



Waiāhole-Waikāne Community Association

April 9, 2024

HHFDC Board of Directors
677 Queen St, Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha e HHFDC Board of Directors,

My name is Tonilynn Cano, Treasurer and representative standing in for Ms. Lucy Salas, President of the WWCA. Due to the short notice announcing this critically important issue of Item III.B, Ms. Salas was unable to change her employment schedule. Therefore, this morning we would like to submit testimony regarding Item III.B. pertaining to the vacant agricultural lots located in Waiāhole Valley as shown on the agenda for the April 11, 2024 HHFDC Regular Board of Directors meeting.

The Waiāhole-Waikāne Community Association (“WWCA”), is a non-profit organization representing approximately two-thirds of the residential lots and one-third of the agricultural lots in Waiāhole-Waikāne. The association’s primary purpose, and has always been, is to promote the well-being and the Common interest of the lessees who are Tenants of Record of Elizabeth Loy Marks as of 1977, who have a lease hold interest in either an Agricultural Residential lease in the Waiāhole Valley Agricultural Park...and/or lessees heirs, successors’ and assigns.

The WWCA strongly believes that the community should have a say in the selection process related to the vacant lots. At a WWCA Hui Pono meeting held in March 2022, Mr. Dean Minakami indicated a willingness to meet to discuss the issues pertaining to the vacant lots. That led to a meeting in April of the same year with Mr. Minakami, Mr. Chris Woodard, Mr. Randy Chu, and Ms. Carianne Abara. Together we discussed criteria to be used to select candidates for the vacant lots. We are pleased to see that some of the criteria discussed at the April 2022 meeting are included in the April 11, 2024 memo regarding vacant lots prepared by Mr. Hunter Miller, Ms. Lee Miller, and Mr. Lanz Dong. But more work needs to be done. We would like to meet with these three HHFDC officials to finalize the selection process. The benefit of doing so is establishing broad support by both the community and HHFDC going forward for the vacant lots in our community.

This issue is important to the community because this RFP is so very different from most other RFPs relating to Waiāhole-Waikāne. Unlike selecting a contractor or buying capital equipment, this RFP will be selecting our neighbors—the people we will actually live with. The people whose children will be playing with our children. The people who will become woven into the fabric of the community—we ask to participate in the design of a selection process that will strengthen the community fabric rather than wear it apart. Community involvement with these lots is consistent with the strategic plans produced by SMS-HHFDC (March, 2019; see p. 35-36) and by the WWCA (May, 2019; see p. 24-25).

Please grant our request and let us help continue the process that was initiated in March-April of 2022. At the same time, we would also like to discuss how we can help regarding the selection process for Lots 48 and Lots 49. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lucy Salas

Lucy Salas
President

Waiāhole-Waikāne Community Association PO Box 6504 Kaneohe, HI 96744