

To: West Maui CPAC
From: Karen Comcowich
RE: Supporting Agriculture designations

My basic question for every development and change of designation will be the same: **How does this serve the West Maui community in a way that is equitable: socially, culturally and environmentally responsible?**

Please consider that once done somethings cannot be undone. For instance, if an area is developed it cannot be undeveloped. If an area is designated as rural or urban rather than agriculture, it cannot return to agriculture.

Regarding changing designations from Agriculture to Rural or Urban, first to paraphrase Kaipo Kekona: It was divided as Agriculture Land, it was sold as Agriculture, it was bought as Agriculture, it should remain as Agriculture.

Many landowners have done what they want with the land, with no regard to the intended purpose. Now they want the land reclassified as their current use, with the idea that we should call a spade a spade. If we were playing cards and this was in my winning hand, would you agree that this is a spade?



Other points that may come up:

Water: The potential for water shortage is often brought up as reason Agriculture cannot work in these areas. If we are really concerned about water and sustainability what should be limited is lush landscaping, large lawns and swimming pools. These use large amounts of water without a clear benefit to the wider community.

Soil: The soil throughout West Maui has been depleted through years of irresponsible farming practices. However, soil regeneration is possible through cover crops and composting. If we want to thrive as a community, we must take action to ensure our food security.

Income: The argument that you cannot earn enough on this land farming is frustrating. When this land was divided the community envisioned land where small farmers could live where they work, not investment property. Vince Mina said the profits from his farm, which incorporate regenerative practices, are about ¼ million. For most of the Maui community that is a good solid income.

Let us respect the desires of the community by continuing to call these developments agriculture land and call on the landowners to figure out how they are going to honor that designation.