

From: Elizabeth Huppman [mailto:ehuppman@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, April 02, 2012 1:52 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: Budget Committee Testimony

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the City Council's move to declassify horses as livestock as a way to penalize so called "gentlemen farmers." Hearings on April 2, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. for #44 and 12.

First: If horses are no longer livestock but pets, can we then keep them in our yards anywhere on the island?

Second: There are many questionable "agriculture" operations in Waimanalo near where I keep my horse at Circle C Equestrian Center, such as a property with lots of roosters tied to little coops on the owner's big lawn, and other rundown, nearly abandoned plant nurseries and farms that are so overgrown with weeds that I don't know what they are or were. Are these legitimate commercial farms? What is their tax status?

Third: The legitimate commercial riding establishments provide employment, professional education in sports and sportsmanship, and recreation for people of all ages, and should not be penalized because of the irresponsible behavior of others who are abusing their "ag." land status.

There needs to be a more realistic, accurate and fair way to evaluate who is using "ag." land appropriately and deserving of a tax discount.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Huppman
2517 Saul Place
Honolulu, HI 96816

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