

GET Committee

From: Nakota Kai Crumbo <nakotakai@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 12:48 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: YES to Maui Dept. of Ag.

Aloha council members. My name is Nakota Crumbo. I am a lifelong Maui resident, a beginning farmer, and a very concerned citizen. Please vote Yes, to support the creation of a Maui County Dept. of Agriculture. This would do so much for us. All of the many farmers i have spoken to about this idea are very much so in support of this measure and i hope you are too. Mahalo piha

Sent from my iPhone

GET Committee

From: Scott <oneifbylandenv@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 6:52 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support the creation of a dept of ag

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

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

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

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

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,
Scott Lacasse

GET Committee

From: Nancy Haag <nancyhaag@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 7:33 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: CREATE A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

I am in favor of creating a department of agriculture. It is the time now since we need to diversify more than ever and we need to find more ways to get our farmers produce to our people without it going to waste. We also need to see if there are more ways to export produce, even to Oahu.

GET Committee

From: Warren Watanabe <warrenmcfb@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 7:36 AM
To: GET Committee; Mike J. Molina; Keani N. Rawlins
Subject: Maui Farm Bureau testimony on GET-10 Establishing a Dept of Agriculture
Attachments: County DoA testimony.pdf

Please find attached testimony from Maui Farm Bureau with our apologies for the late submission. Please call 2819718 if there is a problem with this transmission.

Thank you.
Warren K. Watanabe

Confidentiality notice: This message, including any attachments, is intended for the use of the party to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution, or copying of the communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please contact the sender immediately by reply email, and delete the original and any copies of this message. It is the sole responsibility of the recipient to ensure that this message and any attachments are virus free.



PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

Executive Director

Warren K. Watanabe

Board of Directors:

President

Teena Rasmussen

Vice President

Kyle Caires

Secretary

Shyloh Stafford-Jones

Treasurer

Tim Stevens

Directors:

Rodrigo Balala

Brendan Balthazar

James "Kimo" Falconer

Mario Gaggero

Heidi Watanabe

Carver Wilson

June 23, 2020

TESTIMONY

**RE: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS (ESTABLISHING A
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE) (GET-10(15))**

Chair Molina and Members of the Committee:

I am Teena Rasmussen, President of the Maui County Farm Bureau. We proudly represent 200 farm family members on Maui.

HFB sincerely appreciates the Council's focus on agriculture as a priority area for the future of Maui. Working together with the County during this pandemic, commercial farmers were able to provide Maui's needy with over 650,000 pounds of produce, in addition to supplying retail customers, and filling requests for produce from Oahu. We hope to continue this production and service. Without the county funding, many of Maui's farmers would have been forced to stop planting, resulting in limited or no produce in the coming months. In fact, without a market, many farmers would have had to plow under their crop.

We are testifying today to urge you to defer this well-intentioned but unvetted proposal for the establishment of a County Department of Agriculture. Our board of directors certainly agrees with the need to support island farmers, but requests the proposal to be deferred until the public, the stakeholders, and agriculture advocacy groups have the opportunity to review and give it the consideration it deserves. We respectfully submit the following reasons for it to be deferred.

1. MAUI'S PRODUCTION FARMERS AND RANCHERS WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE TO HELP THE COUNTY HELP AGRICULTURE

Sadly, this proposal was developed without participation by MCFB, the oldest, largest, general agriculture organization on Maui. There were no meetings, no solicitation for input, and no collaboration with our non-profit organization which represents the majority of production farming in Maui County. Unfortunately, a lack of collaboration and transparency can lead to uninformed decision-making. We would be pleased to work with the Council to identify practical solutions to the many barriers to successful farming identified in this measure.

2. ANOTHER LAYER OF COST AND BUREAUCRACY

Farming is one of the most heavily regulated industries. Farmers operate under the weight of thousands of regulations in the areas of food safety, worker safety, federal statistics reporting, pesticide use, soil conservation, irrigation and drainage, invasive species control, endangered species protection, pricing rules, packaging rules, zoning and land use rules, etc. Farmers are being crushed by the constant barrage of government paperwork, onerous reporting, and the difficulty of compliance.

We are genuinely concerned that the proposed new department will create yet another layer of bureaucracy that will be piled on farmers in this County. For example, sections 5.b, 5.h, 5.n, 5.o, of this proposal appear to be regulatory in nature.

Another grave concern for us, and for every County taxpayer, is the apparent lack of cost estimates for the creation of this new department. That information must be established and shared with the public now, so residents can adequately assess the proposed charter amendment before they cast their votes.

3. THE PROPOSED DEPARTMENT IS DUPLICATIVE OF MANY FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES THAT HAVE GREATER RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE

Nearly all of the duties of this proposed department are duplicative of, and may conflict with those of existing federal and state government entities—the UH College of Tropical Agriculture, Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, and other agencies of the US Department of Agriculture. There are sections that would overlap or conflict with the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Department of Labor and the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Rather than proposing more layers of redundant government bureaucracy, we propose working toward streamlining government and helping current departments innovate and be more efficient.

4. MORE GOVERNMENT WON'T HELP FARMERS

Especially over the last 30 years, agriculture in Hawaii has declined. The primary reason for this is that costs here are significantly higher than in nearly every other place in the world, making it difficult for our farmers and ranchers to compete. Maui County cannot possibly control or fix everything; however, there are achievable actions it can take to significantly help grow agriculture. The County can address the availability and cost of ag water, the availability and affordability of long-term leases for ag land, the excessive regulatory burden on farmers, and the exorbitant cost of shipping for both inputs and exports. We might all agree that a highway could be paved between the islands with all the paper used to print the

strategic agriculture plans, ag marketing plans, missions, and vision statements created to help agriculture in our state over the last decade. We all want sustainability, food security, resiliency, and “regenerative” agriculture, but the core issues of land, water, unnecessary regulations, and shipping costs remain as barriers for successful agriculture in Hawaii. Rather than duplicating others’ missions, we hope that the Council will work to leverage the massive infrastructure, resources, and expertise already in place, *and focus instead on core issues.*

MAUI FARMERS NEED ADVOCACY NOT MORE REGULATION

If there is a desire to strengthen the current agriculture support system within the county, we would like to discuss the creation of a position for an agriculture advocate, or ombudsman, or commissioner—whatever you call this person, they need to fulfill an advocacy role rather than a regulatory role. Farmers cannot cope with another costly regulatory bureaucracy.

We truly appreciate the Council’s support for agriculture and this opportunity to provide suggestions from Maui’s dedicated multi-generational farmers and ranchers. We recognize that the County funds at your disposal are finite and that there are many competing demands. Because of the hardships caused by the pandemic, we will need to work within even tighter budgets than before.

We are committed to working to help agriculture now and for future generations. **We are asking you to defer this item today, and not be tempted to rush this through. Agriculture as an industry deserves a thoughtful and deliberate process to find a better way forward for the county’s involvement.** Please allow us to work collaboratively with you toward improving farm and ranch viability. We look forward to the opportunity.

Mahalo.

GET Committee

From: Raina Rowland <rainadance@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 7:53 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,

Raina Rowland

GET Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:03 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: FW: Farm Maui LLC strongly supports Maui County Agriculture Department

From: simon@farm-maui.com <simon@farm-maui.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 5:24 AM
To: Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>
Cc: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Farm Maui LLC strongly supports Maui County Agriculture Department

Aloha Kakahiaka G.E.T. Committee Chairman Molina, Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I mahalo you, your staff and all of those who are pressing on with public service I this time of unparalleled crisis in our community.

My testimony today is in strong support of Agenda item GET-10(15), a proposed Charter Amendment to Establish a Department of Agriculture.

I believe that a small Maui County Department of agriculture with a focus on food security and economic diversity for Maui County will be greatly beneficial for our future here in the County of Maui.

We should keep in mind that most people living on the 4,000 or so land parcels in the agriculture district are not producing for the community and there is a host of reasons for that, but chief among them is that life is not affordable for farmers on Maui at this time. So most people living in Maui's agriculture district are not farmer, fishers or ranchers.

Most farmers I know must work 2-3 other jobs to support their farming occupations, therefor, have little time to produce.

With all of my heart I hope that when created, this new department's main focus will be to support farmers capacity to live in the agriculture district, and to put our culture back in to the ag sector. I hope this new department will support the generations of food, fuel and fiber producers to come.

Maui must have economic diversity as soon as possible, and this action you are taking that will put a good choice at the fingertips of our voters in the general election is necessary.

Once again, I mahalo you for your service and for your sacrifice on the behalf of the Russell 'ohana ,

Me ka ha 'aha 'a

Simon Russell
Managing Member



Farm Maui LLC
POB 92
Makawao, HI
96768

(808) 268 6132
www.farm-maui.com
Hui 'O Mālama 'Āina

Licensed and Insured
C-36470

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



Virus-free. www.avg.com

GET Committee

From: Keala Kaopuiki <kealagurl@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:57 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Support for Department 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.

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,

Keala Kaopuiki-Santos
Wailuku, Maui

GET Committee

From: bobbyjava@juno.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 8:59 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Maui County does NOT need its' own Ag Dept.

Dear Maui County Council members,

Maui County does not need its' own Dept. of Agriculture.

The proponents of this measure are misguided and think this is a panacea for the many issues farmers face throughout the world.

Another layer of redundant bureaucracy only adds to the woes of farmers and tax payers.

Lets not waste time and money on this issue, vote it down today.

Sincerely,
Robert Coffey
Wailuku, Maui, HI

GET Committee

From: David B. Fisher <dfisherhi@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:13 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of Maui Dept. of Agriculture
Attachments: Fisher Support of Considering Maui Dept. of Ag.pdf

Here is my written testimony. I am unfortunately unable to attend the BlueJean real time version of your hearing.

Thank you for your work!

Aloha

--

David B. Fisher
Huelo, Maui
808-269-1031 cell

<http://www.linkedin.com/in/dbfisher>

<http://H-CX.com>

David B. Fisher
PO Box 790212
Paia, HI 96779
808-269-1031

June 23, 2020

Testimony In Support of Considering a Maui County Dept. Of Agriculture

I am writing to support a serious look at creating a Maui County “Department of Agriculture”. The pandemic is a wake up call on the risks of relying on imported food and relying primarily on one industry. **It is beyond time for bold and serious action.** Disruptions of our food supply and economy will continue and likely get worse as the emergency funding dries up world-wide and the full array of threats present.

I say this from the perspective of over **thirty-years on Maui helping small businesses**, and for five years before that serving as director for industrial development for Queens County in NYC. On Maui, within the broader scope of helping small businesses, I have been part of the effort to diversify by creating a technology sectors, renewable energy sectors, and over the last ten years, a focus on working with food system ventures, both new and well established; for-profit and non-profit. Both in NYC and Hawaii, the common thread for me has been **community-based economic development.**

I truly believe our future **resiliency is dependent on diversification, decentralization and localization**; and moving away from monopolies, whether they be Wall Street, or sugar plantations, or single industries like tourism. This does not mean abandoning any of these prior sources of economic activity, jobs and wealth. **Any future economy needs to build upon what we have.** And earning money from today’s global economy, like any good business model, is about **moving away from commodities** and developing unique quality products, services and experiences.

As far as agriculture goes we need to **build on our existing “food system” players** – some highly visible like the still-in-the-crib, Mahi Pono, and our world class visitor industry chef and restaurant ecosystem. We also have the largely invisible, but potentially food-security-critical backyard “victory garden” world. This world is primarily non-commercial, although via innovations like accelerators, hubs and co-ops; this world could contribute a lot more to the economy, and do so quickly and inexpensively with serious support from the County. **Above all we must support collaborative efforts** such as the Farm Bureau and Farmers Union – so we benefit from lessons learned, avoid duplicative efforts, and benefit from economies of scale for bargaining power.

Ultimate food security would be every household growing its own food. I think we need to move much more in to the “every household” direction, but be clear that if we have 50,000 household on Maui – **we are NOT going to create 50,000 jobs going in this direction.** The

primary jobs in this scenario will be in “helpers” – master gardeners, extension agents, equipment services, supply and marketing co-ops, match-makers, communicators, and data gatherers. Home or backyard farmers, will make some income, but not enough to support a household with its other costs of living. They too will need to do what they are already doing with “day jobs”, and/or consider diversifying with value-added crops and services including ag tourism and educational tourism. They will also want to collaborate so as to not duplicate efforts, create bargaining clout, learn with others, etc.

Ultimate economic security would be moving our investment from Wall Street to Maui.

Many of us are doing this already if we are lucky enough to own our homes. But most of our retirement money and savings are going out of our community via Wall Street. There is a movement to reverse this that started in 2008 after the last Wall Street crash. The economist Michael Shuman has been a leader in this movement, and I strongly encourage you to read his latest book “Moving Your Money to Where You Live” just published this month, and I suggest very relevant as we think about the serious economic impact of the pandemic. I am discussing the possibility of doing some HI focused Zoom education and design work with Michael this summer – let me know if there is interest.

I share the above to encourage you to **be broad in getting input to thinking about and framing the question on creating a “department of agriculture”**. Traditionally developing new industries has been done via community development or industry trade corporations, e.g. MEDB (for tech), Maui Visitors Bureau & Hotel Association (for visitor industry). Both of these, were essentially starting industries from scratch. It would be interesting to find out “lessons learned” from the Hawaii Ag Development Corporation. But we should also look at what other communities are doing to become more self-sufficient.

We are lucky to have people on Maui who have experience in economic development, agriculture, and government (all three levels). One such person available to you is Annie Alvarado with her experience with the USDOA, state of Arizona, and city of Phoenix. As well as the last year serving as treasurer for the Hawaii Farmers Union. I have also been impressed with the creativity of Enterprise Honolulu’s Pono Shim (whose family has Keokea, Maui roots).

One final word: In observing prior hearings and in social media, it seems like there are a lot of emotions and personal grudges, and “crabs in a bucket” behavior at play around agriculture. I hope you can come up with strategies for dealing with this.

Aloha and mahalo

David B. Fisher

Huelo, Maui

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dbfisher/>

<http://H-CX.com> – 2011 research on bringing back local stock exchanges to promote local investment in local businesses.

<https://hfuhi.org/business-skills-training/> - 2017 Regenerative Business Development webinar series. We are currently completing a 2020 version for the HFUU Farm Apprentice Mentoring program.

PS For resisters of the value of paradox, here is an interesting (although at some times “New Agey”) global look at the **localization movement** from this last weekend:

<https://youtu.be/SwyFtxjQbqk>

GET Committee

From: Tamara A. Paltin
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:37 AM
To: GET Committee
Cc: teena@pffmaui.com
Subject: Fwd: Maui County Farm Bureau Asks for DEFERRAL on Dept of Ag Charter Amendment
Attachments: MCFB_County DoA Testimony_6-23-20.pdf

Get Outlook for iOS

From: Teena Rasmussen <teena@pffmaui.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:30:03 AM
To: Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Maui County Farm Bureau Asks for DEFERRAL on Dept of Ag Charter Amendment

Good Morning Councilmembers,

I wanted to provide you a copy of our Maui County Farm Bureau testimony in advance of today's hearing. We have serious concerns about the creation of a new county department for agriculture in light of severe budget constraints to come, duplicative duties with other government agencies, descriptions of duties that appear regulatory in nature, and still not able to address the core issues that will help move farming forward. We urge you to review this and vote for a **deferral** today. MCFB was not included in discussions with the authors of this proposal, even though we represent most of the production farming on Maui. We believe that Agriculture as a sector deserves a much more collaborative and deliberative process. We want to be part of that discussion and will be happy to work with you on a better way forward.

Mahalo

Teena M. Rasmussen

President

Maui County Farm Bureau

teena@pffmaui.com

Cell: 808-283-7859



PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

Executive Director
Warren K. Watanabe

Board of Directors:

President
Teena Rasmussen

Vice President
Kyle Caires

Secretary
Shyloh Stafford-Jones

Treasurer
Tim Stevens

Directors:
Rodrigo Balala
Brendan Balthazar
James "Kimo" Falconer
Mario Gaggero
Heidi Watanabe
Carver Wilson

June 23, 2020

TESTIMONY

RE: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS (ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE) (GET-10(15))

Chair Molina and Members of the Committee:

I am Teena Rasmussen, President of the Maui County Farm Bureau. We proudly represent 200 farm family members on Maui.

HFB sincerely appreciates the Council's focus on agriculture as a priority area for the future of Maui. Working together with the County during this pandemic, commercial farmers were able to provide Maui's needy with over 650,000 pounds of produce, in addition to supplying retail customers, and filling requests for produce from Oahu. We hope to continue this production and service. Without the county funding, many of Maui's farmers would have been forced to stop planting, resulting in limited or no produce in the coming months. In fact, without a market, many farmers would have had to plow under their crop.

We are testifying today to urge you to defer this well-intentioned but unvetted proposal for the establishment of a County Department of Agriculture. Our board of directors certainly agrees with the need to support island farmers, but requests the proposal to be deferred until the public, the stakeholders, and agriculture advocacy groups have the opportunity to review and give it the consideration it deserves. We respectfully submit the following reasons for it to be deferred.

1. MAUI'S PRODUCTION FARMERS AND RANCHERS WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE TO HELP THE COUNTY HELP AGRICULTURE

Sadly, this proposal was developed without participation by MCFB, the oldest, largest, general agriculture organization on Maui. There were no meetings, no solicitation for input, and no collaboration with our non-profit organization which represents the majority of production farming in Maui County. Unfortunately, a lack of collaboration and transparency can lead to uninformed decision-making. We would be pleased to work with the Council to identify practical solutions to the many barriers to successful farming identified in this measure.

2. ANOTHER LAYER OF COST AND BUREAUCRACY

Farming is one of the most heavily regulated industries. Farmers operate under the weight of thousands of regulations in the areas of food safety, worker safety, federal statistics reporting, pesticide use, soil conservation, irrigation and drainage, invasive species control, endangered species protection, pricing rules, packaging rules, zoning and land use rules, etc. Farmers are being crushed by the constant barrage of government paperwork, onerous reporting, and the difficulty of compliance.

We are genuinely concerned that the proposed new department will create yet another layer of bureaucracy that will be piled on farmers in this County. For example, sections 5.b, 5.h, 5.n, 5.o, of this proposal appear to be regulatory in nature.

Another grave concern for us, and for every County taxpayer, is the apparent lack of cost estimates for the creation of this new department. That information must be established and shared with the public now, so residents can adequately assess the proposed charter amendment before they cast their votes.

3. THE PROPOSED DEPARTMENT IS DUPLICATIVE OF MANY FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES THAT HAVE GREATER RESOURCES AND EXPERTISE

Nearly all of the duties of this proposed department are duplicative of, and may conflict with those of existing federal and state government entities—the UH College of Tropical Agriculture, Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts, Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency, and other agencies of the US Department of Agriculture. There are sections that would overlap or conflict with the jurisdiction of the Hawaii Department of Labor and the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Rather than proposing more layers of redundant government bureaucracy, we propose working toward streamlining government and helping current departments innovate and be more efficient.

4. MORE GOVERNMENT WON'T HELP FARMERS

Especially over the last 30 years, agriculture in Hawaii has declined. The primary reason for this is that costs here are significantly higher than in nearly every other place in the world, making it difficult for our farmers and ranchers to compete. Maui County cannot possibly control or fix everything; however, there are achievable actions it can take to significantly help grow agriculture. The County can address the availability and cost of ag water, the availability and affordability of long-term leases for ag land, the excessive regulatory burden on farmers, and the exorbitant cost of shipping for both inputs and exports. We might all agree that a highway could be paved between the islands with all the paper used to print the

strategic agriculture plans, ag marketing plans, missions, and vision statements created to help agriculture in our state over the last decade. We all want sustainability, food security, resiliency, and “regenerative” agriculture, but the core issues of land, water, unnecessary regulations, and shipping costs remain as barriers for successful agriculture in Hawaii. Rather than duplicating others’ missions, we hope that the Council will work to leverage the massive infrastructure, resources, and expertise already in place, *and focus instead on core issues.*

MAUI FARMERS NEED ADVOCACY NOT MORE REGULATION

If there is a desire to strengthen the current agriculture support system within the county, we would like to discuss the creation of a position for an agriculture advocate, or ombudsman, or commissioner—whatever you call this person, they need to fulfill an advocacy role rather than a regulatory role. Farmers cannot cope with another costly regulatory bureaucracy.

We truly appreciate the Council’s support for agriculture and this opportunity to provide suggestions from Maui’s dedicated multi-generational farmers and ranchers. We recognize that the County funds at your disposal are finite and that there are many competing demands. Because of the hardships caused by the pandemic, we will need to work within even tighter budgets than before.

We are committed to working to help agriculture now and for future generations. **We are asking you to defer this item today, and not be tempted to rush this through. Agriculture as an industry deserves a thoughtful and deliberate process to find a better way forward for the county’s involvement.** Please allow us to work collaboratively with you toward improving farm and ranch viability. We look forward to the opportunity.

Mahalo.

GET Committee

From: Melinda Carroll <mcaroll@aloha.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 9:53 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Please Support a Maui 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,
Melinda Carroll
Ulupalakua, Maui

GET Committee

From: Jill Mazzoncini <jmazz@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:00 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support a Maui Dept of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

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

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

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

Growing our own food on a larger scale is LONG OVERDUE !

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Jill Mazzoncini

Kihei resident

GET Committee

From: Jennifer Karaca <karacajy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:06 AM
To: GET Committee; Keani N. Rawlins; Yukilei Sugimura; Riki Hokama; Shane M. Sinenci; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tasha A. Kama; Tamara A. Paltin; Kelly King
Subject: GET-10(15)
Attachments: Example MDoA Divisions.pdf

Aloha Councilmembers,

During my presentation in the EACP committee, there were questions of what a Department of Agriculture at the County level would look like and approximate costs. While all of this would be up to the administration ultimately, I have put together an example of what it could look like, with a range of costs for a beginning department.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Mahalo,
Jennifer Karaca
karacajy@gmail.com
(509)851-8300

Maui County Department of Agriculture Costs and Revenues Overview

Led by a Director and Deputy Director the Maui County Department of Agriculture (MCDoA) can be broken down into 7 divisions to address various complex issues and needs across the agricultural sector. Since Maui County has an expansive geographic reach, spanning four islands, all with their own needs and three with their own separate agricultural communities and systems, it is important to have sufficient staff to cover needs on each island.

All of the departments besides the Aquaculture, Forestry & Wildlife Division and the Waste Management Division will cover all other sectors of agriculture which are included but are not limited to the arable farming, horticulture and animal husbandry.

It will also be incredibly important for the Department to work in conjunction with Maui County's other departments, the State, USDA and community, in order for the Department to properly assist our agricultural sector in a holistic and efficient manner.

The budget for the proposed Maui County Department of Agriculture will of course be dependent upon how the Departments divisions are set up and how much staff the administration hires. That being said there are some ballpark figures that a department could cost to give the members and community an idea of how much this will cost.

Operational Costs of Departments in Maui County

- In the FY 2020 budget, the average operating cost of a Department in Maui County was \$33.5M.
- At the low end departments with very little staff, 1 -2 divisions cost around \$700K-\$1.7M.
- At the high end, departments with multiple divisions and programs and larger staff sizes, range from \$70.9M- \$91.6M.

(These amounts do not include budgeted expenditures for the Capital Projects, Grant Revenues, and Revolving Fund.)

- A Department of Agriculture in its beginning years, with minimal staff but still enough to address some of the needs on all islands could range from \$5M-\$10M (Dependent upon how many programs are implemented and how much staff is allocated to each island to implement the duties of the various divisions and programs.)

Funding Options for the MCDoA include, but are not limited to:

- The County charging service fees for 3 of the 4 proposed divisions to allow them to be self-funding or partially self-funded (Risk Management Division, Compliance & Enforcement Division & Waste Management Division)
- Grant revenue from Federal, State and Private funders
- Lobbying the State for additional funding for the agricultural sector
- Reallocating funds from Departments who used to manage agricultural related issues and transfer those funds to the MCDoA.

Due to the current economy and food insecurity levels across the state it is highly recommended that Maui County start working with other counties, and create legislation to urge the State to increase the allocation of agricultural funds from 0.045% to 3.5%. This would still be a very small portion of the State's budget but would allow each county to receive 0.05% to fund local level agricultural efforts and provide an additional .55% to the State DoA's budget to allow them to provide more state wide assistance with the programs that they maintain. If the County received 0.05% that would equate to over \$85 million dollars that could be invested into our Department and agricultural sector and 3.5% would be \$612.5M. According to the news last week, the State put 1.3 billion dollars into a rainy day fund, so in perspective we would be asking for the department to reallocate less than 5% of the rainy day fund towards the agricultural sector so that we can grow a better future for all of Hawaii.

It is also important to keep in mind that while many of our department address needs within the community, none of them really work to drive economic growth like the Department of Agriculture would. Instead of thinking about the operational costs of the Department as being a loss we should really start to think of them as being an investment and unlike the other investments that we make into our community in the shape of roads, sewers and facilities, these investments would not depreciate in value and instead provide both economic and social returns on investment for the County and the community.

The creation of the divisions, programs and the budget that is formulated based on the organization of the Department of Agriculture, will ultimately be up to the administration to decide. While it is the responsibility of the administration to develop the Department's divisions, programs and budget it is highly recommended that the outreach and community engagement is done prior to creating the Department's divisions to ensure that all issues and concerns are weighed equally by the community and its various sectors, and that those recommendations are presented to the administration as a guide for the creation of the Department of Agriculture.

Maui County Department of Agriculture Departmental Organization Example



The overview above shows how the Department could be broken down into 7 different divisions under the Director and Deputy Director. The Management division will provide research, feedback and guidance for all of the other divisions, and also be the hub for the divisions to report back any key issues, concerns or opportunities relayed from their field work that could be beneficial to the overall operation of the department in order to better serve the community.

An example of how the Department could be broken down into divisions and possible sections within division are as follows:

Management Division

The management division will house key programs of the Department of Agriculture that will be vital in providing guidance to all of the divisions. The purpose of the management division is to lead and oversee the rest of the divisions and ensure that the Department as a whole are operating up to standard and growing based on the feedback received from the community and divisions. Effective and timely feedback is a critical component of the success and performance of the divisions and their programs and will be used in conjunction with setting Department and Division performance goals.

The Management Division may be comprised of the following sections:

Research & Development

Strategic Planning

Finance
Reporting
Workforce Development
Data Collection and Analysis
Sustainability and Resource Regeneration
Administrative Operations

Agricultural Infrastructure Division

The Agricultural Infrastructure Division will administer the development and management of agricultural resources that are essential to the vitality of the agricultural sector. The division will be responsible for improving access to affordable land, workforce housing, water, and processing and distribution facilities. The division will also oversee agricultural marketing programs.

[Agricultural marketing is defined as services involved in moving an agricultural product from the farm to the consumer. These services involve the planning, organizing, directing and handling of agricultural produce in such a way as to satisfy farmers, intermediaries and consumers.]

The Agricultural Infrastructure Division may be comprised of the following sections:

Ag Land Management
Water Issues & Management
Ag Workforce Housing
Processing and Distribution Development
Marketing

Aquaculture, Forestry & Wildlife Division

The Aquaculture, Forestry & Wildlife Division will administer programs to grow and manage the aquaculture and forestry sectors in Maui County. Which include but are not limited to Mariculture, Algaculture, Coral Aquaculture, Fisheries, Forest Farming, Silviculture, Conservation Forestry, Agroforestry, and Community Forestry. The division will also develop and oversee Invasive Wildlife Management, Wildlife Habitat Management and Native Flora and Fauna Programs.

*Combining these sectors of agriculture is recommended because while the potential is great in each of these sectors, these areas are currently not very developed in Maui County. It would allow for it to be easy to divide these sectors into their own divisions later, if needed.

The Aquaculture, Forestry & Wildlife Division may be comprised of the following sections:

Aquaculture

Forestry

Wildlife

Native Flora and Fauna

Risk Management Division

Risk Management Division will identify risks and coordinate efforts, including but not limited to, advocacy and economical application of resources, to minimize, monitor, and control the probability or impact of unfortunate events or to maximize the realization of opportunities in the agricultural sector.

The Risk Management Division may be comprised of the following sections:

Exports

Theft and Vandalism

Liability

Crop Disaster Assistance

Contracts

Procurement

Transportation

Outreach and Advocacy Division

The Outreach and Advocacy Division will administer assistance to the agricultural community on an individual basis. It will promote programs and services to the agricultural community to help elevate it on a case by case basis and work to create a fair and equitable agricultural sector with an emphasis on reaching the underserved and socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers and landowners. The division will also house a food access programs, to help advance the County's food security and help ensure vulnerable individuals access to healthy nutritious food, and vital services they need to address their basic needs and stabilize their household. This work includes expanding access to food for very vulnerable individuals through soup kitchens, community meals, Community Gardens, Curbside markets, Urban Farm Stands and Healthy Corner Store Initiatives.

The Outreach and Advocacy Division may be comprised of the following sections:

Education

Volunteer Programs

Grant Writing

Funding

Equipment and Tool Sharing

Food Access Coordination

Agricultural Small Business and Nonprofit Assistance

Land/ Farmer Connections

Compliance & Enforcement Division

The Compliance and Enforcement division will administer programs to streamline county permitting processes for the agricultural sector, it will also oversee efforts to provide education and assistance to the community with County, State, Federal and Dept. of Health Regulations. The division will also work in coordination with the State to provide additional inspectors and oversight for invasive species at retail locations, airports and harbors, and for restricted use materials permit holders. In addition, the division will assist the agricultural sector with Organic Certification and Food labeling Programs.

The Compliance & Enforcement Division may be comprised of the following sections:

Regulations

Permitting

Invasive Species

Restricted Use Materials

Property Inspections

Organic Certification

Food Labeling

Waste Management Division

The Waste Management Division will administer the development and management of agricultural waste management systems, in which all necessary components are installed and managed to control and use by-products of agricultural production in a manner that sustains or enhances the quality of air, water, soil, plant, animal, and energy resources.

The Agricultural Waste Management Division may be comprised of the following sections:

Food Waste

Green Waste

Beef, Swine, Poultry & Other Animal Waste

Aquaculture Waste

Agricultural Chemical Waste Management

GET Committee

From: Shay Chan Hodges <shay.chanhodges@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 10:50 AM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Testimony for GET-10(15) for Establishing Dept of Agriculture
Attachments: LettertoCountyMaui06232020vgs2clean_encrypted_(1).pdf

Please find attached testimony for Agenda Item GET-10(15). We apologize for the delay.

Responsible Markets
Maui ESG Project
mauiessgproject.org
808.250.6160

Aloha Members of the Maui County Governance, Ethics, & Transparency Committee:

My name is Dr. Gitanjali Swamy and I am the Managing Partner of IoTAsk, an innovation of things advisory firm, which is working with Responsible Markets, a Maui-based venture catalyst firm, to assess the current status of the East Maui Irrigation System (EMI) and evaluate possible infrastructure, operational and governance alternatives using best practice case studies, information on water and other public infrastructure systems, innovations in the areas of measurement, management or distribution of water, alternative corporate or public ownership models, techniques for achieving Environmental, Social, Governance (ESG) objectives, and other innovations in stakeholder governance and economic sustainability.

We are also working with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, which has provided funding and professional expertise. Lincoln Institute goals include low-carbon, climate-resilient communities and regions, fiscally healthy communities and regions, and sustainably managed land and water resources. Responsible Markets has received funding from the County of Maui to develop ESG investment models based on knowledge gained and relationships built at the Ahupua`a Investment Summit. Others who are providing expertise for this assessment include:

- Imogen Rose-Smith, an affiliate partner of IoTAsk, who specializes in investment policy projects and recently served as an investment fellow at the University of California in the Office of the Chief Investment Officer to the University of California Regents, which currently manages investments of \$120 billion.
- Phillip Auerswald, Associate Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University, cofounder and coeditor of *Innovations: Technology, Governance, and Globalization*, and head of the Global Entrepreneurship Research Network, and an affiliate partner of IoTAsk,
- Lincoln Institute staff, including President and CEO George McCarthy, Chief of Staff Xinrui Shi, and Babbitt Center for Land & Water Policy Director Jim Holway
- Sanjay Sarma, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Father of “RFID”, Chairman and Founder Auto-ID Center, where the “Internet of Things” was invented, Vice President in charge of Open Learning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a founding partner in IoTAsk.

To develop this report, the team heard from stakeholders who identified the following ten needs related to the streams of East Maui and the EMI aqueduct (listed in no particular order):

- ✓ Provide fair access to streams, stream water and surface water
- ✓ Address watershed management & stream care with return of water to the streams
- ✓ Address depreciation of EMI infrastructure
- ✓ Ensure monitoring and data on stream flows, rainfall, and traditional usage

- ✓ Ensure support for traditional uses
- ✓ Ensure sustainability including long-term sustainable yields
- ✓ Provide transparency, oversight and allocation prioritization
- ✓ Provide environmental protection, including flora & fauna
- ✓ Address incentive misalignment & private sector accountability
- ✓ Enable public stakeholder representation in water governance

The assessment of the current state of the system, ESG and technology has included reviews of ownership, maps, capacity, capability, limitations, current state of storage including reservoirs and dams, current state of diversions, current state of water sources, and a high-level summary of required investments. The team is now focusing on determining what can be done to meet the needs of the community, and has identified key themes such as:

Restoration of respect, tradition and opportunity with holistic land, water readjustment

Addressing stakeholder needs with total transparency, accountability and participation

Community-driven care and sustainability of the watershed

Technology driven approach to a sustainable, participative economy and jobs

Maui as a center for ESG sustainable agriculture, food security and water innovation

The team has developed a framework for the breadth of solutions that includes:

- **Measurement & Monitoring** of leaks, usage, pressure, flow speed, stream levels, and environmental impacts including invasive species, flooding, and wildfires
- **Management** including storage for reliability and quality of service including pressure, temperature, flow speed
- **Maintenance** of the EMI system, and surrounding forests and streams
- **Economic Participation, ESG, & Development**
- **Local Technology Competency, Education & Livelihood Creation**

Based on economic modeling and in consideration of environmental, social, and governance benefits (ESG), the team has determined that there is a roadmap of options for creating economic value in the use of East Maui water, while meeting community standards, values, and needs. Our analysis has shown that there is little limitation in the potential of sustainable end-uses that can drive the necessary economic solutions and support the required investment. Furthermore, between immediate Covid responsive jobs stimulus projects (such as those related to measurement and monitoring or critical infrastructure repair) and a 10-year land readjustment plan (including for example, development of a center of excellence that provides a focal point for the incubation of new technologies related to water, land and related agricultural efforts), there are many intermediate milestones that can be steadily achieved every year.

Some of these options are contingent upon successful eminent domain to acquire the EMI System and restructure it as a suitable economically sustainable and ESG compliant Public-Private entity or public water authority. But many other options can be immediately executed because they do not necessarily require community ownership of the aqueduct, but instead rely on immediate solutions that involve low-cost high innovation technologies in measurement, monitoring, management and distribution that address specific stakeholder issues at points not currently privately controlled.

Regardless of whether the County acquires the aqueduct, investments in community-based innovative technology can generate real-time data on the use of East Maui stream water, providing full transparency on the quantity and characteristics of water that transported through the system, particularly with regard to agriculture. This information will provide accountability for interim instream flow standards, as well as data on optimal water allocations for supporting sustainable agriculture on Maui. If discrepancies in water use versus allocations become apparent, the community, County, and State can leverage that data to support improved agreements, including detailed requirements regarding amount, reliability, and quality of service.

In the short-term, projects related to innovative community-based measurement and monitoring can provide much-needed immediate livelihood and on the job technology skilling in the community and will lead to better management and maintenance. In a few years, East Maui could become a model for how stakeholder engagement can be combined with technology and innovation to enable an outcome in which community vitality, ecological sustainability, food security, and authentic community economic development are mutually reinforcing. Ultimately, East Maui has the potential to become a local center for excellence that includes training and water technology incubation that is community-based, and which serves as a testbed for water, environmental, and agricultural innovations and technology.

We look forward to presenting a full analysis — which will be completed in July — to the Maui County Council.

Sincerely,


Gitanjali Swamy (Jan 21, 2020 13:46 PDT)

Dr. Gitanjali Swamy
Managing Partner,
IoTask LLC
Rep. to EQUALS, United Nations

GET Committee

From: Lily Diamond <lily.diamond@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 1:14 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: I support a Maui County Dept. of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Council-members,

I am writing in support of the proposed charter amendment to create a Department of Agriculture within Maui County. 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 faced significant obstacles. Today, our economy is at a critical point, a juncture at which we have the opportunity to consider the role of our agricultural sector more seriously than ever before. In order to recover from this crisis and prepare for others that will come, we must take steps towards real, lasting change in how we access and produce our food.

Our food security and current economic state are large and worrisome issues. Hawaii is approximately 2,500 miles from the continental United States, which is where most of our shipments originate. We now know that we cannot safely rely solely on imports and tourism for a thriving, stable economy; we need new industries and we need more locally grown and produced food. Moreover, our community has been requesting the expansion of the agricultural industry for many years.

Providing Maui County with an autonomous body to govern and make decisions about what is best for our agricultural and environmental future—and our future as an entire community—is the best and only way forward. It is time that the County takes responsibility for our agricultural sector and invests in a better future for all of our residents and the 'aina.

I believe that the community will vote in favor of creating a department of agriculture, and I ask you to allow their voice to be heard in our democratic decision-making process as you pass this resolution.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lily

Listen to [What's Your Story? Podcast: Women, Politics, Power](#)
Get the [Kale & Caramel Cookbook](#)

Lily Diamond
www.kaleandcaramel.com
[instagram](#) . [facebook](#)
[twitter](#) . [pinterest](#)

GET Committee

From: Jasmine Kilborn <andallthatjaz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:13 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Support of a Maui County Department of Agriculture

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

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

The global reset button has been pushed. Now is the time to rebuild in a new direction. The focus of our growth must be in sustainability. It needs to return as the pillar of our community. Why?

- Climate Change - Every choice we make either adds to the destruction or restoration of planet earth. Each person's home, neighborhood, town, city, county, state, countries policies need to reflect rehabilitation of Earth above all else.
- Feed Ourselves - A global food crisis is a possibility. More opportunities to learn how to grow, places to grow, change of mindset to agricultural growth is of utmost importance. Systems need to be put in place now so that our children are taught not just how to survive, but how to thrive (with all systems in balance i.e. ecosystem, economic system, social system, etc.)
- Home Rule - An on island department will allow us to address issues specific to Maui. It will also provide an avenue to streamline solutions. Our current government takes too long to effect change.
- New Master Plan - A department can assist in the creation and execution of a Master Plan that include things like creation of County Ag Parks and Community Gardens, connecting with DOE/College ag programs, using inmate manpower for assistance and rehabilitation, overseeing the kinds of agriculture allowed and how the products that are grown (organic only please, mixed crop/livestock farming

Swift action and big changes are necessary. Maui has the talent to advise and implement. We just need a department to spearhead and coordinate it.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,
Jasmine Kilborn

[Your Name]

GET Committee

From: Phyllis Robinson <pfierrob@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:30 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Testimony from Phyllis Robinson
Attachments: Final Testimony for GET on Ag Dept.docx

Aloha GET committee members:

Attached please find my written testimony with recommendations on the Resolution for a Charter Amendment to establish a Maui County Department of Agriculture.

Phyllis Robinson

Phyllis G. Robinson, Ed.D
Program Director
Maui Family Farmer Training Network.
(808) 647-4066

"Purpose is the place where your deep gladness meets the world's needs."
Frederick Buechber

Phyllis Robinson, Ed.D
Co-Director, Maui Family Farmer Training Network
3505A Malina Place
Kihei, HI 96753
(808) 647-4066
pfierrob@aol.com

To the members of the Governance, Ethics, and Transparency committee and the [Environmental, Agricultural, and Cultural Preservation](#) committee:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT THE CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION TO CREATE A MAUI COUNTY BOARD OF AGRICULTURE. THE WORDING IN THE RESOLUTION IS COMPREHENSIVE, WITH A FEW SMALL ADDITIONS RELATING TO THE DIRECTOR'S POSITION I OFFER BELOW.

I APPRECIATE JENNIFER KURAKA'S POINT AROUND DETERMINING RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI) FOR THIS DEPARTMENT and to do it BEFORE THE COUNTY COUNCIL VOTES ON THE BALLOT INITIATIVE. LET ME KNOW HOW I CAN HELP.

I BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT CAN GENERATE FUNDS FEDERALLY THAT MIGHT PARTIALLY PAY FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT – IF THAT IS ACTUALLY LEGAL?

I ALSO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL MEMBERS LOOK AT THE REALITY OF OUR CURRENT STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND WHY WE, AS A COUNTY, NEED TO STEP UP OUR SUPPORT OF ALL FORMS OF AGRICULTURE EVEN IF IT MUST BE IN AN ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE SAKE OF FOOD SECURITY. THIS ALTERNATIVE ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK WOULD BE REFLECTIVE OF WHAT IS ACTUALLY GOING ON.

Btw...THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM HAS ESTABLISHED THAT IT IS FAMILY FARMERS WHO ARE FEEDING THE WORLD.

THE FOLLOWING IS YOUR LANGUAGE WITH MY RECOMMENDATIONS IN BOLD CAPS...

Creating a Department of Agriculture within the County of Maui, with defined responsibilities, 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; **ETC**

The director of agriculture must:

RECOMMENDATION: HAVE THE DIRECTOR RELY ON THE CURRENT AG WORKING GROUP FOR DIRECT ACCESS TO THE FARMERS AND THEIR NEEDS OR CREATE A COMMUNITY TASKFORCE TO EXAMINE THIS JOB DESCRIPTION AND SEE HOW THE DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR CAN BE MORE ACTIVELY ENGAGED WITH THE AG COMMUNITY THEY ARE BEING ASKED TO SERVE – LOCAL STYLE.

A RECENT NPR BROADCAST TITLED: *Expanding Local Agriculture Into Major Economic Industry Poses Challenges* FEATURING [RYAN FINNERTY](#) WITH INTERVIEWS WITH [NICHOLAS COMERFORD](#), DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF TROPICAL AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN RESOURCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA. I WOULD ENCOURAGE COUNCIL MEMBERS TO HAVE A LISTEN.

<https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/post/expanding-local-agriculture-major-economic-industry-poses-challenges>

THE MESSAGE IS IN ALIGNMENT WITH WHAT TEENA RASMUSSEN WAS ALLUDING TO IN HER TESTIMONY TODAY. THAT THIS IS PREMATURE. WHERE WILL THE FUNDING FOR A DEPARTMENT COME FROM WITH THE COVID ECONOMY UPON US?:

"Twenty-five percent of our STATE OF HAWAII farms report less than \$1,000 in annual sales. Twelve percent of our farms report more than 90 percent of the annual sales," he said in an interview.

What that means, according to Comerford, is that most farms in Hawaii are not truly commercial operations. They are not making enough money to have a significant economic impact."

He calls those lifestyle farms.

I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT THE ABOVE STATISTICS ARE OUT OF TOUCH WITH WHAT IS ACTUALLY TAKING PLACE AMONG OUR FARMERS AND MANY COMMUNITIES OF SUPPORT THAT HAVE BEEN FORMED AROUND FOOD.

MY COMMENTS ON THE JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE DIRECTOR POSITION FROM THE PROPOSED BILL:

1. Develop a sustainable regional agricultural system for Maui County.
2. Build the economic resiliency of the county's communities by increasing opportunities in the agricultural sector.
3. Boost resident health and food security through ensuring access to locally grown agricultural products.
4. Promote healthy ecosystems through natural resource regeneration and protection, including through advising other agencies and the council on all programs and projects that affect the agricultural section, including the following:
 - a. Implementing 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.
 - b. Ensuring the availability of qualified staff to maintain open space, conservation land, and public areas that have space available for planting.

5. Develop and implement programs to diversify and expand sustainable forms of agriculture, including through the following to the extent permitted by state and federal law:

a. Provide research and development to support agriculture, including for technological advancements in farming **WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON SOIL HEALTH, HAVING A WATCHDOG IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSURING USDA FEDERAL FUNDING THAT PROVIDES FARMERS WITH TAX CREDITS, CASH OR SUBSIDIES FOR ENRICHED SOIL, SOIL THAT HAVE PROVEN TO BE AMAZING CARBON SINKS OR OFFSETS ADDRESSING GLOBAL WARMING); SEEING THAT THAT \$ REACHES OUR MAUI FARMERS.**

b. Prioritize the use of agricultural-zoned land to feed the local population and for sustainable and diversified agricultural activities.

c. Support ordinances, programs, and policies that promote the countywide availability of affordable agricultural-zoned land and water for farmers; agricultural workforce housing; agricultural equipment; and processing and distribution facilities.

d. In coordination with the mayor and director of finance, secure federal, state, and private funding and provide grants and grant writing to agricultural related businesses in the County.
RECOMMENDATION: STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF HIRING A SEPARATE PERSON TO WRITE THE GRANTS FOR THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

e. Support education **STARTING WITH SCHOOL GARDENS, MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL AG PROGRAMS, FFA, 4-H, BOYS AND GIRL'S CLUB, YMCA, THE COLLEGE'S CREDIT AND NON-CREDIT AG PROGRAMS, ALL TO GROW A NEW GENERATION OF FARMERS WHILE SUPPORTING EXISTING FARMERS IN MORE BIO-INTENSIVE FARMING PRACTICES,** research, and facilities **SUCH AS FOOD HUBS** that strengthen the agricultural industry

f. Organize volunteer programs and opportunities to provide on-site assistance to farmers.

g. Serve as the County's liaison to the agricultural sector.

h. Assist the agricultural sector in complying with County, state, and federal regulations and permitting requirements.

i. Coordinate communication amongst members of the agricultural sector to develop shared goals for the County, which are to be included in strategic plans with annual, five-year, and ten-year benchmarks to be reviewed by the council.

j. Ensure a sufficient number of farm workers are employed in the County.

k. Facilitate the creation of jobs that offer a living wage throughout the agricultural sector, including in research and education.

l. Collect agricultural and market data and create a public database to identify and address gaps in the agricultural sector.

m. Collaborate with the state department of agriculture and board of agriculture to support enforcement, oversight, and inspection for invasive species at retail locations, airports, and harbors.

n. Collaborate with the state department of agriculture and board of agriculture regarding restricted materials permits and use. **AND WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE MARKETING DIVISION AND THEIR STRONG “BUY LOCAL” CAMPAIGN.**

o. Perform agricultural property inspections to streamline County processes.

p. Support programs that position the county’s agricultural products as premium export products.

q. 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.

r. Work with law enforcement to prevent agricultural theft and vandalism.

6. 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.

7. Perform other duties and functions as assigned by the mayor or managing director.”;

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME,



Phyllis Robinson



GET Committee

From: Kevin L <kevinlash@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2020 3:38 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: Proposition to set up Maui County Department of Agricultural

Dear Maui County Councilmembers,

I have been a citizen of Maui for the last 15 years and 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,
Kevin Lash

--
Consider the rights of others before your own feelings, and the feelings of others before your own rights.

John Wooden