

EAR Committee

From: Bobbie Becker <bobbibecker@mindspring.com>
Sent: Monday, January 25, 2016 8:51 AM
To: EAR Committee
Subject: I support the Ag Tourism Bill

Aloha Council members,

My name is Bobbie Becker, I am the owner operator of Maui Mountain Coffee Farm in Olinda.

On my small farm I grow Arabica coffee, blood oranges, lemons and limes. I do not use any herbicides or pesticides on my farm, and while I am able to sell my produce to eager buyers all over Maui, I still have to work full time to support my farm.

Farming on Maui is very expensive compared to other countries. The one thing that we have that many of these countries do not have is a stream of curious, interested tourists who want to learn more about growing coffee and organic agriculture. The Ag Tourism bill would allow me to share my farm with visitors thereby keeping my farm in agriculture as I grow older.

Please support this bill. It will help to make food sustainability a reality in Maui county. It will draw another kind of tourist to our island, the foodie, the coffee enthusiast and people interested in sustainability for our planet.

Thank-you.

Bobbie Becker