

GET Committee

From: Amber St John <amberstj@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 12:53 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: 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,
Amber StJohn

Sent from my iPhone

GET Committee

From: Sandrella <sandrella77@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:42 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support Maui County Department 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,

Sandra Rivas

Sent from my iPad

GET Committee

From: Steven Jenison <stevenjenison@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:55 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Forming a Department of Agriculture for Maui County

From: Steven Jenison - stevenjenison@outlook.com
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 - 7:29 PM
To: get.committee@mauicounty.us
Subject: I support a Maui County Dept. of Agriculture

Dear Maui Council Members,

I am writing to express my support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture on Maui. Please pass the resolution allowing the voters to decide if they want to establish this new Department & support both agriculture and the people of Maui.

During this time of Covid-19 when so many Maui residents are unemployed we see a very different future than what we had expected. Providing more Agricultural land with water is a key to creating greater sustainable and diversified income for our people and a wide variety of food for all our county.

With the thousands of acres which have recently gone from sugar & pineapple we have a golden opportunity to support local agriculture which is something we all look for in the markets. In addition, having a dependable source of food not dependent on barges or airplanes should there be future disruptions benefits us all.

Please Kokua & allow the people of Maui to have a say as we all vote in November on the issue of a Maui Dept. of Agricultural.

With Aloha,

Steven Jenison
115 PUNOHU LANE, #2
LAHAINA, HI 96761

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

GET Committee

From: kgildred@aol.com
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 7:17 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. New industries in agriculture are what our community has been requesting for years.*

Maui has a very realizable potential to develop a sustainable agricultural / food system, with a year round growing season, fertile soil, and many micro-climates that support the growth of a wide diversity of produce. Professional organic farmers on Maui have proven the success of this kind of system on the island. One biodynamic farmer alone has fed 40 families a week on 2 acres of land. Many others have shown similar success.

Because most food in Hawaii is imported, food prices are 1/3 to 2/3 higher than on the mainland. Additionally, food that is brought in doesn't get to the customer until approximately a week after it's been harvested. The imported food is not organic, and buying it supports outside economies rather than local farmers and the local economy.

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 the opportunity to express their wishes for this in our democratic decision making process, and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Sincerely,
Kathleen Gildred

* Below are just a few examples of the vast opportunities and careers with Agriculture as the driver.

Agriculture is not just arable farming for food, it also includes:

Animal husbandry – including for food, fabrics, nutrient cycling, soil regeneration, and carbon sequestration.

Aquaculture – including the cultivation of fish, shellfish, bi-valves, plants/algae; whether within near shore waters, natural ponds, or holding tanks.

Forestry – for both harvesting and conservation, includes hardwoods or bamboo used for building materials, fruiting trees, or native fauna.

Horticulture – encompasses crops and gardens for food, flowers, medicinal plants, herbs or fibers; landscaping for ornamentals; and forestry (see above)

Bio fuels – includes horticulture (i.e. sunflowers), aquaculture (i.e. algae), and animal husbandry (i.e. off-gassing capture enclosures)

Animal processing facilities – establish a larger capacity processing, affordable, public facility.

Nutrient recycling – composting management for different climates and materials, both green and human waste streams.

Seed Banking – continuous growing for seeds, establish a dry down/ climate controlled bank to ensure seed longevity.

Markets – two categories, direct sales: farmers markets, CSA boxes,; and indirect sales: grocery stores, restaurants, added-value product makers

Imports – collecting data on agriculture streams coming into the County,

Exports – supporting/creating industries that aid farmers in expanding growth potential off island

Added- value products – includes foods, beauty products, and household cleaning products; provide data on the types of ingredients being sought/requested, and connect farmers to product makers.

Invasive species – establish/increase inspection protocols for incoming agriculture products (i.e. potted plants)

Research and development – new and emerging industry research, integrated pest management, farming technologies, processing and distribution technologies, soil remediation, effects of climate change on the local agricultural sector

Support and advocacy for our farmers and producers

Workforce Development

Agricultural Engineering

Personal care products

Alternative Plant-based Plastics & packaging

Textiles

Maintain records of growth and development in ag-sector

Oversee Ag budget items in a responsible and accountable process

And so much more!

GET Committee

From: Jacob <keabay56@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:10 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: AG

We desperately need an agriculture department to coordinate honoring and managing all aspects of the Aina, especially becoming independent to provide food for all of our residents and not be so dependent on imports. Not only for today but for our children children. Lets leave a positive legacy. Mahalo. Michael Jacob

GET Committee

From: Bryce Ellory <voiceoftheaina@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:14 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Supporting 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. 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,

Bryce Ellory

GET Committee

From: Leslie Le Gaux <sthpaa@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:16 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

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,

Leslie M. Le Gaux

sthpaa@hotmail.com

Lahaina- Resident 18 years

GET Committee

From: Elisabeth Wertheim <liz.west1930@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:17 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: 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,

Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Wertheim

Haiku,

Maui

...

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.

GET Committee

From: poppyseed9@aol.com
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:27 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Agriculture Amendment Resolution 6/23/2020

Dear Maui County Councilmembers:

I am in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you to pass this resolution and let voters decide if they want to establish a Maui County Dept. of Agriculture.

The County needs to start looking at our agriculture sector very seriously. We cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism. We need new industries in agriculture. Stop building slabs of concrete and help provide more locally grown and produced food. It is time that the County takes responsibility and invests in a better future for our residents, many of us who were born and raised here before tourism and big development saturated our beautiful island.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Marjory Stone

GET Committee

From: Energy Consulting Associates, LLC <ecamaui@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:47 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.

Mahalo,
William Bennett, CEM
Energy Consulting Associates, LLC
"The Energy Detectives"
(808) 283-0404
FAX (808) 874-3040
ecamaui@gmail.com
www.energyconsultingassociates.com

GET Committee

From: Joe Ritter <joeritter3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:56 PM
To: GET Committee
Cc: terez.amato; Joe Ritter
Subject: We support a Maui Dept of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Council members,

Please do allow the voters to decide if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture.

We both support this endeavor to form a Maui Dept of Agriculture.

With appreciation,

Terez Amato Kihei and Dr. Joe Ritter Kihei
SD6 HD11

This email was sent to sd3@hawaii.rr.com

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Awakening in Paradise · Chris Mentzel · 1215 S Kihei rd #d-2 · Kihel, Hawaii 96753 · USA



GET Committee

From: Erika Lechuga Disalvo <erika.lechugadisalvo@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:35 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support 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.

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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,

--

With Aloha,

Erika Lechuga DiSalvo
808.250.5548

GET Committee

From: Ellen McKinley <ellen_davin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:38 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Maui County Department of Agriculture - Yes!

Dear Maui County Council Members,

I write in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. Please pass this resolution, and allow the voters to determine if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. This is a wonderful time to take this step toward greater freedom and self-determination. We need the tools to create new visions for Maui, and agriculture is such an important piece due to its potential role in self-sufficiency for the County. Maui Nui needs to have the ability to create its own land usage parameters.

Use your imagination for a moment. What if Maui decided, for instance, to ban chemical farming and instead become a BEE SANCTUARY? We know the perils faced by honeybees, and the critical role they play with regard to farming. There would be enormous small business start-up potential: honey, beeswax, cultivation of bees, manufacture of beekeeping equipment and supplies, creation and marketing of all sorts of value-added products containing honey: from beverages to various foods, skin care and hair care products for local enjoyment and export. Beeswax-based products as well, such as reusable beeswax-coated food wrappers, candles, balms, etc. Nurseries specializing in bees' favorite flowers for locals and shipment off-island. Classes and workshops and garden tours. Grow flowers and fruit trees all over the island! And the bees will happily support our agriculture as well, increasing pollination to create more food and thus food security (and exports to neighbor islands). The new businesses will help diversify Maui's economy.

Passing the resolution will allow the potential to create the charter amendment for the Department of Agriculture and allow Maui to move to a future other than one driven by chemical-based systems, if that is what Maui chooses. Moving away from chemical agriculture benefits the ocean and all the creatures of the sea, supporting human and soil health as well. Sounds like a great idea to me! Please, let's not waste the opportunity to make constructive changes and craft a healthy vision for an exciting future for this County. Please act now!

Thank you for your service to the inhabitants and environment of Maui,

Sincerely,

Ellen McKinley

GET Committee

From: Ellen McKinley <ellen_davin@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:40 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Fwd: Maui County Department of Agriculture - Yes!

Forgot to include my address:

Ellen McKinley
15 Kulanihakoi Street, Unit 7E
Kihei, HI 96753

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ellen McKinley <ellen_davin@yahoo.com>
Subject: Maui County Department of Agriculture - Yes!
Date: June 22, 2020 at 9:37:39 PM HST
To: get.committee@mauicounty.us

Dear Maui County Council Members,

I write in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. Please pass this resolution, and allow the voters to determine if they want to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture. This is a wonderful time to take this step toward greater freedom and self-determination. We need the tools to create new visions for Maui, and agriculture is such an important piece due to its potential role in self-sufficiency for the County. Maui Nui needs to have the ability to create its own land usage parameters.

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Thank you for your service to the inhabitants and environment of Maui,

GET Committee

From: Jenna Strubhar <jennastrubhar@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:05 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Maui Department Of Agriculture

Dear Maui County,

As a family who has called Maui home for over a dozen years and has planted deep roots on this island, we care greatly about the land, the culture and the sustainability of Maui. We have the ability to grow more of our own food which will not only feed our residents are call for less shipment of goods, but will also provide more jobs (and diversity of jobs away from tourism), it will keep more money on the islands and in the pockets of our local families, it will provide more food security in the event of a natural disaster or pandemic and I believe it is an essential part of restoration and reconciliation that needs to happen in Hawaii.

We would love to see the fertile land of Maui become farms that feed our people and connect people back to their food and this island. We would love to see more of our money be kept in our local economy. We would love to see more jobs become available - especially after the loss that our current pandemic has brought. We would love to see more yards be turned into home gardens and less land in the hands of greedy mainland corporations like Monsanto. We believe a more sustainable island is possible and we believe much of this starts with a Maui Department Of Agriculture.

Nathan & Jenna Strubhar
Wailuku, Hawaii

GET Committee

From: Jeremy Jarvis <jeremyjarvis808@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:43 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I absolutely do NOT support a Maui County Department of Agriculture as it's proposed.

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I have been a citizen of Maui for the last 15 years (originally from the big Island) I'm writing to voice my serious concern regarding the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I completely value food sovereignty and seek to support local farming, however, I oppose the ramping up of wasteful and unsustainable animal agriculture practices, exploitive animal husbandry, & cruel and inhumane animal processing and packing facilities.

As it stands there are already over 13,000 cows being kept on the north shore. The average cow produces 3.5 gallons of urine and 65 pounds of manure every single day. That means roughly 150,000 tons of feces every year running directly into our ocean creating many health risks including staphylococcus, MRSA, and other super viruses, as well as causing algae blooms that destroy our reefs and poison Pacific marine life.

Maui's current population {which you know better than I do} I am told is estimated at close to 170,000 people. 21,000 of those people (an entire 1/8 of our population) could be fed for a full year with the 3500 acres of fertile land (probably even much more in the competent hands of our skilled and talented local farmers as opposed to the 870 cows that are presently being raised there. After the head, skin and major organs have been removed that barely yields 700,000 pounds of meat (bone weight included)

In the midst of a pandemic it seems foolish for Maui to be focusing on animal agriculture when it is a commonly known fact that processed animal products deplete the human immune system and are leading contributing factors to many of the major health issues that threaten the global population. The negative environmental impact of these practices are incredibly huge.

In closing I would like to thank you for your time and consideration. Please consider the health and well-being of our island population as well as the island Herself. Not to mention The poor animals whose lives are marginalized as they are commodified and ultimately destroyed for human consumption.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Jarvis
Radio Personality.

GET Committee

From: Chrystal Summers <csummers@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:55 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Animal Agriculture proposal

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I have been a citizen of Maui for the last 15 years (originally from the big Island) I'm writing to voice my serious concern regarding the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I completely value food sovereignty and seek to support local farming, however, I oppose the ramping up of wasteful and unsustainable animal agriculture practices, exploitive animal husbandry, & cruel and inhumane animal processing and packing facilities.

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In closing I would like to thank you for your time and consideration. Please consider the health and well-being of our island population as well as the island Herself. Not to mention, the poor animals whose lives are marginalized as they are commodified and ultimately destroyed for human consumption.

Sincerely,

Chrystal Summers

GET Committee

From: House <skyhouse2213@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:12 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: AG testimony

This is probably too late, but here goes regardless.

Creating a Department of Agriculture in Maui County will provide long-term sustainability for Maui's food production.

A new department can consolidate all the different segments of government funding that are related to agriculture currently.

This will also create a higher return to the tax paying residents that live in Maui County. It's a historical fact that for every dollar of farm production, \$10 is produced in economical development within the community. It can create much needed new jobs, non-tourist related. It can also empower the county aside from the state governance. With the creation of Maui County's own Department of Agriculture and consolidation of government funding, the 1:10 dollar growth ratio would be enhanced greatly.

With the introduction of the new crops from Mahi Pono this will also give Maui more resources for food production. It's the perfect timing for Agri - business development on Maui County due to the impact of COVID 19. The importance of food production sustainability is more relevant now than ever, this is a great opportunity in these times of pause - direction reset - ascension growth. It's a time Maui County can set the pace as a leader.

The Maui department of AG would be able to work with existing agencies such as USDA, Hawaii Department of Agriculture, The Department of Health, Department of Interior and Natural Resources.

Sky Laurie Householder

808.868.1088

Sent from my happy iPhone 8 Plus

GET Committee

From: joan petty <laloca68@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:21 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Ag

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I have been a citizen of Maui for the last 10 years I'm writing to voice my serious concern regarding the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I completely value food sovereignty and seek to support local farming, however, I oppose the ramping up of wasteful and unsustainable animal agriculture practices, exploitive animal husbandry, & cruel and inhumane animal processing and packing facilities.

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In the midst of a pandemic it seems foolish for Maui to be focusing on animal agriculture when it is a commonly known fact that processed animal products deplete the human immune system and are leading contributing factors to many of the major health issues that threaten the global population. The negative environmental impact of these practices are incredibly huge.

In closing I would like to thank you for your time and consideration. Please consider the health and well-being of our island population as well as the island Herself. Not to mention The poor animals whose lives are marginalized as they are commodified and ultimately destroyed for human consumption.

Sincerely,

Joanie Petty
Sent from my iPhone

GET Committee

From: Adria Marin <adria808@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:26 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: URGENT

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,

Adria Marin

GET Committee

From: Solsounds S <solsounds@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:51 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Council Members,

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,

Shaun Swanson

GET Committee

From: Dawn Derango <ripit24me@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 2:00 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: We need a department of agriculture

Things are probably going to get more and more complicated with island farming,there's a lot of new farms opening up and a lot of diverse plants and animals being raised right now, no doubt we're going to have unique issues pop up and we need some sort of committee or organization that keeps everything all balanced. We need some sort of department of agriculture which can hope serve the needs of local farmers and farm workers.

GET Committee

From: Carol T. Friedman <hanalomilomi@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:17 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Support amendment in support of proposed charter amendment to create 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,

GET Committee

From: Karen Reid <karenreid424@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:44 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,

Karen Reid

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

GET Committee

From: classes@lomimassage.com
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 9:26 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Resolution to Create A Dept. of Agriculture on Maui

will help develop a sustainable agricultural system for Maui County, increase community preparedness through coordinated policies and actions, strengthen resiliency of the County's island communities through research and economic growth in the agricultural sector, boost resident health through access to more locally grown produce, and promote ecosystem health through natural-resource regeneration and protection

will help develop a sustainable agricultural system for Maui County, increase community preparedness through coordinated policies and actions, strengthen resiliency of the County's island communities through research and economic growth in the agricultural sector, boost resident health through access to more locally grown produce, and promote ecosystem health through natural-

will help develop a sustainable agricultural system for Maui County, increase community preparedness through coordinated policies and actions, strengthen resiliency of the County's island communities through research and economic growth in the agricultural sector, boost resident health through access to more locally grown produce, and promote ecosystem health through natural-resource regeneration and protection

will help develop a sustainable agricultural system for Maui County, increase community preparedness through coordinated policies and actions, strengthen resiliency of the County's island communities through research and economic growth in the agricultural sector, boost resident health through access to more locally grown produce, and promote ecosystem health through natural-resource regeneration and protection

It's time to Maui to secure sustainable, healthy food for all.

This resolution will help develop a sustainable agricultural system for Maui County, increase community preparedness, strengthen our island communities through research and economic growth in the agricultural sector, help residents gain access to more locally grown produce, and promote ecosystem health through natural-resource regeneration and protection.

say YES!

GET Committee

From: William Greenleaf <bgreenleaf.maui@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:29 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Resolution for a Department of Agriculture ballot initiative

Aloha Chair and GET Committee Members:

I am in strong support of the Resolution to create a Maui County Department of Ag.

During the testimony last week, I was asked by Ms Rawlins-Fernandez, 'what would a Maui Dept of Ag provide different from Hawaii State Department of Ag'. I responded that HDoA is underfunded and over burdened. Ms. Karaca, in her excellent presentation, provided detail about the burdens on an underfunded State Department of Ag.

Historically, has Agriculture grown and diversified on Maui in the past few decades? The answer is a resounding NO! That is what we can expect if we continue to do what we have been doing.

Creating a Department that will attend to Ag needs and opportunities will **change the course of history for Maui.**

This is the time when the people are strongly tuned into the possibilities of agriculture for both food security and for Careers that will be a companion industry for tourism.

How will the voters gain an understanding of this Resolution? Ms Karaca has created an extensive presentation that can be aired on Akaku and at focus groups leading up to the Nov 2020 election.

Agriculture will be supported by the Federal Government more intensely than ever. Grant opportunities pursued by a Maui County Department of Ag will expand budget opportunities beyond Maui County funds.

This is a historic moment. Maui was an Agricultural powerhouse. It's time to re-create that power. It can be said: 'it takes a village'...in this case, 'it's takes a Council to create a Department to empower the village'.

Respectfully,
Bill Greenleaf
Greenleaf Farm
Makawao

GET Committee

From: Chris Mentzel <chris.mentzel.2016@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 10:53 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,

Chris Mentzel

GET Committee

From: Debra Greene <debra@DebraGreene.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:23 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Please Support Maui County Dept. of Ag

Aloha Maui County Council members,

I am a constituent of Maui County. I am writing in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. Please 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.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Debra Greene

Sent from my faster, safer, more secure HARDWIRED computer

GET Committee

From: Deborah Pozin <deborahpozin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:42 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Maui must have a Dept of Agriculture

To: 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.

Maui residents must have food security through expanding agriculture and farming. A Dept of Ag will provide accountability and advocacy for farmers and producers.

Maui Must Become More diversified and not so dependent on tourism. IF NOT NOW, WHEN?

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,

--
Deborah Maika'ikalani Pozin

GET Committee

From: Robert Mcleod <rmcccloud@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:51 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support a Maui County Dept. of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to support the proposed charter amendment that would create a Dept. of Agriculture.

Please let the voters decide!

Maui can no longer rely upon tourism alone. We need new industries and we've been requesting it for years!

Please invest in our future for all of our residents AND our environment.

Please pass this resolution and allow our democratic decision making process run its course.

Mahalo!

Sue McLeod
Kihei

GET Committee

From: Ananda Stone <anandastone8@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 11:53 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Ananda Stone
1595 Kuuipo St,
Lahaina, Hawaii 96761

RE: Testimony in Support of a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Aloha Esteemed Council Members,

The Maui Island Plan states that, 'Agricultural lands are a necessary link to self-sufficiency and a diverse economy.' In addition, that agriculture is a 'vital component of our economy.'

We have so many opportunities for ag, whether it's for food, energy, textiles, or other added-value products. The potential is huge given our year round growing season. We need to invest in career development, not just jobs on Maui. With so many opportunities for ag industry development, we could put Maui much closer to self sufficiency, sustainability, and resiliency. Already we have diversified with the bio-fuel industry, vodka, chocolate, and spices, but there's so many more avenues like: seed banking, animal husbandry, plastic alternatives, textiles, sauces, soaps, medicine, juices, you name it.

A Maui County Department of Agricultural would allow our County to collect federal funding and address localized specific issues, management needs, rule changes, and data collection. We could potentially finally see an ag system that works for Maui County and moves our community towards food security, self-sufficiency, and economic prosperity.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Ananda Stone
West Maui Resident
splashvideo@yahoo.com

GET Committee

From: marci gutt <mginfinity8@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 12:02 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,

Marci Gutt

GET Committee

From: Aprilni@hawaii.rr <aprilni@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 12:12 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,

April Ibanez

Sent from my iPhone

GET Committee

From: Joy Gorman <joy_gorman888@me.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 12:22 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Testimony for AG Dept

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,

Joy Gorman 92 Ala ApapaPl, Pukalani

Sent from my iPhone

GET Committee

From: Susan Douglas <sd3@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 12:43 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Support creation of 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,

Warmest Mahalo and Aloha!

Susan Douglas
Writer & Healthy Life Coach
Temple of the Spirit
Kihei, Maui, HI 96753
808 879 1112

(You can call 24/7, if you get my machine leave a long message.

NO texts please.)

sd3@hawaii.rr.com

GET Committee

From: Mark Sheehan <mark@marksheehan.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 12:59 PM
To: GET Committee
Cc: Sheehan, Mark
Subject: Resolution for a Department of Agriculture ballot initiative

Aloha Chair and GET Committee Members:

I support the Resolution to create a Maui County Department of Ag.

During the testimony last week, Bill Greenleaf was asked by Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, 'what would a Maui Dept of Ag provide different from Hawaii State Department of Ag'. He responded that HDoA is underfunded and overburdened. We see this in how

agriculture has failed on the neighbor islands because of our Oahu-centric legislators who allocate a meager 4/10s of

one percent of the state budget for agriculture.

Historically, has Agriculture grown and diversified on Maui in the past few decades? NO! That is what we can expect if we continue to do what we have been doing.

Creating a Department that will get Mauians to focus on Ag needs and opportunities **for Maui**.

We have hit the limits of tourism on Maui and neglected our basic survival needs. We can't rely on far-away state reps to understand or address our critical food security needs.

How will the voters gain an understanding of this Resolution? Ms Jennifer Karaca created an extensive presentation that can be aired on Akaku and at focus groups leading up to the Nov 2020 election.

GET Committee

From: Bill or Bobbie Best <bestb002@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 1:08 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Governance ethics & transparency Committee, Re: Maui Dept. of Ag - please create one!

To help Maui become more sustainable and not so reliant on only tourism, this opportunity to create a Dept. of Ag. couldn't come at a better time.

This could help us recover from our current crisis and prepare for others in the future.

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. The prospect is exciting and excites hope, which we need now. While we are not enthusiastic about animal husbandry, we are enthusiastic about more meaningful jobs for residents that this would enhance.

Mahalo nui
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Best
280 Hauoli
Wailuku
242-9119

GET Committee

From: Kim Jacoby <kimsmithmaui@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 1:27 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support a Maui County Dept. of Agriculture

Dear Maui Councilmembers,

I am writing to express my support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Dept. of Agriculture on Maui. Please pass the resolution allowing the voters to decide if they want to establish this new Department & support both agriculture and the people of Maui.

During this time of Covid 19 when so many Maui residents are unemployed we see a very different future than what we had expected. Providing more Agricultural land with water is a key to creating greater sustainable and diversified income for our people and a wide variety of food for all our county.

With the thousands of acres which have recently gone from sugar & pineapple we have a golden opportunity to support local agriculture which is something we all look for in the markets. In addition, having a dependable source of food not dependent on barges or airplanes should there be future disruptions benefits us all.

Please Kokua & allow the people of Maui to have a say as we all vote in November on the issue of a Maui Dept. of Agricultural.

With Aloha,

Kim Jacoby
Napili

Sent from my iPad

GET Committee

From: Judy Grodan <judygrodan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 1:30 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Maui Dept of Ag

To: 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, Judy Jarvie

GET Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 8:24 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: FW: Submission of Testimony
Attachments: HDOA CTAHR Final.pdf; Testimony on Maui DOA Proposal.pdf

From: Nicholas Comerford <nbc6@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 7:42 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Cc: Cynthia Reeves <reevesc@hawaii.edu>; Elmer Kaai <elmerk@hawaii.edu>; Nicholas Comerford <nbc6@hawaii.edu>; Jeff Goodwin <jeffg3@hawaii.edu>; Comerford, Nicholas <comerfordn@ctahr.hawaii.edu>
Subject: Submission of Testimony

Aloha County Clerk of Maui Office,

Please find attached written testimony with respect to the Tuesday, June 23 County Council Meeting at 9 am regarding a Department of Agriculture for the county.

Mahalo

Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
Director, Agriculture Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
Room 202, Gilmore Hall
3050 Maile Way
University of Hawaii – Manoa
Honolulu, HI 96822-2231
dean@ctahr.hawaii.edu

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



Department of Agriculture
STATE OF HAWAII



**COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE
AND HUMAN RESOURCES**
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

CTAHR Activities and Responsibilities (related to agriculture)

1. Academic Responsibilities

- a. Instruction and curricula development in agriculture at the University level.
- b. Workforce development in agriculture through education and Extension.
- c. Awarding of university degrees in its areas of expertise.

2. Research Responsibilities

- a. Researching aspects of agricultural (plant and livestock) management and plant and animal function to improve Hawai'i agriculture.
- b. Develop new agricultural systems to make production more efficient and cost effective.
- c. Investigate diseases, insect and weed issues related to the biosecurity of crops; and develop ways to eliminate/avoid/manage the problems through research.

- d. Develop new cultivars via breeding to improve Hawai'i agriculture.

- e. Maintain the UH insect museum.

3. Extension responsibilities:

Train clientele in a wide variety of agriculture areas in order to help them succeed (ex. food safety, pesticide use, edible crops production, non-edible crops production, gardening, integrated pest management).

- 4. Youth Development/ Education in agriculture via the Hawai'i 4H program.

- 5. Provide services to clientele via the **Agriculture Diagnostic Service Center** (ex. soil testing, fertilizer recommendations, water testing, disease identification, insect identification, etc.).



Common Tasks and Collaborations

- 1. Pesticide safety training
- 2. Developing jointly a Managed Pollinator Protection Plan
- 3. Joint research issues via HDOA funding
- 4. Joint workshops in selected areas for producers and other citizens
- 5. Testing for imported soil-free media
- 6. Detection of new pests
- 7. Identification of pests such as insects and diseases
- 8. Control of insects via surveys and remediation, often funded by HDOA

Missions, Tasks and Collaboration Between HDOA and CTAHR

In order to assist the legislature to better understand the activities of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), and to assist in directing the tasks that they wish to have accomplished via legislation, this document describes the mission and activities of these organizations. We start with the mission of each organization, then note what each does that is unique, and follow that with what tasks overlap and are a collaboration. All activities and responsibilities outlined here relate to agriculture production and protection.

Mission of HDOA: To further expand the role of Hawai'i's agricultural industry to benefit the well-being of our island society by diversifying the economy, protecting resources important for agricultural production, and gaining greater self-sufficiency in food.

Mission of CTAHR: To create and deliver knowledge that supports and strengthens families, agricultural and food systems, and the natural environment. We educate and serve the people of Hawai'i and those from around the world with integrity and excellence.

HDOA Activities and Responsibilities

1. **Regulatory authority:** Regulates import and inter-island movement of animals and plants; conducts surveillance, control programs, investigations and performs laboratory diagnostics for production animal diseases.
2. **Certification authority:** Provides export certification for queen bees, phytosanitary certificates for commodity export, and nursery certification to facilitate exports, both in-state and out-of-state.
3. **Enforcement authority:** Responsible for audits, commodity inspections, pesticide use enforcement, and ensures food safety and quality of agricultural commodities, measurement accuracy and fairness in the marketplace.
4. **Training/Education:** Responsible for training relative to regulations that HDOA enforces (ex., Pesticide safety training in response to violations).



5. **Funding:** Funds CTAHR and other organizations to seek new knowledge; provides financial assistance for the agricultural and aquaculture industries.
6. **Biocontrol:** Evaluates, propagates, distributes beneficial insects/pathogens for biocontrol.
7. **Agricultural marketing** through industry product promotion, commodity associations' support and grant funding management.
8. **Agricultural statistics:** Develops state level information on agriculture and publishes agricultural statistics.
9. Develops comprehensive statewide and regional **Agricultural Plans** to advance initiatives, such as increasing food self-sufficiency.
10. Manages, maintains and adds to the Department's agricultural lands, irrigation water, and other agricultural **Infrastructure Assets** and promotes their use in agricultural production by farmer lessees.



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MĀNOA

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
Founding College of the University of Hawai'i
Office of the Dean and Director for Research and Cooperative Extension

June 22, 2020

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED IN REFERENCE TO THE RESOLUTION PROPOSING
AN AMENDMENT TO THE REVISED CHARTER OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI IN
ORDER TO ESTABLISH OF A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Submitted by
Nicholas Comerford
Dean and Director
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

To: Maui County Council
Subject: Establishment of County Department of Agriculture

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on the proposal for the County of Maui to create a Department of Agriculture.

The intent of the new department in Maui County is to promote agriculture in the county. The document lists a variety of duties that appear relegated to the State's Department of Agriculture, while others reflect programs that already exist in the University of Hawai'i at Manoa and are present in the county.

My intent is not to speak for or against the issue at hand, but to describe the role of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) so that the information can be used in your deliberations.

CTAHR houses both the Hawai'i Cooperative Extension Service and the Hawai'i Agriculture Experiment Station. We have components of these programs operating in Maui County. The Cooperative Extension Service is "the largest education system of its kind in the world. It is active in rural, suburban, and urban communities...". We currently have 9 Extension Agents on Maui, which are part of a 35 Extension Agent population that we have state-wide. In addition, we employ Extension Specialists on campus and in some counties throughout the state, who work hand in hand with our agents. We recently lost a Research Specialist stationed on Maui, and were in the process of hiring another when the pandemic froze all hires within the university system.

Extension Agents across the state work together in the areas of Livestock, Pasture and Range Systems; Vegetable Production; Landscape, Ornamentals and Turfgrass; 4-H Youth Development; Intergenerational Programs; Nutrition and Food Safety; Soils and Plant

3050 Maile Way, Gilmore Hall 202 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822-2271
Telephone: (808) 956-8234, Fax: (808) 956-9105
E-mail: dean@ctahr.hawaii.edu

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

Management; Urban Horticulture; and Emergency Preparedness. Two of the Maui-based Extension Agents are housed on Molokai.

It is called Cooperative Extension because in most every other state it is a cooperative fiscal agreement between the county, state and federal government. Hawai'i is the only state I am aware of where the Extension model is different. The national model is that the county provides a portion or full salary/benefits of county-based Extension faculty, along with travel expenses, local support staff and office space; while the state provides the majority of Extension faculty salary, and manages the Extension employee's workload and state level support. In fact, we have a similar arrangement active in Maui County on Molokai with an Extension Agent wholly funded by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to work primarily with the native Hawai'ian community.

Our Agriculture Experiment Station is also active in Maui County. Our research stations at Kula and Haleakala fit under this umbrella. Our entire county operation is run by a County Administrator, Dr. Cynthia Reeves.

The role of both our programs in Maui County are to provide solutions to enhance the lives of its residents through research and education. Our mission in supporting agriculture is to support all manner of science-based management systems through research, education and demonstration. We strive to be an unbiased, research-based source of information.

There can be confusion about what CTAHR does relative to what a Department of Agriculture has as its responsibility. In order to illustrate how we might interact with a county organization, I am attaching a document that HDOA and CTAHR put together to explain this to state legislators. We hope that this may be useful in describing the difference between a Department of Agriculture and a university college.

We present this information as an example of an efficient use of funds within a Department of Agriculture, or as another option if the Department is not approved.

I am at your service to discuss any of these topics, as is Dr. Reeves.

GET Committee

From: Steve Freid <freidonmaui@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 1:52 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,

--

Steven J Freid
<http://lifeonmaui.com/>

GET Committee

From: Patricia Ann Lailey Delaney <mauipal@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 2:08 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Agriculture

Maui needs food security! I am appalled that A and B put toxic chemicals on land for years. Now Mahi not Pono is doing the same. Nutritional deficiencies are rampant in food due to industrial farming practices. Also the takeover of water is sorrowful. Why do we citizens have no power? Food security is of the utmost importance! Has anyone else noted the air quality has declined since Mahi Pono took charge of the land. There are not tourists around and driving down Kula highway the west Maui mountains are hazy! Why? More cancer and diseases are killing people eating these poisoned foods. On Maui we have so much g.m.o. growing and poisoning our land ,air and water. We have A and B raising land prices resulting in homelessness due to overpriced rentals and land. For the sake of our island and the Hawaiians who have been ripped off by A and B and their powerful reach in politics! Save our Island now! Please let the life of the land be perpetuated in Righteousness! Oh Akua take me back!

Yours Truly Patricia Lailey Makawao
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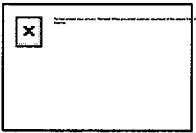
GET Committee

From: Bonnie Newman <bonnienewman10@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 2:13 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Establish a Dept. of Agriculture PLEASE

Aloha esteemed Committee: I have been a permanent continuous resident of Maui for over 34 years and see this as the perfect time for this department to be established. Please consider how important this is to our food security and the diversification of our economy from simply tourism which is necessary but ruining our Island.

I know you also care deeply about Maui; so I urge your positive action in this regard.

MAHALO for all You do for All of Us! Bonnie Newman, 650 Mililani Place, Kihei 96753 - 808/ 283-645



Bonnie Newman Rs
The Singing Realtor!
Coldwell Banker Island Properties
The Shops at Wailea Office
808 / 283-0645

GET Committee

From: Marty Guerriero <martyguerriero@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 2:47 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Create a Department of Agriculture

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Up until now I did not realize we did have a Department of Agriculture, that explains a lot of who has been running the Ag Lands,
It's time to step up and do what is right by the people of Maui. Maui should be able to grow and product most of it own food.

Create a Department of Agriculture, let farmers run it, should be a combo of young and old farmers (new and old Technology) they know what is needed.

They need to have a masters degree from a real collage in Agriculture or a life long proven success in farming.

NO life time family appointments.

Martin Guerriero

GET Committee

From: Lois (Laura) Greenwood <lgreenwoodmaui@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 2:56 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Support of the Resolution to vote for Dept. of Agriculture

Aloha Governance, Ethics and Transparency Committee

I am writing in full hearted support for the Resolution to allow the community to vote on the County establishing a Department of Agriculture/ Office/Agency or whatever functional name is appropriate. Most important is that we have a separate entity in the County that is accountable to the citizens and to the County Council and Mayor that supports the myriad of agricultural based functions that will support a thriving maui food security agricultural community and will create jobs and careers for Maui residents. This entity should be tasked also with networking and perhaps coordinating with all of ag-related programs currently in our County including the ag programs at the University of Hawaii-Maui College and the College's Food Innovation Center under OCET.

Please find a way via press release or email responses to let us know the progress of this initiative.

Aloha,
Lois Greenwood, Ph.D.
Retired Professor, U.H. Maui College
Founding Director of VITEC, Workforce Development, Continuing Education (currently Ho'ala)

Laura (Lois) Greenwood Ph.D.
lgreenwoodmaui@gmail.com

Landline: 808-874-9121 (no text)
Website: drlauragreenwood.com

GET Committee

From: Brian and Shelly Villiarimo <kaelekutropicalflowers@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 3:26 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Testimony for proposed charter amendment to create a Maui County Agriculture Department

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Maui County 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 and other agriculture products. 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,

Shelly L. Tumbaga and Brian K. Villiarimo

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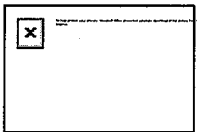
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Lois Greenwood, Ph.D.
Retired Professor, U.H. Maui College
Founding Director of VITEC, Workforce Development, Continuing Education (currently Ho'ala)

Laura (Lois) Greenwood Ph.D.
lgreenwoodmaui@gmail.com

Landline: 808-874-9121 (no text)
Website: drlauragreenwood.com

GET Committee

From: marta greenleaf <greenleaf.maui@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 3:28 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support a Maui County 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.

The residents of Maui will benefit from a local Ag Department in myriad ways. The concerns over the future of food insecurity causes stress to our families and, the need for careers that allow people to make a living wage would be greatly increased as local food production, with all it's different aspects, become a part of our lives.

Covid 19 has been a huge wake-up call to all of us and adopting a widespread, diverse program of local Ag will give us so much more possibility and security in our community.

We can take control of our future and empower many of our residents to work in Ag related fields when this department is created for our local economy.

It is time that the County takes proactive 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 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,

Marta Greenleaf
Makawao, HI

Sent from my iPad

GET Committee

From: Lauren Loor <lauren.loor@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 3:31 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Testimony GET Committee meeting June 23rd 2020 9am
Attachments: Testimony for GET- 10(15) Establishing a Department of Agriculture_6.23.20_Lauren Loor.pdf

Aloha,

Please see the attached testimony for the GET Committee meeting set for tomorrow June 23rd at 9am.
Mahalo!

Best,
Lauren Loor, MPH, INHC



6/23/2020

Testimony for Governance, Ethics and Governance Committee

Aloha members of the Maui County Council,

My name is Lauren Loor and I am submitting testimony for item GET- 10(15) Proposed Charter Amendments, Establishing a Department of Agriculture. I have been working as the Food Access Coordinator for Maui, Molokai and Lānaʻi, coordinating the Maui Nui Food Alliance and collecting data about the food access outlets in Maui County. We are in desperate need of this conversation, we have been food insecure for too long. Now more than ever we are seeing the effects of this broken system and how our most vulnerable populations have been the hardest hit.

COVID-19 has brought to light many issues of our broken food system, and many of these problems have been known for a long time. It is no secret that as state Hawaii imports 85%-90% of its food; this makes it nearly impossible to be prepared for any and all emergencies. This also drives up the cost of food across the board and the cost of living.

With the unemployment rate upwards of 50% in some zip codes in Maui County, food distribution sites are servicing over 3 times the amount of people they normally would be and are running low on shelf stable items to distribute into the community. SNAP applications that are being processed have doubled, but we lack vendors who will accept SNAP/EBT especially farmers markets where there is access to local fresh fruits and vegetables. Maui County has maybe 3-4 markets that accept SNAP/EBT countywide at any given time.

DOE schools conduct grab and go meals for children who are food insecure, but parents have had to make the hard decision to chose between gas money and picking up these meals for their children. Unfortunately, due to staffing capacity issues the number of schools serving grab and go meals for the summer is about half of what they were before the school year ended.

We are the second worst hit county in the country in terms of our economy, which means we will not be out of the woods for quite some time. This conversation about food security and establishing a Department of Agriculture for Maui County is of the most importance now for the future of our community. Maui County has done a great job creating programs to assist people in need during this time, but there is so much that can be done. I hope that with your leadership we can figure out a way to create food security for all and diversify our economy to increase job security as well.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Best,
Lauren Loor

GET Committee

From: Tim Wolfe <haikumauifarmer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 3:34 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Maui Ag Department

Dear Maui County Council members,

I am writing to you today in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture. I am asking you 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. Our economy has reached a critical breaking point due to the COVID 19 pandemic, and I believe the County needs to start looking at our agricultural sector more seriously. 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.

I am a member of the Hawaii Farmers Union Haleakala Chapter, and stand ready to assist in any way.

Now that Ken Yamamura has retired, 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. I ask you to allow them to share their voice in our democratic decision making process and pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Timothy Wolfe

Hawaii Farmers Union United
Haleakala Chapter Board Member

GET Committee

From: Jeffreyudv <jeffreyudv@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 3:34 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

It is the right measure at the right moment, and fundamental to our community's future well being.
Thank you for uniting and doing the right thing.
Jeffrey Bronfman

GET Committee

From: Bonnie Yurkanin <bonnie.yurkanin@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 4:35 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Dept of Agriculture

Subject: I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

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Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Bonnie Yurkanin

Sent from my iPhone

GET Committee

From: Krystal K. Cabiles
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 5:23 PM
To: GET Committee; Council Member; Sarah D. Pajimola
Subject: Re: URGENT!!! Polling for a possible reconvened GET meeting on Friday (June 26, 2020) at 9:00 a.m. and Tuesday (June 30, 2020) at 9:00 a.m. for continued consideration of pending Charter Amendments

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Categories: Yellow category

Councilmember Paltin is available on Tuesday, June 30 at 9a.

Sent from Outlook Mobile

From: Sarah D. Pajimola <sarah.pajimola@mauicounty.us>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 5:00:00 PM
To: GET Committee <GET.Committee@mauicounty.us>; Council Member <Council_Member@mauicounty.us>
Cc: EA <ea@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Re: URGENT!!! Polling for a possible reconvened GET meeting on Friday (June 26, 2020) at 9:00 a.m. and Tuesday (June 30, 2020) at 9:00 a.m. for continued consideration of pending Charter Amendments

Member Rawlins-Fernandez, is available June 29th, June 30th, July 1, July 2.

Mahalo,
Sarah

From: GET Committee <GET.Committee@mauicounty.us>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 4:12 PM
To: Council Member <Council_Member@mauicounty.us>
Cc: EA <ea@mauicounty.us>
Subject: URGENT!!! Polling for a possible reconvened GET meeting on Friday (June 26, 2020) at 9:00 a.m. and Tuesday (June 30, 2020) at 9:00 a.m. for continued consideration of pending Charter Amendments

Council Chair Lee has approved Governance, Ethics, and Transparency (GET) Committee Chair Molina's request for a possible recess of tomorrow's meeting. We would like to poll for a possible reconvened meeting on Friday (June 26, 2020) at 9:00 a.m. and Tuesday (June 30, 2020) at 9:00 a.m. for continued consideration of pending Charter Amendments.

Please reply to GET Staff (Shelly and Pauline) at GET.committee@mauicounty.us **by 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 23, 2020**, as to your availability. Please include any time restrictions you may have, in your response. Please contact GET Staff if you have any questions or require further information. Thank you for your attention.

GET Committee

From: Jason Schwartz <mamamaui@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 5:31 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Aloha. Support for the creation of the department of agriculture in the County Of Maui

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.

This paragraph is followed by a lot of copy that you've seen from many other testifiers. This document was created with a lot of thought and care for our county. The future of Maui is dependent, dependent on wisdom to make it important Enough to create a department like this here on Maui.

Many of you may know that I have chosen to open my mouth a lot on local TV but don't take sides on issues very often because then I can't be as effective as a broadcast host for All sides of issues. I don't see any other solution for MAUI that has no other sides.

I think it's that important To create this department and to make agriculture that important! All these facets as outlined create a fabric with which to implement a successful journey towards self sustainability and more for our islands

Thank you for listening to me.

Jason Schwartz,

host of Maui neutral zone local show, director of a nonprofit umbrella call the MAUI arts and music Association, leading the charge toward integration of progressive projects that can be an example to the world of our integrated action planning and most important cooperation on matters too important to put on a back burner.

So yes I support the creation of this Department of Agriculture. Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

GET Committee

From: Karin Frost <karin@hokunui.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:14 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Re: Maui County Department of Agriculture

Sample Testimony

To: get.committee@mauicounty.us

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. I truly believe we need to focus and support our agriculture culture for our resiliency, Health, wellbeing and longevity.

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,

Karin Frost

1215 Pi'iholo Road
Makawao

GET Committee

From: Rob Parsons <robparsons@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 6:01 PM
To: GET Committee
Cc: Mike J. Molina; Shane M. Sinenci
Subject: Written testimony of Rob Parsons, GET 6/23/2020
Attachments: GET Comm June 23, 2020 testimony.docx

Aloha GET Chair Molina and Council Member Sinenci,

Please see attached testimony: **IN SUPPORT OF ALL AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED AS AMENDMENTS TO THE MAUI COUNTY CHARTER**

Mahalo nui loa,

Rob Parsons

Tuesday, June 23, 2020

Honorable Michael J. Molina, Chair, and members,
Maui County Council
GOVERNANCE, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

RE: TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF ALL AGENDA ITEMS PROPOSED AS
AMENDMENTS TO THE MAUI COUNTY CHARTER

Aloha Chair Molina and members;

Please consider my **recommendation to advance and approve each item on today's agenda**, specifically, GET-10(15), GET-10(4), GET-10(2), GET-10(8), GET 10(10), GET-10(16), GET-10(9), GET-10(14), GET-10(10), GWT-10(7), and GET-10(11).

In each case, I believe there is an adequate and appropriate basis to consider amending our Maui County Charter, in order to clarify gray areas, and/or provide better opportunities for good governance.... which I believe is the basic mandate of this committee.

I am particularly enthusiastic about the golden opportunity to bolster County resources by establishing a Department of Agriculture, for a multitude of reasons that will surely be covered well in other testimony today.

I have long felt that County services could better be addressed by splitting the Department of Housing & Human Concerns into two separate departments, in a similar fashion to what we decided on the 2006 ballot with Public Works & Environmental Management. There is no question that we may have missed opportunities to address housing issues, homelessness, and other community concerns by not having the clear focus and appropriate staff and resources to address these vital issues.

I recognize that should they all appear on our ballot in November, I may not vote to support every one of these proposals. Nevertheless, I support providing the opportunity for our community and citizens to share their *mana`o* on each of these proposed charter amendments. Even though the Charter Commission will soon be chosen for the upcoming 10-year review of our guiding governmental document, I strongly believe there is wisdom in sending each of these proposals to the voters at this time.

Mahalo nui loa for your hard work and diligence in representing Maui County.

Rob Parsons
Haiku, Maui, HI
269-6842
robparsons@earthlink.net

GET Committee

From: Venus Rosete-Medeiros <verosete@ksbe.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 3:48 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support a Maui County Department of Agriculture
Attachments: Dept. of Agriculture Support Letter.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

See attached letter...mahalo!

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

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June 22, 2020

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,

Me Ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Venus Rosete-Medeiros". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Venus Rosete-Medeiros

GET Committee

From: Barbara Barry <begoniabarry@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 4:09 PM
To: GET Committee

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Aloha Chair Sinenci and Committee Members,

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

With the current pandemic, it is a very critical and important issue to dial in the focus 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 today.

As a member of the Kula Agricultural Park, I support this because I see the need for funding and strong direction to accomplish these goals of supporting small farmers and the production of "Made in Maui County" products. The current system needs support and direction and we cannot expect the OEC to carry this program. They have their hands full.

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 farming community in a large way. 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.

It also has a major impact of the quality of tourism that we attract to Maui County.

This is for our immediate needs and our future. We need to start now.

For those that say the State Dept of Ag should be the entity to carry this project forward, if this were true, we wouldn't be having this conversation today.

They would have done already.

We cannot wait any longer for the State to step into their role. It's not going to happen.

Mahalo to all the people who have worked so hard on this effort. The time is now, let's do this!

Sincerely,
Ms. Barbara Barry
Ha'ikū

GET Committee

From: ediesmessage <ediesmessage@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 22, 2020 4:10 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support a Maui County Dept of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

This issue is very important to me because it furthers our sustainable food sources in the future.

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.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Edith Van Hoose

45 Stephen Ln #814

Kahana

Sent from my iPhone