

*“One of our core mission objectives is to increase local food production, in any form, so that we are less reliant on imports,”* FOM response: While increased food production is one of their 3 core objectives, another of their core objectives is to reduce waste. HDF’s beginning herd, per their EIS, was projected to produce at least 2 million pounds of wet manure monthly on a total of 469 grazing acres, where 90% of the waste was to be left in the pastures. Those pastures are 6/10’s of a mile upslope from the ocean. Runoff would be inevitable!

*“If our state is to achieve its ambitious goal of doubling local food production, more must be done to create an environment in which commercially viable agriculture can succeed.”* FOM Response: As stated by a University of Hawaii Agriculture specialist, the key with farming is to recognize that while the plan may sound good, you can’t create an environment. Rather, you have to make sure the plan fits the environment. In our case, there are draining streams which collect runoff from many ditches throughout the site which put drinking water and the ocean at direct risk. FOM, a large community group, worked hard to help public officials appreciate the serious risks of harm for all if their industrial pasture based dairy was allowed to operate. The dairy at O`okala, Big Island Dairy, was not able to contain their pasture based waste and have been forced to close because of the rains that come with our tropical climate, making runoff from land based waste impossible to prevent.

*During discussions with various state agencies, it became clear to HDF there is no reasonable regulatory path forward for the dairy operation despite its best efforts to go above and beyond environmental compliance requirements.* FOM Response: No matter how hard HDF tried, they would not have been able to prevent runoff to the ocean and fecal contamination of water which has been proven at O`okala.

*“Our proposal for the dairy farm was based on best management practices proven from around the world to create a more environmentally sustainable model of dairy farm that utilized active pasture management to minimize runoff and use grass as a low-cost source of feed. But rather than incentivizing local food production to meet our state’s food goals, Hawai`i’s environmental regulations seem to unfairly place dairies and other similar animal agriculture operations in the same category as wastewater treatment plants.”* FOM Response: Based on our research, other parts of the world and in the US has proven that minimizing runoff is not enough! Untreated waste laden with fecal bacteria is not safe for human contact whether in drinking water or ocean water. The letter sent to our State DOH director from the John’s Hopkin School of Medicine detailed how seriously harmful HDF’s proposed dairy could be.

*Kaua`i was found to be the optimal location, and Maha`ulepu Valley was selected because of its long history of agriculture and ranching, Important Agricultural Land designation, availability, growing conditions and access to water for irrigation.* FOM Response: Maha`ulepu was selected because Grove Farm and HDF fail to recognize that the water in the Waita Reservoir belongs to the people of Kauai and is not a commodity Grove Farm has a right to sell. When Maha`ulepu was selected, its designation as Important Agricultural Land was not determined. Our rainfall, our wind, our precious drinking water, Maha`ulepu wells are the only source for all of Poipu, and our beautiful reefs and ocean made a dairy with a plan for land applied waste unworkable and we are glad HDF finally recognized what the community has been saying for 5 years. Their decision today is what is best for the environment and all of Kauai.