

Land Development Investigative Committee Report
Friday, September 28, 2017 9:00 am
Whitmore, Oahu

The investigative committee met to discuss the possibility of utilizing agricultural lands in Whitmore, Oahu for a large-scale greenhouse operation for food production and determined that this type of operation would be ideal given the lands location and proximity to the community.

The land, identified as Tax Map Keys 7-1-02-32 and 7-1-02-34 abuts Whitmore Village and is adjacent to the Whitmore master plan area. Potable water is accessible via a Board of Water Supply water meter which is ideal for greenhouse operations.

The investigative committee has concerns about using these lands for truck crops due to the lack of reliable irrigation water. In addition, the investigative committee and ADC shared concerns about establishing traditional agricultural operations so close to the community because of the pesticide use and spraying that's involved.

Unlike traditional agricultural operations, greenhouse operations are 100% self-contained. These controlled environment facilities can minimize the release of pesticides into the environment and human exposure. More importantly, with greenhouses farmers can truly diversify their operations by replicating different microclimates and growing countless crops.

In addition to the diversification that greenhouse operations offer, it also implicates research and the use of technology to improve farming techniques. These types of innovative undertakings fall in line with ADC's mission to advance agriculture and increase local food production, which opens up possibilities to collaborate with schools and universities to promote agriculture technology.

In view of the lands proximity to the community and benefits greenhouse operations has over traditional agricultural operation on these specific parcels, the investigative committee recommends that ADC should consider utilizing agricultural lands in Whitmore, Oahu for large-scale greenhouse operations for food production.