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AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

Chair: Alan Takemoto, Vice-chair: Yuki Kitagawa,
Members: Fred Humphrey, Charley Ice, Jimmy Nakatani, Dean Okamoto

CITY COUNCIL
HONOLULU, HAWAII

April 2, 2013

The Honorable Ernest Martin, Chair
And Members of the City Council
City & County of Honolulu
Honolulu Hale, Room 202
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Martin and Councilmembers:

Re: Bill 11 (2013) FY14 Operating Budget

The Agricultural Development Task Force supports continued funding of the Important Agricultural Lands Study, Phase II, as reflected in the above bill.

As you may be aware, the Department of Planning and Permitting is proceeding with mapping Important Agricultural Lands (IAL), as mandated by Chapter 205, HRS. However, we understand that this project has been only partially funded. We also understand that funding to complete the project is being considered for next year's budget.

We strongly support complete funding for Phase II of this project in the amount of \$300,000 and respectfully request that this amount be reflected in Bill 11 (2013). Some of our members serve on the Department's advisory group and can attest that the group is making good progress, and shouldn't be delayed due to lack of funding. We are anxious to move the final IAL maps forward to the State Land Use Commission for action. Once designated, landowners of IAL lands will be eligible for financial benefits, and the designation will enhance the "bright line" between agriculture and urbanization. IAL designation will support the long-term viability of agriculture on Oahu, and will finally fulfill the 1978 state constitution mandate.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Yours truly,

Alan Takemoto, Chair

cc: Agricultural Development Task Force Members