I appreciate the opportunity to add 2 cents to discussion about keeping agriculture.

The primary dilemma I see is that family farming in Hawaii is a marginal economic activity, in the main, although many find niches that earn them a return. Nonetheless, all costs are high, and land is a key issue. Because a fair amount of food security and self-reliance is a public good, we need to assure that agricultural lands are available and protected from encroachments by other activities.

Hawaii has never (!) supported family farms, in favor of plantations and commercial successes, with the sole exception of maintaining irrigations systems for lands that have no water of their own -- a losing proposition. This will never pencil out in the standard market sense. We should at the very least protect lands that are naturally watered with the same vigor.