

Ag center update

June 15th 2014

Aloha board members and advisory board members,
Here is a summary of the meeting that the board had in may with George costa prior to the meeting with the mayor.

1. We discussed the budget with George
2. We talked about the next steps to move forward
3. Addressed farmer selection
4. And talked about timeline

Attached is a copy of the budget developed by the Office of Economic Development (OED) that describes in detail the many aspects that will require funding in the future, as well as a basic timeline that were associated with in the previous master plan and readjusted to fit the current situation. The board has not had a chance to thoroughly review and make adjustments to the whole document and it is here as a draft until a revised version is created. Please review and add comments.

In identifying the steps to move forward the board agreed that the first step is to get a survey that identifies the corners of the property. Honua engineering has been contacted and upon visit on June 17th we will have a date and quote to find our pins.

The second step is to initiate the application for the water meters and George told the board that he will initiate the application and then turn it over to us to follow up with the variance to combine the meters. It will be part of the county budget allocated to OED for Ag parks that will be available starting July 1st.

The third step is to finalize step one of the master plan which include the road infrastructure, wind breaks, and water line, for the 2.5 acres of the farmers market/ community area, community gardens and incubator lots. Hurst Company was approached to provide a bid.

Step 4 purchase fencing and finalize the possible cooperation with the cattleman association to install the fencing for free in exchange of temporary grazing privileges on the unused portion of the park until its development.

Step 5 is to develop a list of plants and start identifying ways to acquire those plants for the privacy edge as well as windbreaks.

In discussing the farmer selection George made sure that he would be part of the process and that the process would include business plan, farming experience, prioritizing farmers from the Kilauea area and a 2 year hands on, on site trial of their farming concept, but the first priority will be to the original farmers that were part of the Kilauea Ag association or their family, because we would not have this opportunity if it wasn't for their hard work and dedication though this process. We also want to make sure to accommodate every application submitted to us. We realize that not every application will become successful and want to make sure not to discourage anyone.

At the same time pursuing the 501 c 3 status for the Kilauea Ag Committee. I will get in touch and consult everyone that has experience developing a 501 c 3 to come up with the best vehicle to administer and manage the Kilauea Ag Center, we are also looking at

funding venues to develop our strategic plan as the \$120,000 still needs to be released by the governor. In any and all of those steps, anyones input is welcome and encouraged as this is a community effort and you are the community. So upon reading this update please give input and tell the world.

As for the timeline we can only start opening lots when water, fencing, and infrastructure is in place as the mulching requires water and machines. The budget touches on the timeline but will only be realistic when the quotes, pinning and water meters are in. I will develop the timeline and include all the pieces needed to achieve it. I am hoping by July 1st.

In conclusion I want to thank you all for taking the time to make this a successful venture, I want to have a public meeting at the end of the month so if you could please return your comments and questions asap, it would be much appreciated. I want to announce that we have a \$5,000 donation for operational costs and if anyone has other potential supporters please let me now.

Mahalo Nui Loa,
KAC Rep.
Yoshito LHote