



Kihei Community Association

"e malama pono"...dedicated to protecting,  
sustaining and enhancing our 'āina, kai and 'ohana

KIHEI COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION POSITION STATEMENT  
ADDRESSING ADVANTAGEOUS AG LAND USEAGE  
(MAUI LAND FORMERLY UTILIZED FOR GROWING SUGAR CANE)  
MAY 2016

The Kihei Community Association (KCA) is concerned about the future utilization of the land used for the growing of sugar cane. With the cessation of the agriculture use of 38,000 acres of land in central Maui used for growing sugar cane, the community is very interested in several critical issues. There is a desire to keep the land in agricultural use and utilize crops that would lessen our dependency on imported food. In the near term, there is a concern that the lack of irrigated sugar cane will cause increase dust problems by the land laying fallow. KCA's position on the future utilization of the sugar cane agricultural land is as follows:

1. Advocate the use of crops that will reduce our reliance on imported food.
2. Advocate that the lands which are presently in sugar cane will continue to be used for agriculture.
3. Advocate that the present employees, employed in the production of sugar, shall not be unduly disadvantaged due to the elimination of the sugar cane crop.
4. Where sugar cane growing land is not used for future agriculture, advocate appropriate ground cover to reduce the incidence of blowing dust.
5. Advocate the equitable access to water that should be available to support the agricultural use of this land.

KCA'S position is based on the following facts and assumptions:

1. Employment in sugar production in Maui was very important to the community. It was reported that there were approximately 650 jobs related to the cane business. Workers displaced should be assisted to find alternative meaningful employment with reasonable pay.
2. Many in the community are concerned about the loss of sugar cane plants. The cane fields keep the arid part of Maui green and helped reduce windblown dust. Ground cover to replace the cane would be beneficial to the island.
3. The island of Maui imports most of its food as very little is presently grown on Maui. In the past, food for domestic consumption supplied most of community's need as well as exported to California.
4. Use of the present agricultural land for agricultural uses, can improve land appearance and reduce dust.