

From: [Kukui Nui](#)
To: [Planning WPC Testimony](#)
Subject: So no to commercial events on agricultural land
Date: Wednesday, May 13, 2026 9:08:47 AM

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 commercial festival on agricultural land in Papaikou.

Agricultural land in Hawai'i is a limited and precious resource which can ensure food security for the people of Hawai'i during a time when shipping costs have reached unprecedented highs. Approving this permit would set a dangerous precedent for the conversion of ag land across Hawai'i 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 does not inspire confidence that permit restrictions will be respected going forward.

I also urge the commission to scrutinize the applicant's designation of only 14.7 acres for festival use on a 1,400-acre property. This appears 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 nui for your consideration.

Elizabeth Claire K.K. Vanaman

Puna district