



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

October 20, 2021

Aloha Chairperson Suzanne Case,

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) would like to humbly request you consider your next steps in the process of Act #191 pertaining to a black cinder cone quarry site survey:

Act191 Description:

Requires the department of land and natural resources, in collaboration with county of Hawaii to conduct site survey to identify suitable locations for black cinder cone quarries on the island of Hawaii.

HFNA is a statewide membership organization of over 300 members of growers, shippers and allied members of floriculture products and services. HFNA's mission is to promote the growing and exporting of Hawaii flowers and plants, and to encourage and promote the betterment of conditions that will create and sustain an economically viable flower and plant industry. Over 50% of our revenue comes from export, which brings in valuable outside dollars into our local economy.

Developing new sources of quality black cinder is critical to our industry's future and HFNA strongly supports Act 191

Prior to the pandemic, demand for Hawaii's floriculture products exceeded supply. Strong demand is returning as the economy recovers. Because the pandemic's "stay at home" order, demand for Hawaii's interior potted plants have grown to exceed supply. Practically all our growers utilize cinder as the preferred medium. Superior quality of Hawaii grown products is the primary reason for the demand and cinder allows our growers to achieve that high standard of quality.

HFNA contributes funding and in-kind services to the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). Our industry has been a partner



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with CTAHR's research and development for well over half-a-century in developing new flowers. New products unique to Hawaii gives our industry a competitive advantage in the global marketplace. Students experience applied science with positive economic impact for an industry and the state. We also contribute to a scholarship endowment to "grow" young people as a holistic approach to our industry's future. It is a great private and public partnership model that benefits the entire state.

Diversifying our economy to not be overly reliant on tourism has been subject of discussion for decades. We can reduce our dependence on tourism by growing a proven sector of our economy, Hawaii's floriculture, and nursery industry.

HFNA has a proven track record working with DLNR on a cinder quarry at Pu`unene on Mauna Kea. We acquired a temporary emergency permit from DLNR during the 2018 volcanic eruption. The lease arrangement with DLNR went without incident for the duration (9 months) of the emergency period.

On behalf of HFNA's membership, let us act on Act#191 to ensure that our industry continues to support education and research and development as well as grow jobs and state tax revenue.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext. 2627, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and the State of Hawaii,

Eric S. Tanouye

President

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