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From: Carey Foote [moiliiligarden@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2013 10:38 AM
To:
Cc:
Subject: Council Meeting Testimony Resolution 13-146

My name is Carey Foote. I am the President of the Mo'ili'i Community Garden Association as well as President of the Community Gardens Council.

As representative of 68 gardeners and 10 garden presidents, I would respectfully urge the City Council to be thoughtful and diligent in this endeavor. All of us are thrilled at the prospect of new gardens and gardeners, however we have learned from experience that a good community garden needs to be built from the roots up. Much like a marriage, "it is not to be entered into unadvisedly or lightly, but reverently, deliberately, and in accordance with the purposes for which it was instituted by common sense."

You need a plan.

Please have the Department of Planning and Permitting work with the Department of Parks & Recreation to look for appropriate places. The DPP is the best resource for finding places that are free of pollutants and toxins. Free of liens or financial burdens. Free of the N.I.M.B.Y. effect. (Not In My Back Yard.) Free and clear properties that will not be taken away from gardeners should some past history cause that to happen.

Properties that are available in all areas that are easily accessible would be a big help as well. Most of the urban population that wants to have a garden really don't want to have to commute halfway across the island.

Please consider cost and resources. There will need to be money allocated to oversee the construction of a garden and an infrastructure will have to be built in each garden in order for gardeners to water.

Most of the community gardens were built prior to the current ADA laws. Something like Manoa Community Garden would serve as a good example with their pathways in ADA compliance.

Each community garden is scrupulous in ensuring that our water bill is paid; though we know that we are being subsidized by the City. Currently gardeners are paying \$.10/sq. ft./per year, when the actual cost is between \$.30-.40/sq. ft./per year.

Although the community gardens are supposed to take care of any problems with their own resources, the city has been doing a lot such as cutting/trimming trees, irrigation repairs, removal of trash/rubbish, etc., by adding more gardens these added costs need to be considered.

Easy to talk about having more community gardens, but you also need to make sure more resources are given to support their existence. Most of the current community gardens are in city parks or adjacent to them where you have access to restroom facilities, that's another consideration, Wahiawa Community Garden rents their own portable restroom.

There is also the matter of the Community Gardens Coordinator. Wayne Sasaki is good at what he does,

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however one man can only do so much. He will need support for this. He attends every community garden monthly meetings, garden council meetings, individual garden board meetings, as well as his other duties. He will need more support.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Carey Foote