

From: [Katie](#)
To: [Planning WPC Testimony](#)
Subject: Please vote against permit approval for Teppy Falls of Fire
Date: Tuesday, May 12, 2026 6:18:02 PM

Aloha,

I am writing in strong opposition to the special permit application by Teppy Mountain LLC (PL-SPP-2024-000075) to host an annual multi-day festival on agricultural land in Papaikou.

Agricultural land in Hawaii is a limited and precious resource. Approving this permit would set a dangerous precedent for the conversion of ag land across Hawaii Island.

The applicant has already held this event several times without a permit, accumulated over \$34,000 in fines, and is currently appealing those fines while simultaneously seeking this permit. This pattern of disregard for county rules does not inspire confidence that permit conditions will be respected going forward.

I also urge the commission to scrutinize the application's designation of only 14.7 acres for festival use on a 1,400-acre property. This appears designed specifically to stay just under the 15-acre threshold for a higher level of review, and does not reflect the true scale and impact of this proposal.

Our rural communities, our farming families, and our agricultural lands deserve protection. I respectfully urge the commission to deny this application.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Katie Russell

Ainaloa, Puna