county .

Charlotte Sandoz  
Haliimaile

## GET Committee

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**From:** Kathryn Moniz <kylmoniz@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 6:07 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Creating a Maui Ag Dept with a Charter Amendment

From: Kathryn Y. L. Moniz  
[Kylmoniz@hawaii.edu](mailto:Kylmoniz@hawaii.edu)

To: [get.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:get.committee@mauicounty.us)

Subject: I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you, the council, to pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. Even before the COVID 19 pandemic, Maui 's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles. However, our economy has reached a critical breaking point, due to COVID 19 and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector seriously. We must make big changes in order for us to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come.

Our food security and current economic state is a very large and worrisome issue. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, and that is where we receive most of our shipments from. We have now seen that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism, we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Industries in agriculture is what our community has been requesting for years.

It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and our environment. I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of

agriculture, so now I ask you to allow them their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Kathryn Y. L. Moniz

## GET Committee

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**From:** Theresa Marler <leianoa@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 8:01 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Charter Amendment to create a Maui County Dept of Agriculture

Aloha kakou Maui County Councilmembers,

Today I'm writing in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture.

Please council, pass this resolution and let the voters decide if they want to create a Maui County Department of Agriculture. I am a voter and a farmer living in Hana and I WANT a Maui Department of Agriculture.

Maui's agricultural sector has been facing mounting challenges. Now with COVID 19 our economy has crashed. The County needs to start looking at our agricultural capacity seriously not just for our county but for food security for our entire state. It's critical for us to take kuleana for what is happening on our island of Maui and implement the solutions that only we as Maui residents know we must take. Not only must we deal with the current COVID 19 pandemic, but also prepare for the pandemics and crisis events that may come in the future.

As you are probably most aware. Hawaii imports more than 80% of our food, making our food security very poor. Our geographical location to the US mainland exacerbates the issue. The empty shelves of stores now during COVID 19 and during the threats of hurricanes have shown us that we cannot rely on imports and tourism. We need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. The community has developed great roots in farming and ranching. There's never been a better time to harness, revitalize, and improve the quantity and quality of food being produced on our island. Maui families have been asking to boost the agricultural industry for a long time.

It is time to give the people and families of this island what they are asking for. A County Department of Agriculture will help deliver this much needed opportunity to be cultivated for the benefit of all of Hawaii and our food security. Please pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,



## GET Committee

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**From:** Karen Comcowich <kcomcowich@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 10:56 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Support for Department of Agriculture

Aloha Maui County Council,

I am writing in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. Please pass this resolution to let the voters decide if we want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture.

Maui 's agricultural sector has been facing huge obstacles, including the cost and gentrification of agriculture land and water being prioritized for other uses. Further, with 90% of our food being imported, Maui has very low food self sufficiency. The County needs to start prioritizing our agricultural sector, to ensure our future food security. A Department of Agriculture would help implement necessary programs and policies and focus our resources towards growing this vital sector.

Hawaii is situated conveniently at the farthest possible distance from any other land mass, in the event of a global food shortage this would make us the lowest on the priority list for shipments. If the barges stop coming we need to be able to feed ourselves.

In addition to that I have seen the drive in younger members of the community to farm, to grow food and give back to the community; however, the tourist industry (which has traditionally been more supported by the government) pulls them in with higher pay. If agriculture were more supported, we could create a variety of well paying career paths that could sustain the community during lulls (or complete and total breakdowns) in tourism.

Maui County should invest in Department of Agriculture to encourage food self sufficiency and food security for our residents and our environment. Please pass this resolution and allow the community the chance to vote on this important measure.

Mahalo for your time,

Karen J Comcowich  
Lahaina, HI 96761

Sent from Yahoo Mail. [Get the app](#)

## GET Committee

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**From:** outlook\_11CE94B4BE3369F9@outlook.com <michellepattyrice@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 11:55 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Maui Ag Department

Aloha,

My name is Michelle Kwik; I live in Haiku on Ag land and have spent the last 6 years growing mostly fruit and nut trees as well as raising chickens and a vegetable garden. I am a retired School Nurse, RN, BSN, PHN, M.Ed. School Nurse. It has been a lot of work trying to figure out trees that will do well where I live, how to care for them so they produce in the rain and with all of the wind, how to nourish the trees to grow in old pineapple fields that have been decimated, and how to build farm sheds and get them approved. Life would have been much easier with a little guidance from an Ag Department. I probably would have not have spent so much money on trees that do not work well here in Haiku for example mangos. There is so much to learn and since we have so many micro-climates people really need the guidance and support of an Ag Department.

One of the reasons I bought into Ag land is because I am passionate about food security and I believe especially on Maui we need to make sure we can produce our own food since we are in the middle of the Pacific. Covid 19/20 has shown us what happens to the economy without tourism. If we had food growing we would not need so much of our economy based on tourism; we could feed ourselves without the large food bills from importing all of our food. Also, due to having all people on this planet slow down we can see our environment healing; we need to make this part of our norm. We can not return to devastating our environment. All life on this planet depends on what our next steps are. There is a probability that more viruses can occur that are harsh on our bodies due to our environmental toxic behaviors and greed. Animals are at risk to have crazy mutated viruses and that places us at risk. Even if the virus came from one of the conspiracy theories out there, it does not matter, it can happen again and it probably will. The biggest lesson we received from this virus is we need to slow down and heal the planet and provide all of our basic needs and not depend as much on money/tourism. Tourism must be monitored to keep the balance in check to make this place an amazing island to live and heal our bodies and the bodies/spirits of the people visiting here. People can come and do Ag projects, help heal this sacred land, and spend time in nature healing themselves.

It is crazy we do not already have an Ag Department on Maui that is funded even more than tourism. It is Hawaii, indigenous peoples always took care of the earth, the oceans, the animals, and each other. We need to start that tradition again. We need to do everything we can to return to balance and sustainability. At the school district I worked at in Encinitas California, we had 9,000 children 3-13 years of age. The Encinitas School District grew food at every school and they had one site just as a Farm for all of the schools and all of the students. Each class was to spend one week at the farm a school year, as part of the curriculum. If an Ag Department wants to educate students on sustainability there is curriculum written for all of the elementary grades already and it is available. Also, each school has an organic salad bar for students, teachers, and all staff to eat from. I think teachers have to pay a little more since they eat way more than the children. An Ag department can put together curriculum.

Also, not many people realize the potential Ag loans out there and how to get them. An Ag department can help educate people on getting the loans and teach people how to create working successful farms in each of the diverse climatic areas. There are many mentors that can be helpful if there was a place to gather the info and disperse it to everyone. My dream is for all families to have Ag land if they want it, they can build tiny homes to start and grow food and pay the same on the loan as they would rent, approx. 1,600 a month for 2 acres, the land, and the farm infrastructure. I know a person who is doing it right now with an AG loan. An Ag Department can also help the county divide the farm land up so a large piece can be bought by the county and sold for a much cheaper price and split into lots for Ag development. We need to find and create avenues to do this for the people without trying to profit a bunch of companies and specific peoples pockets. It needs to be from the county to the citizens for the purpose of growing food, textiles, etc., processing goods and distributing.

We can even create a team of military youth whos only purpose is to care for the environment via restoring the reefs, replanting them, growing food organically, catching rainwater to drink, building small homes, putting in solar panels,



replanting forests with koa, sandalwood, whatever will grow well in each area. These youth can stay in some of the resorts. What a gift of giving and receiving. What youth would not want to come and stay in a resort area and create heaven on earth on Maui. There can even be an incentive program to work and receive 5 years of no payment on land with a 0 interest loan for 40 years. If we have an Ag Department who is given what they need they can even coordinate tourism into it. We need this right now so badly. It must be a sustainable department where they use organic methods so the reefs can regrow and the whales, dolphins, turtles, drinking water, food, and people can thrive and be safe. We need to clean up our act now. Mahalo for reading my message it means a lot to me, Kindly Michelle Kwik

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

## **GET Committee**

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**From:** John and Christel Blumer-Buell <blubu@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 11:38 AM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Cc:** Maui\_County Council\_mailbox  
**Subject:** Public Testimony. GET-10(15) "PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE". Please Confirm Receipt. MAHALO!  
**Attachments:** County Charter Amendmnt, Agriculture and Aquaculture..pdf

**JOHN BLUMER-BUELL**

Post Office Box 787, Hana, Hawai'i 96713

Email blubu@hawaii.rr.com 808-248-8972

June 20, 2020 (for June 23 meeting)

Maui County Council Governance, Ethics and Transparency Committee,  
Mike Molina, Chair

Sent via email with phone confirmation of receipt

GET.committee@mauicounty.us Ph: (808) 270-7838

**Public Testimony Regarding PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS  
(ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE)  
(GET-10(15))**

Aloha GET Committee Chair Molina and Members,

I am writing with enthusiastic support of the PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS (ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE) (GET-10(15)) *with possible amendments*.

I want to be certain the title and scope of the amendments are accurately defined and understood to reflect what we are actually hoping to accomplish.....a transformative transition to a more livable future that reflects our best values and ideals.

**Please carefully consider an important change in the title.** I suggest the Proposed Charter Amendments be titled **“A Department of Regenerative Agriculture and Aquaculture”**.

**Why include “Regenerative”?**

In biology, **regeneration** is the process of renewal, restoration, and growth that makes genomes (microorganisms), cells, organisms, and

ecosystems resilient to natural fluctuations or events that cause disturbance or damage. Every species is capable of **regeneration**, from bacteria to humans.

What some currently describe as “conventional” agriculture is not actually conventional or regenerative. Traditional and regenerative practices over many centuries of human history are more accurately described as conventional. The inaccurately described “conventional” agriculture is, in fact, largely post World War II chemically based agriculture.

In stark contrast, traditional Hawaiian culture and practices were and are are “Regenerative” and restorative. Historically, pre contact Hawai’i was self sufficient in food. **Self sufficiency regarding food is the basic recognition of need for this proposed charter amendment.**

### **Why include “Aquaculture”?**

**Aquaculture** involves the breeding, rearing, and harvesting of freshwater and marine species of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants. Producers farm in all types of water environments, including ponds, rivers, lakes, oceans, and land-based, closed recirculating-water systems.

The recognition of “Aquaculture” in the amendment title recognizes, respects and honors Hawaiian Loko (fishponds) and Lo’i Kalo (taro patch). **Hawaiian Loko and Lo’i Kalo are a good example of aquaculture at its finest.** The restoration and renewal of Molokai Loko is an important, incredible and fortunate opportunity to recognize in the context of this proposal. Please consider Moloka’i ‘Āina Momona (meaning land of abundance).

Again, I suggest the Proposed Charter Amendments be titled “**A Department of Regenerative Agriculture and Aquaculture**”.

I also suggest the Maui County Council be authorized by law to confirm or reject the appointment of the appointed Department of Regenerative Agriculture and Aquaculture Director and Deputy Director.

These appointments are vitally important. The appointees should go through a public and constructive confirmation process.

Malama Pono,

John (Blumer-Buell), Mu'olea, Hana

(In case you are wondering where these ideas come from, I offer the following list of some of my community service that influences my testimony: Maui General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC), Founding Board Member of the East-Maui Taro Festival, Founding Board Member of the Kipahulu 'Ohana, Founding Board Member of Na Mamoo Mu'olea, Community elected Board Member of the Hana Community Association for twenty-five years and Founding Member of the Hana Farmers Union United.)

## GET Committee

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**From:** Bobbie Patnode <bobbiepatnode@fastmail.fm>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 21, 2020 4:58 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Cc:** Mike J. Molina; Alice L. Lee; Kelly King; Tamara A. Paltin; Tasha A. Kama; Keani N. Rawlins; Yukilei Sugimura; Shane M. Sinenci; Riki Hokama  
**Subject:** Testimony from the Ag Working Group re: Proposed Charter Amendment GET-10(15) Establishing a Department of Agriculture  
**Attachments:** Testimony from the Ag Working Group on Ag Dept Charter Amendment Reso 6-23-20.docx

I have attached a document with the testimony from the Ag Working Group.

Bobbie Patnode  
876-0140, cell 276-0737

Aloha Chair Molina and the GET Committee-

I am submitting testimony for the Ag Working Group on the proposed Charter Amendment GET-10(15) Establishing a Department of Agriculture.

We would first like to thank Councilmember Sinenci and his staff, and Jennifer Karaca for creating this proposed amendment. There are so many good ideas here! It is clear that there is support, energy and enthusiasm for enabling successful agriculture in Maui County. The Ag Working Group has been working with the administration to improve county processes related to agriculture, farmers and ranchers since 2013. We believe more formalized county support will help existing departments understand better how to ensure farmers and ranchers receive the benefits the county has legislated, thereby increasing the success of our farmers and ranchers and the well-being of our whole community.

We are truly sorry we have not had the opportunity to discuss this more within our group and with the other groups we represent – Maui County Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, Maui Cattlemens Association, Maui Coffee Association, Kula Community Association, and others.

The Ag Working Group has submitted several proposed amendments to Councilmember Sinenci which we think will help support the existing language and create the sort of department we think will most help our existing and future agriculture businesses and our whole Maui community.

These amendments would enable us to support the proposed charter amendment. We are hoping for the opportunity to continue to work on the Charter Amendment language.

These are the amendments we would like to see:

Proposed Amendments for Ag Dept Charter Amendment Resolution submitted by the Ag Working Group to Shane Sinenci, Gina Flammer and Jennifer Karaca, June 21, 2020

1. Require the director to have agriculture experience. Change the paragraph describing the Director qualifications to:

“The director of the department of agriculture shall be appointed by the mayor with the approval of the council, and may be removed by the mayor with the approval of the council. The director of the agriculture department must have a minimum of five years of experience in the field of agriculture, at least three of which shall have been in an administrative capacity, either in public service, private business, or both.

The director and deputy director must have a bachelor’s degree or master’s degree in operations management, project management, public administration, agriculture, sustainability, or a related field, or a combination of education and work experience substantially equivalent to such a bachelor's degree.”

2. We believe certain positions would be most helpful to the agriculture community in working with the county administration, and would like the language to be specific about critical staff positions. **Section 8-18.1. Organization** would be changed to read:

“There is a department of agriculture consisting of a director, deputy director, and necessary staff including but not limited to an advocate/ombudsperson, inspectors, and grant writers; organized to fulfill the department’s powers, duties, and functions through the establishment of necessary and appropriate divisions and other means.”

3. Change the wording in the Powers, Duties and Functions section to eliminate overlaps with other agencies. It could read: 1. Establish divisions within the department to provide, perform, and coordinate actions, propose and implement policies in the county to minimize barriers and incentivize growth in the agricultural sector in collaboration and consultation with existing agricultural support agencies including NRCS, FSA, DOA, CTAHR, Maui School Garden network and all Maui school agriculture programs, MISC, NASS, and relevant county agencies (Planning, Water, etc.). This is also addressed in the following change in the description of the powers, duties and functions of the department.

4. Simplify the language to allow greater flexibility for the department to be established and grow to achieve the aspirations in the current version and in the presentation from Jennifer Karaca at the EACP meeting presentation. Pattern the description after other department descriptions in the Charter. More specifics can be defined in the County Code.

Here’s how it would read:

**“Section 8-18.3. Powers, Duties, and Functions.**

The director of agriculture must:

1. Implement the Policies, Goals and Actions related to Agriculture described in the Maui Island Plan, including but not limited to:
  - a. Build the economic resiliency of the county's communities by increasing opportunities in the agricultural sector.
  - b. Promote healthy ecosystems and implement programs that ensure the sustainable utilization of major natural resources, such as land, water, air, minerals, forests, fisheries, wild flora and fauna, and waste streams.
  - c. Support ordinances, programs, and policies that promote the countywide availability of affordable agricultural-zoned land and water for farmers



and ranchers, agricultural workforce housing, agricultural equipment, and processing and distribution facilities.

2. In coordination with the mayor and director of finance, secure federal, state, and private funding and provide grants and grant writing services to agricultural related businesses in the County.
3. Organize programs and opportunities to provide on-site assistance to farmers and ranchers.
4. Serve as the County's liaison to the agricultural sector.
5. Enable a successful agricultural sector through advocacy and assistance in complying with County, state, and federal regulations and permitting requirements.
6. Develop and implement programs to diversify and expand sustainable forms of agriculture. Collaborate and consult with existing agricultural support agencies including NRCS, FSA, DOA, CTAHR, Maui School Garden network and school agriculture programs, MISC, NASS, MPD and relevant county agencies.
7. Perform agricultural property inspections as county departments require.
8. Support programs that position the county's agricultural products as premium export products.
9. Advise the council and other agencies on policies and practices relating to contracts, procurement, and transportation that help reduce the need to import agricultural products and expand opportunities to export agricultural products.
10. Report to the mayor and council annually on the County's overall performance in meeting agriculture objectives and any barriers that could be addressed by ordinance.
11. Perform other duties and functions as assigned by the mayor or managing director.”

5. To help more voters support the amendment, change the wording of the ballot question to:

“Shall the Charter be amended, effective July 1, 2022 to establish a Department of Agriculture to support a viable regional agricultural system for Maui County by strengthening community preparedness to avoid food shortages, building the resiliency of our island communities by increasing economic opportunities in the agricultural sector providing access to more locally grown produce and promoting healthy farms and ranches through soil regeneration and best practices?”

We hope you will consider these amendments today in your discussion. Thank you very much.

Bobbie Patnode, for the Ag Working Group, June-21, 2020