

From:  
Dominic Leow  
17 Braemar Drive  
Singapore 559420  
Mobile : +65 9764 3726  
January 24, 2014

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi:

Allow me a short introduction. I am Dominic Leow, a Vice-President in OCBC Bank of Singapore, the world's 2<sup>nd</sup> strongest bank 2013 (conferred by Bloomberg). I've known Tim Mann & Susanne for about 2 years. I chanced upon "Friendly Aquaponics", owned by Tim & Susanne, when I was searching the internet for Aquaponics information. Though I have not met them personally, I feel they are good people, having seen and experienced their contributions to the Aquaponics community. I am a fervent fan of their weekly Aquaponics newsletter where Tim & Susanne contribute openly their innovations, discoveries and lessons learnt.

Tim & Susanne have been very open and very remorseful about their involvement in the illegal cultivation of Marijuana. They have openly regretted their wrong doing in the Aquaponics community. This is how I learnt of their predicament. I feel compelled to plead for leniency on their behalf.

I testify that they are both genuine & socially responsible adults who really care about the environment & are strong advocates of cultivating organic vegetables & healthy living. They make an honest living providing "How to" DIY aquaponics system. They are really passionate about their cause, dispensing free advice & making new found knowledge widely available. It seems that money is a secondary consideration, an after-thought. "Friendly Aquaponics" differentiate themselves from their competitors by offering continuous updates on their innovations & findings weekly for free, with no strings attached, something none of their competitors come close to doing. They have lived up to their claim; "Share our knowledge in Aquaponics with as many people as possible." – quoted from their website. They have made it their mission to teach people to grow organic, healthy vegetables, so that they can be vibrantly alive, independent, and free.

Many people, including me, have benefitted from their cause. I've learnt to grow my own organic food & eating & living healthy lives. Many have launched successful careers in organic farming (Aquaponics). Students, as far away as from China, have shared their success stories in their newsletter. Yes, their influence is world-wide. They have helped to grow the body of knowledge and accelerated the adoption of Aquaponics by the masses in the last 2 years. To say Tim & Susanne have touched many lives is an understatement.

Page 2

Their family (four children of their own ranging from 8 to 18 years old, plus two adopted ones including Susanne's 88 year old mother who lives with them) depends on their Aquaponics business for their livelihood. None of them are ready to take over the household should Tim & Susanne be sent to jail; Susanne's mum is too old & the eldest child too young.

So I appeal to your leniency and compassion in sentencing. Their contribution to society in terms of the mass adoption of Aquaponics is atonement for their moment of folly. Let Tim & Susanne serve their time in Supervised Release (Home Detention), and be able to continue living their lives with their family & continue to have a positive impact to society. I know because I'm one of the beneficiaries. I'm confident that when they've been forgiven much, the more they'll give back to society. The last 2 years is a good indication of the future.

Sincerely,

Dominic Leow  
*Aquaponics Hobbyist*  
*Sunny Island of Singapore*  
*Indebted to Tim & Susanne (Friendly Aquaponics)*

Jon Etienne Mourot, Ph.D., J.D.

2601 Kavanaugh Boulevard, Ste 5 Little Rock, AR 72205

January 26, 2014

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi  
Prince Kuhio Federal Building  
300 Ala Moana Boulevard  
Honolulu, HI 96793

Re: Susanne Friend

Dear Judge Koybayashi:

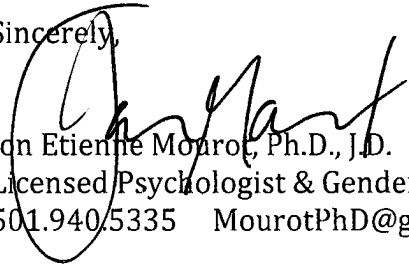
I am writing on behalf of my friend Susanne Friend. During the 14 years I have known her, she has led an exemplary life as a supportive wife, devoted mother, loyal friend, and dependable neighbor. Susanne has admitted her serious errors in judgment and bad choices that brought her before you. These decisions came not from greed and a criminal mindset, but I believe, from a too-trusting nature and a heartfelt compassion for the suffering of others. Susanne fully recognizes her mistakes and will not be repeating them.

Susanne's commitment to forging a better world for her children and her community led to her gaining expertise in sustainable living, specifically aquaponics. She and her husband have established a non-profit to share this groundbreaking technology with others. She has much more to contribute and we are all better served if she remains free to continue this work.

As for me, I am a licensed attorney in Arkansas & Texas. After earning a doctorate in counseling psychology I no longer engage in active law practice. I now work as a licensed psychologist and gender specialist in Little Rock, Arkansas. In addition to my private practice, I am a member of the Vulvar Disorder team in the Ob/Gyn department at our state's medical school. This month I began my second term on the board of directors of the Arkansas Psychological Association. Also, I am cofounder of Boswell Mourot Fine Art, located in Little Rock & Miami, Florida, with a third gallery opening in Berlin, Germany, later this year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Jon Etienne Mourot, Ph.D., J.D.  
Licensed Psychologist & Gender Specialist  
501.940.5335 MourotPhD@gmail.com

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4-30-14  
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**Kiko E. Johnston-Kitazawa**

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Phone: 808 • 929 • 9216 PO Boz 490 Pahala, HI 96777 • kikocanoesailing@gmail.com

January 21, 2014

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

I am Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa, and I live in Honu`apo, Ka`u, Hawai`i. I am a boat builder, boat captain, and Hawaiian canoe cultural educator. I have also worked as a National Park Interpretation Ranger, Geology Field Guide, and Hawaiian studies teacher in the Hawai`i public schools.

I met Susanne Friend in 2001, when my old friend, Tim Mann, and she were managing a Live Arts Gallery, promoting cultural and community art, at Haina, in the Hamakua District of Hawaii Island. In the years since, I have become aware of her skills in writing, photography, and animal husbandry. She once told me that she and Tim had as much going on as any six regular couples. Since their arrest, I have seen them squarely face their actions, and re-commit to their goals and ideal. Their life in recent years, though still very busy, is well balanced.

Since 2007, they have been deeply involved in cultivation not only of food plants, but also in the creation of new farmers, and the cultivation of troubled youth into capable people. I am certain that Susanne will not be a repeat offender, and believe that the benefit to the community of people like her far outweighs the social cost and deterrent effect of imprisonment.

O wau iho no me ke aloha,

*Kiko E. Johnston-Kitazawa*

Kiko Johnston-Kitazawa

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Susanne

Teryl Chapel

Koru Design and Consulting

628 E.14<sup>th</sup> St. #10 NYC 10009

949-375-8444

January 5, 2014

The Honorable Judge Kobayashi

Dear Judge Kobayashi

I am Teryl James Chapel residing in New York City New York. I am writing this letter on behalf of Susanne Friend whose work in education and sustainable food production I have been familiar with since 2011. I met Susanne when she and her husband Tim Mann came to New York in June of 2013 to facilitate a commercial Aquaponics training course which I helped to organize. I had met Tim in person previously in February 2013 while attending a commercial Aquaponics Training in Tennessee which Tim was the facilitator.

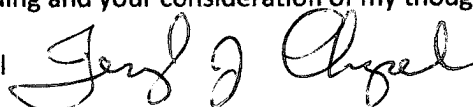
Susanne and I share a common interest in sustainable food production and strong sense of urgency and passion to implement solutions that provide good clean nutritious food sustainably produced. We both agree that teaching people to grow food is one of the fastest ways of empowering more people to greater health and abundance. Prior to meeting Susanne I had discovered and subscribed to the Friendly Aquaponics Newsletter published by Susanne and Tim. I was impressed by the high level of integrity and honesty that accompanied the knowledge and experience shared for free to anyone interested. Again I say it was the integrity behind the words and the obvious burning desire to make a positive difference in the world that struck a resonant chord with me.

While they were teaching in New York this past June, both Susanne and Tim shared with me and others in the training their story about making a choice to grow marijuana in order to try and save their property and livelihood which led to their arrest and now the possibility of going to prison. I was impressed with their open and honest sharing and in owning their mistake. They also shared in their newsletter and on the internet that the systems they promote are not good for growing marijuana.

Judge Kobayashi, I strongly urge you to consider leniency on behalf of Susanne and Tim in your judgement of this case as the world is much better served by these two people being allowed to continue their very important and much needed work. They have learned from their mistake and openly repented to the world. Susanne Friend and Tim Mann are not drug dealers or bad people. They are hardworking, honest, and very courageous people.

Thank you for reading and your consideration of my thoughts. Sincerely,

Teryl James Chapel



Founder and Principal Consultant The Koru Collaborative

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# WARREN N. ANDERSON, JR.

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February 3, 2014  
Tirana, Albania

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi:

My name is Warren Anderson. I am currently the Executive Director of the Albanian International School in Tirana, Albania. I am compelled to write a letter of support on behalf of Tim Mann and Susanne Friend to repay only partly all the information, support and encouragement they and their work with Aquaponics have meant to me.

I first read about Tim and Susanne after arriving in Albania six years ago. I read an article about Aquaponics and looked on the internet for more information. Their website and expertise was featured prominently in Aquaponics circles. It was obvious that they were eager to help, explain and mentor those just learning about this new way of sustainable farming. Unlike many of the others, they knew what they were doing from trial and error and were not motivated by the almighty dollar. From the beginning my goal was to attend one of their week-long training opportunities.

My first direct contact with Tim and Susanne was when I attempted to order one of their system manuals. Due to an internet glitch I was unable to complete the transaction, so I called them and left a message complaining. Susanne responded right away, returning my call within hours and the problem was solved with a free manual for my inconvenience.

I continued reading their weekly newsletters while experiencing one of the most difficult times of my life. I had gone to Dubai three years ago to teach only to find that the school really did not want teachers but rather baby-sitters that catered to every whim of spoiled brats. That is NOT how I teach. I left the school and stayed in Dubai due to a friend from college. His promises of starting a business together were just words followed by movement in that direction then nothing.

I was stuck in Dubai with little money, no life and seemingly getting nowhere with no way to leave. What sustained me – seriously – were the weekly Friendly Aquaponics newsletters and the dream of putting their system to work for the good of others but also for profit for myself. I explained the Friendly Aquaponics system to people from Pakistan, the UAE and Myanmar. All were eager to learn more. I also wrote plans for NGO's on how to use the Friendly system for benefit of destitute and starving folks in various Third World countries.

Finally, in June 2013 I was able to attend a Friendly Aquaponics training week in Tennessee. That trip and experience was one of the best I have had in over 20 years. At the training I met great folks from all over the U.S. with a similar goal, to take control of what we eat and how it



## WARREN N. ANDERSON, JR.

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is grown and to provide others with the quality food they need and deserve for both profit but also as a service to others. It was very inspirational!

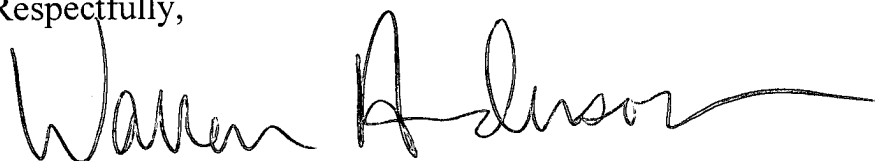
Tim was the trainer at that week-long event, with the assistance of his young son Jack. It was obvious to all that the active and supportive family portrayed and described in the newsletters was the real deal. The way the two worked together, the way Tim talked about Susanne and the rest of the family made evident that this was a family that enjoyed working together and was happy and unified in the Friendly family business. It was a natural team effort.

I am writing because I believe that in this case before you, in my humble opinion, taking either or both Tim and Susanne from their biological family as well as their world-wide Aquaponics family would be a punishment that does not fit the crime. I had read about their legal difficulties and their acceptance of responsibility from Tim and Susanne as well as denigrating remarks from competitors disparaging their work and looking for new customers. Tim and Susanne admitted their actions and clearly warned others not to make the same mistake.

If a punishment must be meted out might I suggest community service. So many more in their local community and throughout the world would benefit and justice would be served as well. It is obvious that their past mistake in judgment has taught them a lesson and that example serves as a warning to anyone else that might be headed the wrong way.

After reading nearly two hundred of their newsletters, corresponding by email and meeting one half of what is obviously a loving and committed family team I believe their commitment to helping others, their integrity in the business and in admitting mistakes – both personal and professional - as well as their love for their children and their desire to be positive examples warrants leniency. I respectfully request the Court to take all the good they have done and can do into consideration.

Respectfully,



Warren Anderson  
Executive Director  
Albanian International School  
Address: Rruga Elbasanit #24, Tirana  
Website: [www.ais-tirana.org](http://www.ais-tirana.org)  
Tel: +355 42 273 488  
Mob: +355 67 416 0637

*I am sending 3 copies due to questions about  
Albanian mail efficiency.  
WA*



RECEIVED  
U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE

FEB 11 2013

at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock and \_\_\_\_\_ min. \_\_\_\_\_ M.  
DISTRICT OF HAWAII

COMPANY

Michelle Thomas M.D.  
G Food 4U LLC

611 Pennsylvania Ave. SE  
Suite 254  
Washington DC 20003

February 10, 2014  
The Honorable  
Judge Leslie E. Kobayashi  
District of Hawaii C-338  
300 Ala Moana Blvd.  
Honolulu, HI 96850

Aloha Judge Kobayashi

I am writing to request leniency in the sentencing of both Susanne Friend and Timothy Mann who have acknowledged guilt in growing marijuana on the island of Hawaii. I have known both Susanne and Timothy since 2010. I first met Ms. Friend and Mr. Mann and their family when I came to Honokaa Hawaii to attend a "Friendly Aquaponics" Commercial Aquaponics Course offered by these two respected farmers. There were approximately 100 individuals who attended this course coming from Hawaii and the continental US to learn how Friendly Aquaponics "valued engineered" Dr. James Rakocy of the University of the Virgin Islands design of recirculating aquaponics system. During the course I remember that both Ms. Friend and Mr. Mann on more than one occasion during their instruction stated that aquaponics should be employed to grow food and discouraged any attempt to use their designs to grow marijuana. I knew nothing of the legal transgressions of Ms. Friend or Mr. Mann at the time of our first meeting and thought their anti drug advocacy sincere. I was impressed with the family farms success in lettuce and taro production. The family unit also left a favorable impression on me. I observed a farm family full of love, all the children had farm chores but also seem to have other educational and recreational vocations.

I am a physician and an entrepreneur engaged in the integration of aquaponics into urban farms, commercial real estate and urban re development. I have returned to Honokaa Hawaii with contractors employed by my company G Food 4U LLC in 2011 and 2012 for additional training with Ms. Friend and Mr. Mann at Friendly Aquaponics Farm. During these private training sessions I gained increased respect and appreciation of the intelligence, hard-work applied by Ms. Friend and Mr. Mann that has resulted in contributing fresh nutritious vegetables and fish to the local food shed.

I eventually learned from Mr. Mann and Ms. Friends, of legal challenges the couple faced as a result of their having illegally grown marijuana in Hawaii. I heard unsolicited their admission of guilt with remorse for this illegal activity and the impact that it had on their family and farm. Friendly Aquaponics Farm is currently having relative commercial success in growing food, assisting hundreds of individuals to learn aquaponics in Hawaii and around the world. I believe Ms. Friend and Mr. Mann have relayed a message against illegal growing of marijuana by their open acknowledgement of their errors.

As a physician who has treated many injured individuals due to the consequences of illegal and legal drugs use, I am not an advocate for recreational, or religious use of marijuana.

I've come to know the Friend-Mann children Victor, Jack, Lucky, Rose and I fear that there could be irreparable harm to the family, if their parents were to be sentenced to prison. I am an advocate for the Friend-Mann children and the Friendly Aquaponics Farm.

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I ask your Honor, in your evaluation of the crimes committed to sentence Ms.Susanne Friend and Mr. Timothy Mann to supervised release and community service, not to imprison either defendant. I believe that restitution to the community directly affected by their crime can be accomplished with community service that will continue the rehabilitation of Susanne Friend, Timothy Mann and retain the dignity of the Friend-Mann family.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Thomas, M.D." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Michelle Thomas M.D.

Diplomat of the American College of Surgeons

CEO G Food 4U LLC

02/06/2014

Stuart Brake and Auto Repair  
409 SE Monterey Road  
Stuart, Florida 34994  
772/283-4445  
gmallen@gate.net

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi

Dear Your Honor;

I am a business owner of thirty five years and currently have in operation three business's in South Florida. I am currently working with Tim Mann and Susanne Friend in the development of my next multi business operation.

My interaction with them has been on a business level. Training, manuals, operational specifications and correspondence to create and operate an aquaponics operation. Growing leaf type greens, vegetables and fish at a profit. I am currently in the proto type phase with excellent results.

The business relationship has been open honest and as sold. This is hard to find in today's market and it has been an enjoyable process. I spent a week with Tim Mann in an exhaustive training of five plus days and received more than was expected.

Although Tim and Susanne have been candid about the legal issues it has seemed actually to be a blessing to them. When I, other's or Tim and Susanne go into hard times the blessing are hard to see, but I see the good it has worked in there lives.

If I can be of additional assistance please feel free to contact me at the above address, phone or e-mail.

Thank you,



Mark Allen

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Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi:

This letter is to inform you of my knowledge of and interaction with Susanne Friend. My name is Brian Lievens, I am a twenty three year resident of Kona, before that I lived for two years in Hilo. During this time the cane industry went under, and myself and others began looking for new opportunities in agriculture to replace it.

For many years I have been on the board of the Hawaii Island Tropical Fruit Growers Association and the president of the West Hawaii Chapter. We have introduced and promoted many new crops and have seen some successes, but getting young people interested in farming and replacing us as we retire has been a problem.

When I met Susanne Friend at a tour of her farm I was impressed by the number of young people and children who were interested in Aquaponics. Attending the classes she supervised and spoke to I saw a base of enthusiasm not seen with other crops or systems of growing food.

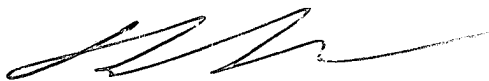
Commenting on how well Susanne's children interacted with the group and assisted with the program, a fellow student described how these same kids help others in the community on a regular basis.

If ever there was a model of the small American family farm it is Susanne's. Within the aquaponics network she has been our motivational coach. Her ability to encourage, even inspire is self-evident.

I regularly lecture, host conferences, and workshops. These take time and dedication, and my ability to participate is dependent on those who can organize and promote. Six years ago when I took her first aquaponics seminar it amazed me that Susanne could manage both of these skill sets.

Since that time she has kept in touch, maintained our excitement for this new system for growing food. I know when a new farmer comes to me asking about opportunities in tropical agriculture I can refer them along to Susanne for advice and future vision.

Farming is hard work with little chance for riches, as a career choice it requires inspired teachers and role models. She and her farm qualify for this characterization. Her contributions to the future of our industry have motivated me to encourage you to help her to remain within our ranks, and with her family.



Sincerely/ Brian Lievens

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To: The Honorable Judge Leslie Koybayashi  
From: Benjamin Duke  
Re: Susanne Friend

February 2, 2014

Aloha Judge Koybayashi,

I am writing to express my support for Susanne Friend. I have known Susanne for approximately four years. I am a teacher at West Hawaii Explorations Public Charter School in Kailua-Kona, HI. Susanne taught me all about aquaponics during a two day training. She was very thorough and enthusiastic. She supported me as began to teach my students about aquaponics at WHEA PCS, a project-based school. I brought students to Susanne's Friendly Aquaponics farm and this was a very inspiring experience for them. Susanne has responded to questions emailed to her by both the students and I as we were learning how to start an aquaponics system at the school. I know Susanne has been very supportive of schools and community members around the Big Island who have been working to make our island more sustainable. Susanne has given the school books that he has written to help us with our education in aquaponics. She has always been positive and supportive of our school and our curriculum. The aquaponics project at our school has become one of our most successful and popular projects at WHEA PCS. Please feel free to contact me should have any questions about my relationship with Susanne.

Mahalo,

Benjamin Duke  
77-348 Nohealani St.  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
(808) 756-0461  
[duke@whea.net](mailto:duke@whea.net)

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February 4, 2014

To The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi:

This letter is regarding Susanne Friend of Friendly Aquaponics.

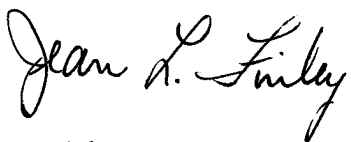
My name is Jean Finley. I am a retired Registered Nurse, currently residing in the State of Georgia. For the last forty years, I have been an avid organic gardener and in the last several years I have been very interested in aquaponics as a viable alternative to more traditional "in-ground" gardening.

Approximately two years ago, I discovered Susanne Friend and her Friendly Aquaponics website. Over the course of the last year or so, I have peppered Susanne with numerous questions and comments via email. She has always been exceptionally gracious and patient, no matter how ignorant my questions might be. Her hard work, unflagging enthusiasm and commitment to the aquaponics field convinced me to jump on board with her and her inspiring vision of the future. At the current time I am in the process of putting together my own aquaponics set-up, using the Friendly Aquaponics Do-it-Yourself Plans here in Georgia. I am familiar with other Friendly Aquaponics inspired start-ups in both Tennessee and Florida. Her wondrous vision is catching on—it's so exciting to imagine the changes to the world of organic gardening in the coming decade!

Prior to actually communicating with Susanne, I easily discovered the unsavory details of the interaction of Friendly Aquaponics with "The Hawaii Cannabis Ministry"—there was no attempt to hide such information. Admittedly, this information caused me some concern. However, after considerable interaction with Susanne and Friendly Aquaponics, my concerns were allayed. Yes, I believe Susanne was indeed guilty of being extremely gullible and naïve, and obviously made some very poor decisions. However, I believe there was never any intent to harm.

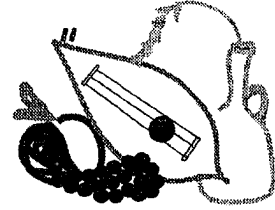
On behalf of Suzanne Friend, I respectfully ask for your leniency. She is doing incredibly good works for society as a wife, mother and business woman and is positively touching so many lives. I look forward to having a healthy and prosperous relationship with her for many years into the future.

Sincerely,



Jean L. Finley  
2541 Nursery Rd.  
Blackshear, GA 31516  
(912)590-7733

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2-12-14  
JCP



Blues Farms LLC. PO Box 1464. Iowa. 52556  
1.641.919-0988  
<http://www.BluezFarms.com>

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

My name is Carl Wagener. I am the chief-scientist for an agricultural organization, Bluez Farms LLC, located in Iowa, USA. This is a letter in support of Susanne Friend.

I met Susanne Friend and her husband Tim Mannheim in 2012, while on a course offered by them in Tennessee about beginning and commercial aquaponic farming operations. As I attended on behalf of a non-profit, The SmarterEarth institute, where I provided consultation, they offered the course free of charge.

I was immensely impressed with Susanne's obvious commitment to the subject, passion for humanity, vast wealth of knowledge which she freely shared, her open and trusting nature and her vast generosity of spirit.

While attending the course, Susanne discussed that she had been misled into making the stupid mistake of attempting to grow marijuana on her farm by somebody that she had trusted, and told us that she did not know, but feared that outcome might be separation from her family and prison. In what Suzanne said, I heard not one word to lead me to imagine that she felt anything but remorse for the entire lapse of judgment leading to this stupid and tragic episode. Having lived under the cloud of the consequences, today, years later, she remains uncertain of the outcome, though she hopes it will take into account her total lack of intent to cause anybody harm.

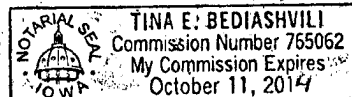
Susanne asked me to consider writing a letter on her behalf. As a husband, a father, a farmer and a scientist, this is easy for me to do. I wish I could do more. Suzanne is doing far more for mankind in her willingness to transfer her hard bought life lessons to others - and in such a critical area as producing safe, clean, wholesome food cheaply and organically with few resources and little waste - than most people will ever aspire to. Her willingness to share her knowledge with others with little thought for her own benefit is laudable. Her support for family and friends is visible in every one of the amazing photographs I have seen shared by this multi-talented person. Quite seriously, it is people like Suzanne who inspire and make this life worthwhile for the rest of us.

Aside from the needs of her family and the interns that Friendly Aquaponics host at their family run facility, I do hope that you will take the above into account when sentencing her, and consider the immense value of having people like Suzanne working to share their dream as an example and as an ongoing inspiration to the rest of us. I do not think that any benefit will accrue to society from a custodial sentence, as the unique circumstances of her offense means that she certainly did not serve as any kind of a bad example, and the chances of her being involved in any kind of criminal activity in future is so slight as to be negligible.

Yours Sincerely

Carl Wagener  
2014.02.01  
[mashed.gears@gmail.com](mailto:mashed.gears@gmail.com)

State of Iowa, County of Jefferson  
Signed or attested before me on  
February 1, 2014  
Carl Wagener



Notary Public

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2-13-14  
llm

Farming Innovations, LLC  
226 Polk Road 69, Mena, AR 71953  
479-437-3409  
Adams\_dh@farminginnovations.com  
Farminginnovations.com



January 8, 2014

To The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi

Your Honor,

I am owner and managing member of Farming Innovations, LLC. My company is a small farm growing food using aquaponics and natural methods. I know Susanne only through emails we exchanged, comments on different forums, and Friendly Aquaponics website. I did meet her and Tim informally at the first Aquaponics Association meeting. Our relationship has been over a four year period. I would describe our relationship as a business relationship. It was the online website and micro kit that started me off in my quest for starting this company. During the last four years Susanne has answered many questions without charge, and has provided vital information freely about pest control and biological safety. The information she provides on a regular basis, I believe would not be freely shared by other people, yet she consistently provides vital information about aquaponic growing, food safety, and biological issues. I believe this to be true because of her world view, which is one of helping humanity without charge. Hopefully you will consider this attribute when deciding her case.

I probably would not be doing what I do today without her and Tim's influence. I previously worked for Hewlett Packard Computer Corporation as a system software engineer for 15 years. This was very high stress job. Although a lucrative position and good job I wanted a more relaxed life. It was partially Susanne's methods that allowed me to consider this company. I am so happy I took this step of becoming an entrepreneur.

I would also say, I have read very cruel and viscous remarks about both her and Tim online. I never saw any kind of derogatory remarks made back by them. I also know of some people that have taken advantage of their kindness without consequence from them. Susanne has consistently admitted to what she did and how wrong it was. I think that she would never again attempt this kind of behavior, and it would hurt a lot of people who depend on her for ongoing discoveries, if she were to be incarcerated.

Everything I have included here is true to the best of my knowledge, I fully agree what they did was wrong albeit naive. I would ask you to be lenient to Susanne based on her character and the benefit of many around the world who look to her for help.

Thank You,

DAVID H. ADAMS, OWNER FARMING INNOVATIONS, LLC

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2-13-14  
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# Everest

COLLEGE

**Colorado Springs**

1815 Jet Wing Drive

Colorado Springs, CO 80916

tel (719) 638-6580 fax (719) 638-6818

[www.everest.edu](http://www.everest.edu)

February 6, 2014

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

This letter is being written with mixed emotion on behalf of Suzanne Friend, a person I know only thru email correspondence and professional association in the aquaponic field. I say mixed emotion because I struggle with the circumstances that have occurred that bring her before you, yet I am incredibly indebted to her generosity in providing unrestricted access to the ever changing world of do-it-yourself aquaponic food sourcing.

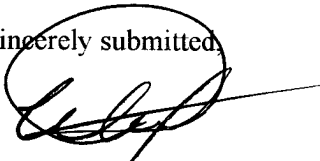
I am the Founder of Echo Lima Solutions LLC, a company focused on providing healthy, sustainable, and independent lifestyle alternatives for poorer populations at large. I am also privileged to provide real life applications of entrepreneurialism as a Business Instructor at Everest College here in Colorado Springs, Colorado. It is thru exhaustive research and correspondence along with my efforts with "at risk" students, that Suzanne and I became acquainted.

My initial contact with Suzanne Friend occurred late one night when I discovered her informational aquaponic website showing every aspect of starting and sustaining a successful organic business model. I immediately wrote to her voicing my excitement with her "open source" availability while also venting my concerns and frustrations with my previous NDA/Non-Compete correspondence with other industry experts. Suzanne responded quickly and professionally, offering "free" assistance and encouraging me to pursue my endeavor to help change people's lives. She not only offered her professional scientific operational insight, but also forwarded me to her design expert for cold weather greenhouse engineering assistance.

Her initial business transparency was the catalyst for new classroom discovery for my students along with a renewed sense of community service for me personally. Because of her infectious passion and improvements within the aquaponic arena, I have personally and professionally dedicated resources to help facilitate the educational and service opportunities for individuals, groups, and churches. Suzanne continues to enthusiastically support my efforts here in Colorado with continued correspondence, education, and exciting new processes she has discovered at her family business there in Hawaii.

My life has truly taken on new purpose because, in large part, of the forward-thinking vision and incredible support system of Suzanne Friend. While I do not attempt to condone her admitted lapse in good judgment, I am hopeful, Your Honor, that you will sense the humility of spirit that this letter was intended to convey, and that you will consider the far reaching touch that Suzanne's mission has had in communities worldwide.

Sincerely submitted,



Wayne Peacock, Faculty  
Everest College – Colorado Springs

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2-12-14

lcp



Dear Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

Aloha from Michael Kirsner in Ft. Lauderdale Florida. I am sending you this letter in reference to your hearing concerning Susanne Friend. Since my girlfriend and I have attended Tim and Susanne's classes we have been using what they taught us and we aspire to save enough to start a large scale organic farm and aquaponic system.

She currently works as a restaurant server and I am working for two different companies distributing and selling smoking cessation devices and nicotine alternatives. In high school I was the captain of the varsity soccer team and head of the math team. I have a Broward College associate's degree and have done a tremendous amount of individual studies. More recently, I have found the opportunity to volunteer at Marando Farms, a community outreach farm in the heart of Ft. Lauderdale. They have since built an excellent aquaponic section partly motivated by the inspiration that was given in Tim's and Susanne's classes. Just a few miles away, "Urban Farmer" has broken ground with their new farm and they are pleased to include me in their aquaponic developments.

With Donna's expertise of foods and farming from her experience in the industry and my excitement in learning farming, partly from visiting my grandparents farm in Iowa; we found an exceptional opportunity... Tim and Susanne's aquaponic courses in Brooksville, FL. We prepared by studying up, and just as we thought we knew it all, they taught us more than we could imagine. There are quite literally books on the subject that don't have the amount of knowledge that Tim and Susanne shared with us. The well-known Australian aquaponic professional Murray Hallam flew in to participate and collaborate in the seminar. It was truly the best opportunity to learn aquaponics. It would be possible to write a whole book on the things I learned at their class that you would be hard-pressed to find elsewhere, some examples... organic calcium carbonate to regulate pH, what components are organic, flow rates, dissolved oxygen levels, fish/vegetables health and compatibility, water temperatures vs. growth rates and that doesn't even scratch the surface. Since the classes, Donna and I each have been running micro aquaponics systems; studying them, and relaying information to many interested people.

As far as the stupid mistakes Tim and Susanne made; they were upfront about their issues. They brought up exactly what they had done and with great regret and humility. Susanne accepted the repercussions for her actions and never once did she try and justify what she had done. Neither did Tim or Susanne play the victim; they simply admitted to what they had done, and regretted it.

For years I've spoken about Tim and Susanne's classes, and what they have learned is quite exceptional. Susanne is a well-spoken, outgoing, smart and caring person. In the classes, she presented her own scientific research coupled with the love for what she is doing. I would not know what I know today had it not been for her. Susanne has a great ability to work with people and include all of her students in the topics at hand. Susanne gave her presentations with energy and emotion; she spoke from the heart. Her classes definitely had a positive impact on my life. What I have written to you is the truth to the best of my ability and I swear by it, your Honor. Thank you.

Sincerely, Michael M Kirsner

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**To: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi**

**From: Michael Kirsner: mkirsner@gmail.com**

Date: January 31, 2013

To: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi

I am writing this letter in support of Susanne Friend, whose work in the field of aquaponics I discovered online while researching the possibility of utilizing this method of growing organic foods in our climate.

My husband and I live on a small farm in south central Pennsylvania. I had retired from teaching in the public schools in 2007 after more than thirty years in education which also included teaching on the college level, supervising an elementary education student teacher program and serving as Public Relations Director for a school district. I was also the Supervisor of Instruction for a Migrant Education Program and hired and trained teachers and directed the educational program for five counties in Central PA where children of migrant workers received remedial and enrichment instruction. Since my retirement, I have been actively seeking a subsequent career which would allow me to be involved productively while remaining at home. I have always been interested in matters of healthy lifestyle and organic foods and when I discovered Friendly Aquaponics, it seemed like a perfect fit.

After visiting the Friendly Aquaponics website and subscribing to the Friendly Newsletter, my husband and I decided to sign up for a benefit training in aquaponics that Susanne Friend and Tim Mann were presenting in June 2013 in New York City; this event was in support of a non-profit inner city organization which was teaching young people aquaponics urban style. The goal of this organization was to revitalize this community by empowering the people to utilize their unique situation to grow their own food.

As soon as we signed up for the event, we received the Friendly Aquaponics DIY manual, which was written by Susanne and her husband, Tim. As a teacher for over 30 years, I was impressed with the quality of the manual--its attention to detail, organization and thoroughness. When I met Susanne in person at the training, I was literally on the edge of my seat all day long not wanting to miss any detail. Susanne is a gifted educator--not only does she possess the technical background in her field (she has a degree in Biology), but her organization and presentation skills, coupled with her enthusiasm, passion and sincerity set her far above most of the students and teachers I have supervised over the years.

Although I was only with Susanne for one day, what I had learned about her and the company, Friendly Aquaponics, through the manuals, newsletters and videos was not only verified, but promised untold potential for the future of aquaponics. I realized that,

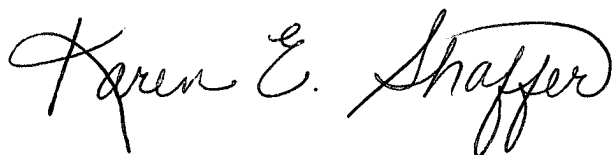
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as a team, Susanne Friend and Tim Mann, not only complemented each other but created a synergy together that enabled them to get phenomenal results. Susanne is the “idea person” who can conceptualize outside of the box and Tim, who also is an innovative thinker with an entrepreneurial spirit, has the technical skill and experience to make the idea become a reality. I can not imagine the two of them not working together.

A week after the New York training, I signed up for the 5-day commercial aquaponics training in Tennessee. I was disappointed that Susanne was not going to share the teaching with Tim; she had made a decision to return to the rest of their family in Hawaii. Tim and Susanne are the parents of four children and also are responsible for Susanne’s 88 year old mother who lives with them. I know the possibility of being separated from their children greatly grieves both of them.

Susanne and Tim are very open, honest and transparent in their communication. They have expressed sincere and deep regret about their involvement in growing marijuana. They feel they owe a debt to society. Allowing them to continue their work in aquaponics would more than repay that debt!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen E. Shaffer". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping underline.

Karen E. Shaffer  
97 Barkmill Rd  
Airville, PA 17302

717-862-3091

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi

2/04/14

Your Honor:

My name is Kerri Whiting. I live in Eureka, California where I work as a substitute teacher. I am writing to you today in support of Susanne Friend. Susanne and I met in 2009 when I came to her farm for an aquaponics training course. I traveled to Hawaii along with my partner Nicholas to learn from Susanne and her husband Tim Mann. The course taught me more than I could imagine at the time, and since then I have kept in touch with Susanne and Tim. Susanne taught me many things. She is a role model for women in many ways. Not only is she a leader in the aquaponics industry, which is often dominated by men, but she is also a mother and a teacher. Susanne has four children at home. She also takes care of her mother who has not been well in recent years. She is a hardworking woman and for that I admire her and look to her as a mentor.

Another reason I admire Susanne is for her honesty. When we came to Hawaii in 2009 we did not know about her legal situation. In class she addressed these issues and admitted her mistakes. It takes courage to admit something like that to a group of people many of whom you just met. It takes even more courage to admit mistakes to your family and loved ones. Susanne has many people who count on her. She needs to be there for them. Sending Susanne to prison will not benefit anyone. I ask that you consider supervised release for Susanne Friend.

Respectfully Yours,

*Kerri Whiting*

Kerri Whiting

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To The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

I am writing to you on behalf of Susanne Friend. My name is John R. May; I live in Broken Arrow Oklahoma. I want to thank you in advance for your time.

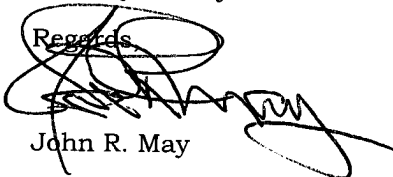
I feel it is important to let you know a few things about who I am and how I came to know Susanne. I am the owner of Green Country Aquaponics, LLC and I have a full time job with United Recovery Systems (URS). I have worked for URS since December of 1991. I am also the Secretary/Treasurer for Aspen Pond Homeowners Association, Inc., having been elected by the homeowners (101 members at this time) for the past 3 years.

In 2007 Susanne and I began our acquaintance and developed a business relationship. Throughout the course of our relationship, she has been unfailingly honest regarding her circumstances, knowledge and beginning a couple of years ago, her status with the legal system. She has been forthright with me about her actions which led to your courtroom and her regret for them has seemed very sincere.

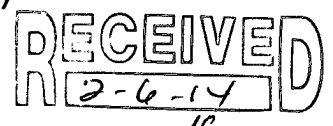
Susanne passionately wants to educate as many people as possible to produce a better quality of food in a sustainable manner at a lower cost. Her remaining in society as a productive member, helping support her family, educating people regarding Aquaponics and sustainable food practices seems a better use of societal resource's than incarceration. As you consider her legal future, please strongly consider not imposing a prison sentence and allow Susanne to remain with her family and her professional passion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,



John R. May



To: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi

c/o Philip H. Lowenthal  
33 N. Market St.  
Suite 101  
Waituku, Maui, HI 96793

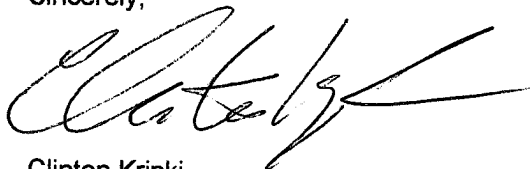
Re: Letter of support for Susanne Friend

My name is Clinton Kripki, I live in Anderson, Texas. Close to two years ago I made a substantial career switch from finance to become an aquaponic farmer. I searched far and wide for the information to make this possible and after much research I was confident that Susanne Friend's company Friendly Aquaponics was the best model for my new venture. Susanne offered both a wealth of experience and an ongoing commitment to make my investment in her course a success. On top of this she is constantly testing and bringing to the market via her newsletters an open source of information to the aquaponic community which continues today with these newsletters and by teaching aquaponic courses across the county.

What Susanne has done has both shocked and disappointed me and caused her a heap load of trouble for which I hope she has learned a valuable lesson. On the flip side she has been open with the community about her actions and taken this as a lesson and opportunity to channel her energy into what she really stands for in bringing the wonders of aquaponic food production to the community and the planet. I believe Susanne has much more to contribute even with this digression on her record. We are taught to forgive and learn from our mistakes, I have forgiven Susanne and hope that she has learned from this criminal behavior.

I know that Susanne has several children and a grandmother in her care as a father of 3 myself, the idea of these kids being put into foster care because of their parent's crime is both sad and disruptive to this family. It is my hope that you can find a consequence for Susanne's actions that will allow her to keep her family together and yet serve a sentence appropriate for the crime she has committed. Thank you for taking these extenuating circumstances into consideration and I respect your judgment and wish you all the best in your deliberation, I know this is not an easy question to face.

Sincerely,



Clinton Kripki  
Emerald Aquaponic Farm

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ATTN: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi

1-27-14

Your Honor,

I am writing on behalf of Suzanne Friend, and I ask you to sentence her to home supervision rather than jail time. Her knowledge and mentorship are far too important to the State of Hawaii and the world for her to be held behind bars.

I took one of ~~her~~ the aquaponics courses taught by her and her husband Jim in April of 2011. I wanted to learn ~~about~~ this food production system of incredible yields and minimal water use from them, the first people to have their aquaponics system certified organic - the people who know how to do it best.

While I - a young student with international ambitions - was there, Suzanne introduced me to a skilled entrepreneur named Christopher Washington, who was at the forefront of urban farming in Washington DC. Christopher and I went on to build the first aquaponics farm in West Africa based on Suzanne Friend's designs. Our farm produced tomatoes, a staple Ghanaian food, 52 weeks out of the year instead of 2. We taught this remarkable technology to local farmers, college students, and professors, and even won acclaim from representatives of the FAO. None of that would have been possible without Suzanne Friend.

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The knowledge Suzanne shares is invaluable. As a range of crises - from exhausted soils to depleted aquifers to extreme and unpredictable weather patterns - crash over the agricultural industry, we will need knowledge like Suzanne's to keep ourselves alive. She was a pioneer, and now she's an expert, and a generous, passionate and humble teacher. She is needed.

She is also human. She made a very poor decision to grow marijuana for Roger Christie, which I do not condone. Financial stress can make fools out of the best of us. I deeply regret her decision to do so, because it has tarnished her reputation and caused her to be dismissed when she should be listened to. Breaking the law should never be considered a way out.

But to compound the damage by jailing her, depriving many students like me of her teaching, serves no one. Already her students are growing food across Hawaii and far beyond. If, on the day the barge doesn't come, Hawaiians eat, it will be due in large part to her.

Please consider what I've said. I hope you see Suzanne's value, and choose to hand down an appropriate sentence that permits her to keep teaching, and to change the world.

Melissa Rasmussen

To: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi

28 January 2014

From: Gary W. Young

Re: Suzanne Friend

I am an artist/inventor/builder with patents and many innovations in the field of Natural Fiber Composites as applied to recreational watercraft, boats, canoes, electric vehicle and alternative home building practices. Awarded a "Green Wave Award" from SURFER'S PATH magazine for my bamboo surfboards, I have presented papers and exhibits on Natural Fiber Composites at international Agro-forestry conferences around the Pacific.

I have personally known Suzanne Friend for about 15 years. I was first introduced to her shortly before her marriage to Tim Mann and I attended their wedding.

My first impression of Suzanne was how good she is with animals and her straight forward approach to dealing with both her and Tim's children. Many times I have seen her hands-on care taking whether applying a band aid to a child's cut or helping animals from birth onward.

During a visit, her favorite cat jumped in my lap and started nuzzling my chin. When I expressed my approval, Suzanne gave me her favorite cat !!

Over the years here on the Big Island, I have seen her skills as an author and organizer, as well as her dedication to family and community thru her passion to contributing to food growing solutions for humanity.

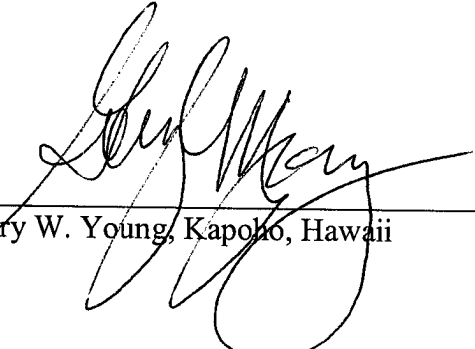
She has always been helpful and informative with knowledge of Hawaiian and herbal healing methods applied to humans or animals.

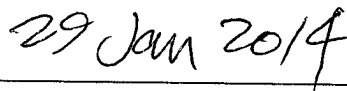
I was shocked when I found out about her arrest due to illegal marijuana growing activities, breaking the law is not good.

I have tried to keep updated on Suzanne's legal situation. She has several times stated to me that she made a bad decision and hoped 'right her wrong' without losing her family. She also stated several times she is strongly opposed to using aquaponics for illegal marijuana growing.

I definitely believe Suzanne Friend will do more good for all by not being put in prison.

Sincerely

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary W. Young, Kapoho, Hawaii

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
29 Jan 2014

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1-30-14

Kevin Stan  
1426 177<sup>th</sup> Ave NE  
Bellevue, WA 98008  
January 27, 2014



The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi  
The United States District Court for the District of Hawaii  
300 Ala Moana Blvd  
Honolulu, HI 96850

Dear Honorable Judge Kobayashi,

My name is Kevin Stan. I am a teacher with the Seattle School District, and have been for two years. I have a Bachelor of Arts in History and Political Science from Northwest University in Kirkland, WA and a MEd in Teaching History from Northwest Missouri State University, as well as teaching certificates in both Technology and Social Studies for the high school level. I am also an annual volunteer for All Kids Can Learn, International – a non-profit organization with an orphan care village in Zambia.

I have known Susanne Friend since 2011. I met her while doing research into sustainable agriculture for AKCLI. Without going into many details, I was struck by the technology and practice of combining two food life cycles – agriculture and aquaculture. I was very excited to learn more and intern with an organization so I could take the knowledge to Zambia with the hopes of building a system which would enhance the food security of the village there.

I wrote to Susanne and her husband Tim asking for more information. After a sort of interview between both of us, I decided I wanted to travel to Hawaii (back to Hawaii, actually; I went to school at the University of Hawaii at Manoa for a year and a half) to learn. The cost was prohibitive, however. After Susanne agreed we would mutually benefit from the experience, she sent me a refreshingly honest account of what she and her husband are now accounting for through the legal system. Susanne and Tim pulled no punches – the letter was frank and remorseful, not because they had been caught, but because through short sightedness they had risked everything they had fought so hard to promote through their research and teaching of aquaponics.

I visited and worked with them for about two weeks. I had stayed in touch before and after the trip. While I was with them, I was able to see their passion and dedication to spreading knowledge they felt would save the world. I mean that without hyperbole, and I agreed with them. Their system promised to not only bring animal protein and fresh vegetables to anyone that could build a system, but also side benefits like malaria prevention (mosquitoes in an area lay their eggs in the water troughs of the aquaponics system and little fish eat them before they can hatch, creating a natural

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Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi  
January 29, 2014  
Page 2



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dead zone around the system) and reduced or eliminated use of toxic chemicals in the process of growing crops.

Tim and Susanne didn't just build a business model around this system, but a culture. They treated it as imperative information, something to share with anyone that would listen. To that effect, they gave weekly on-site hands-on lectures to anyone that would visit their farm, for free. They offered their books which detailed, in totality, the process of how to build an aquaponics system with cheap, easily acquired materials, for free. They believed in my mission work in Africa, acknowledged my limited financial resources, and allowed me to come for less than half what they normally required. They provided food, housing, and daily training. And through all that, I saw two people that were honestly trying to do well by society by making lasting, impactful changes in the US and abroad for the most at risk people everywhere, the poor.

I would like to stand by their character and mission. I believe in the two and pray their continued research and education of aquaponics will revolutionize food security across the planet. I believe in their hearts which I saw mourn for the poor and hungry. I believe in their intelligence which impressed me through their trainings and depth of knowledge. And I believe in their family which I saw both of them fight for and love on a daily basis; their children have good parents.

A friend of mine once said of me "Kevin, we all make mistakes and bad choices. Yours were just more public than most." I do not wish to diminish the severity of their crime. However, I do respectfully request you weigh their mistake against the things they are continually doing for their community, and for communities around the planet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin Stan". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Kevin Stan  
Cisco Academy Instructor  
IGNITE Coordinator – Encouraging female students' education in STEM  
Rainier Beach High School  
Seattle, Washington

January 20, 2014

TO: Judge Leslie Kobayashi

FROM: James T. Hiyane

Via/ Philip H. Lowenthal

33 N. Market St. Suite 101

Wailuku, Maui Hi 96793

Dear Sir:

In testament to support Susanne and Tim Mann, who are charged with growing marijuana in Honokaa, Hawaii, I strongly suggest that the court in its determination for sentence and punishment consider suspended sentences with community service for both. Their vast experience in food production can best serve the community to promote aquaponics food production geared for island conditions.

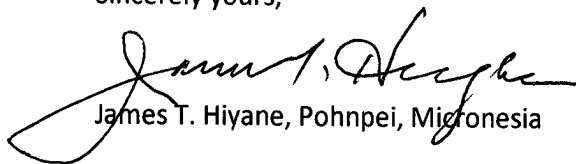
Six decades in economic development work throughout the Pacific region with the U.S. Department of Interior, various foreign governments, NGO's and religious institutes, have given me some insight to assess the aquaponics project undertaken by the Mann's, also a vehicle for their marijuana venture, is a viable and promising endeavor worthy of widespread promotion throughout Hawaii, the Continental U.S., and other developing countries in the Pacific.

So impressed was I with the results of their fish/food production farm that I enrolled in their special-tutored course using my personal funds to defray cost of air transportation, lodging, training costs, etc. to better understand this unique project. Their training course established firmly in my mind that this project is worthy of promulgation world-wide. Their comprehensive trials and experience in formulating a practical and flexible system for several levels of commercialization, back-yard subsistence farming or simple cottage-industry projects need to be promoted.

Under the charges of growing marijuana, stiff penalties may be in store for both. Perhaps, in lieu of incarceration for any prolonged period, society will be better served with their involvement in community service to promote the project in schools and farm communities throughout the State of Hawaii.

We hope your consideration in my humble suggestion for both Susanne and Tim Mann will be met favorably.

Sincerely yours,



James T. Hiyane, Pohnpei, Micronesia

Cc: Susanne and Tim Mann of Friendly Aquaponics

Philip H. Lowenthal

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1-30-14  
Kp

**Alan E. Clements**  
**2768 West Broadway**  
**Vancouver, BC, Canada**  
**T: 604-251-1781 E:**  
**alan@worldddharma.com**  
**I. www.AlanClements.com**

Philip H. Lowenthal  
33 N. Market St. Suite 101  
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

January 27, 2014

Dear Honorable Judge Leslie Koybayashi,

I am writing on behalf of Tim Mann and Susanne Friend, as I am intimately involved with their lives and work, for I count them among the number of my dearest friends and colleagues, and, as teacher and mentor, I am both professionally and personally invested in their prosperity and accountability.

To briefly introduce myself, my name is Alan Clements. I am an author, international lecturer and seminar leader, and Founder-Director of The Burma Project International – a non-profit human rights and media advocacy organization founded in 1989 to support raising international awareness of Aung San Suu Kyi's message of reconciliation, restorative justice, and democratic reform through the production and publication of high-quality materials in support of her country's movement for democracy and respect for universal human rights.

My own passion for Burma's freedom is rooted in years spent as a Buddhist monk in Rangoon, a passion crystallized through years of investigative journalism and human rights work that included the publication of *Burma: The Next Killing Fields?* (with a foreword by the Dalai Lama), *Burma's Revolution of the Spirit* (that includes essays by eight Nobel Peace Laureates) and *The Voice of Hope*, comprised of six months of conversations with Aung San Suu Kyi, conducted at her Rangoon home shortly after her first release from detention in 1995. To date – this book, translated into 11 languages – is the most comprehensive account of the Noble Peace Laureate's political and spiritual philosophy, acclaimed as “a message the world should hear” by former US President Jimmy Carter and endorsed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and numerous other Noble Peace Laureates and world leaders, while Aung San Suu Kyi herself was recently praised by President Obama, during a visit to Burma, as “an icon of democracy who has inspired people not just in this country but around the world.”

Over the course of my career my work for Aung San Suu Kyi and global human rights has been highlighted on ABC's Nightline, CBS Evening News, Talk to America, CBC, VOA, BBC, and by the New York Times, Time and Newsweek magazines, and scores of other media worldwide. In addition, I have presented to such organizations as Mikhail Gorbachev's State of The World Forum, The Soros Foundation, The United Nations Association of San Francisco, the Universities of California, Toronto, Sydney, and many others, including a keynote address at the John Ford Theater in Los Angeles for Amnesty International's 30th year anniversary.

I mention the fullness of my work and personal history to provide professional context for my relationship with Susanne and Tim, whom I have had the good fortune to know since 2007. Their regular participation in my week-long training seminar conducted on Maui, which brings people together from around the world to explore the interplay of mindfulness, conscience and global human

rights within one's community, family and culture, has afforded me an intimate knowledge of the strength of their character and conviction.

As a seminar leader for over 30 years, these extremely intimate, intensive gatherings are rooted in respect for the Preamble to the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states: "Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world. Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people."

Here, "conscience" is the operative word and the basis of why I teach at my seminars the fundamental importance of knowing "right" from "wrong," and when "wrong," learning the importance of accountability.

Over the years, I have come to learn a great deal about Susanne and Tim, both their life circumstances and who they are as people – their character, values and priorities. At my seminars, I have both witnessed and facilitated many hours of their communication between themselves (as a couple and a family) and with the other participants. I can say this with unequivocal confidence: rare in the world to see two individuals express such contrition for knowingly breaking the law and how blind they were to the seriousness of their mistake.

Among measures of a human's worth is their moral courage – their willingness to stand in truth and admit a fault or mistake. Susanne and Tim know what they did was wrong. They know they were ignorant. Frightened by their economic circumstances, they made a terrible decision. But they are not "narcotics traffickers." Rather, they are normal, loving, hard working parents who care deeply about their family, community and country.

I am aware that being arrested and charged with this crime has been the biggest single challenge of their lives. And because of their strength of character, they have turned this situation into one of their greatest blessings.

I have observed over the past few years how this crisis has focused their minds and hearts on their real mission in life. They have discovered how easy it is to go off one's bright shining path and get seduced into the mission of another. More importantly, they have made it clear to me, and witnessed by dozens of others, that they will NEVER allow such a circumstance as this to ever happen again. Far from the precipice of a slippery slope, their crime, and the terror they experienced upon realization of the significance of their actions, has acted as a turning point, crystallizing their genuine commitment to their community, their children, and themselves, a milestone as resplendent with integrity as their crime was with ignorance.

Their real mission in life is this: to grow organic, healthy vegetables, so that they as a family and as vital members of the Big Island Community can be vibrantly alive, independent, and free. To accomplish their true path, Tim and Susanne provide perhaps the best information available anywhere in the world that shows people how to build their own aquaponics systems and grow the healthiest organic food possible. I have personally studied their materials and in so doing, I can confidently say how it offers a comprehensive DIY manual to develop aquaponics systems of all sizes, anywhere. Even more importantly, I am confident that Tim and Susanne will never lose sight of that mission again.

In his book *No Future Without Forgiveness* Archbishop Desmond Tutu shares the lessons he learned during his four years in his role as Head of the Council of Truth and Reconciliation in his country of South Africa. He pardoned many hundreds of former members of the apartheid government who openly admitted to “rape, torture and murder,” and asked that their commitment to truth be the grounds of reconciliation. In pardoning such criminals Desmond Tutu offered the following advice: “Forgiving is not forgetting; its actually remembering – remembering and not using your right to hit back. Its a second chance for a new beginning. And the remembering part is particularly important. Especially if you don't want to repeat what happened.”

I hope you consider this information in regards to the charges Tim and Susanne are facing. Whatever the outcome of your decision, I want it to be known that Tim and Susanne are upstanding citizens of the United States of America, and sending them to prison will harm more than it will help. Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,

Alan Clements



# AdvanTek

HVAC • Energy • IAQ • Engineering

*David P. Harlos, Sc.D*

Building Systems Scientist

D\_Harlos@bellsouth.net  
(3531) 375-8797  
Gainesville, FL 32601

27 January 2014

To: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi  
ICO:  
Philip H. Lowenthal  
33 N. Market St.  
Suite 101  
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

## **RE: Character reference for Susan Friend**

Dear judge Kobayashi:

This is a letter of support to the Federal judge prosecuting the case against Susanne Friend.

I am an environmental professional with a doctorate from the Harvard School of Public Health. I have specialized in air quality consulting for industrial, commercial and institutional clients. I have extensive international experience and I am interested in their food system work for inclusion in my foreign consulting work. As I near retirement, I have developed an interest in environmentally friendly, low-cost, family-scale food production, which is how I became acquainted with Susanne. I have been reading their blog and occasionally corresponding with them for about 5 years and finally met them about 3 years ago at the first national US aquaponics conference, where they played an important leadership role. I have engaged in pro bono consulting work at a professional level in my community and I have appreciated Susanne's extensive work in this regard. Their reputation among the larger aquaponics community is for generosity, sharing and community cooperation, along with a keen technical sense for simple, accessible and workable systems that they have integrated into their local food production processes. They seem to have a mission in life to freely share their simple, robust food production systems with others.

Tim and Susanne have been candid with me about their legal problems and have openly admitted their wrong-doing and accepted responsibility for their actions.

I have always been impressed with the positive attitude, helpful nature and unbelievable generosity and hard work demonstrated by Susanne. They produce a weekly newsletter that is filled with practical details for making and maintaining aquaponics systems gleaned from their daily life (details that they could easily sell and which others do). Their blog invariably include personal stories about their work (usually with a social lesson or sharing the solutions to their difficult moments) and constantly stressing the need to act responsibly one's work and community dealings. For example, they are attempting to sell locally produced aquaponic products from small farmers through large suppliers thereby avoiding interfering with small local markets that cater to individual producers and have attempted to organize others in these efforts to sell to large produces thus sharing the work of establishing such commercial relationships.

David P. Harlos, Sc.D. 1  
618 Northeast Ninth Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601 352.375.8797

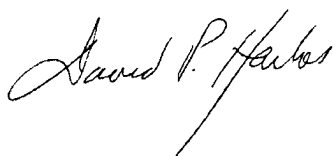
Advantek Consulting, Inc.  
d\_harlos@bellsouth.net  
27 January 2014

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KCP

Much of their work is directed saving towards helping others avoiding mistakes that they have made through example. This often includes sharing how they have solved difficulties difficulties with the interns they generously take in. These two support multiple, live-in internships on their tiny farm which is a huge (and risky) commitment on their behalf which underscores their dedication to sharing their hard-won food growing knowledge.

I support of their contrite attitude, but hope that you will allow them home confinement so that they can continue the important social works that they have been engaged in, which provide so much free, practical and heart-full help to others. They have helped me to foster a spirit of open giving in my work.

Respectfully,



David P. Harlos, Sc.D.



January 26, 2014

To The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

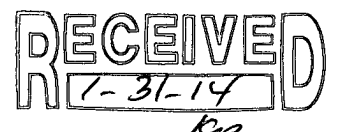
As a retired anesthesiologist and pain medicine physician I have considerable experience in science as well as the effects of substances of abuse on individuals, families and society. I have known Susanne since 2011 when I attended an aquaponics course at their family farm. We have stayed in touch via email and her educational newsletters to the aquaponics community. I have watched with admiration for the past few years how this family has continued to work under very difficult circumstances to keep their family together and promote and contribute to an industry they are completely committed to. Her compassion for others and persistent efforts to contribute to the well-being of all mankind through her tireless work researching, testing, documenting and sharing her knowledge of sustainable sources of high quality food supply, water and energy conservation is a testament to her good character. I know Susanne sincerely regrets her decisions regarding this case and the effects it has had on all concerned.

Therefore, I am writing in SUPPORT of SUSANNE FRIEND. I realize the court has a duty to uphold the laws established to protect society. When you pass sentence on her please consider it will be served by the entire family and they have given all they can to make retribution to the community. The children, family and friends have suffered the fear, uncertainty of their future and humiliation since that very first day. If you take the parents from this home the damage to society will almost certainly continue in the lives of these children long after the effects of any sentence served, and we will have lost two of the aquaponics communities most productive members. Susanne has much to offer as a farmer, researcher, teacher and author in this very important field and most importantly, as a mother. I do not believe Susanne to be a danger to society nor do I see how any further legal consequences will benefit society or Susanne. Please show this family the true power and wisdom of the court by a sentence of clemency with a full and unconditional pardon.

Sincerely,

*Thelma J. Mays MD*

Thelma Jean Mays, MD



The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

I write this letter to you for Susanne Mann.

I know Susanne through email, phone calls, and newsletters. What she is doing to teach others about Aquaponics and building a profitable business has been a big thing to my family in the way we eat and what our next business will be.

I have a short story about the first time I called Susanne about a commercial course about two years ago. Susanne talked to me about the class and told me where I could stay for cheap, and offered me a ride to and from the airport. She asked me what my intention was for taking the course. I told her to start business. She asked how much do I have to start the business. I said \$15000.00. She says that's not that much it will take most if not all of it just to build the system. She then offered the \$2500.00 course to me for \$1000.00 and said they just want to teach and share. This is when they won me over and showed her true character.

She then said start small and grow it. This is what I have done. I am ready to take it to the next level. I am in the process of testing for an affiliate position in Southern California with their micro system. So I can start teaching Aquaponics to others here in California with her as a mentor.

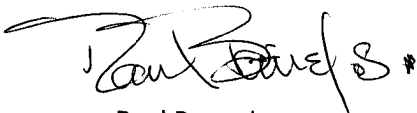
We have emailed back and forth about their new products (Tea). I want to start growing and using their tea Brand. She offers a lot and rarely asks for anything.

There are many other people out there doing what she does but they are all asking for something before they give.

Please take this in consideration when you sentence her. For the past two years they have been there by phone, email and giving newsletters every week. I feel she is a person of character. She is definably making a difference in my life.

When she asks herself that question at the end of her life. Did I Matter? She will not have to think twice. She did to me and my family and everyone I touch.

Thank you,



Raul Banuelos

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L

To the Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi.

My name is Matthew Murphy I live in Athlone Co Westmeath, Ireland

I am a graduate renewable energy engineer in the process of setting up my own Aquaponics business Tim Mann and Susanne Friend have been very obliging and helpful to me with any questions I had regarding Aquaponics, they have shared business plans and technical data that went way beyond the average response on a forum, their knowledge of the topic is of great value to the online Aquaponics community and will help a lot of people get nearer to achieving their goals.

They have asked for help regarding the current court case taking place. While what they did was wrong under the law .I believe that a sentence would not serve well with a family to look after, it is very important that their kids can have both parents around as often the lack of a strong family bond can result in negative social issues during their upbringing. They also have an older family member who is deserved of care and attention in return for what they have given; heading into the latter stages of their life. I hope you may see it fit to show leniency when the case is taken into court.

Kind regards Matthew Murphy

Signed :

Matthew Murphy

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Kb

January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014

To  
The Honorable Judge, Leslie Kobayashi  
Hawaii, USA  
RE: Susanne Friend and Tim Mann

Your Honor,

My name is Akashlina Haider and I am a serial entrepreneur from the State of Minnesota. I have been in US (and in Minnesota) for over 20 years now when I came over from Bangladesh and then became a naturalized US Citizen, later on. I was 17 years old, when I came to US, with only \$140 in my pocket and a partial scholarship. I offered to sell one of my kidneys for the plane ticket to USA, as I wanted to be in the country (and state of) "Little House on the Prairie" so much! Luckily, I didn't have to take that route.

Since then, I had to endure my fair shares of obstacles and then some. Amidst all, I have worked for many great companies (Target, former Blockbuster Video, and Walgreens etc. to name a few) and learned many practical things about the business culture. And then about 14 years ago, I started working for my own. Since then I have either acquired, created or started at least 8 companies and employed over a thousand people and paid over a million dollars in taxes.

For the past two years, I am working on an aquaponics project that would create over 80 jobs within the first year (more than half being full time), provide ten times the taxes to a small town (population under 900!) and more importantly, provide an alternative way of farming in the frigid cold Minnesota (I am sure you have heard about the -76 wind chill in Minnesota about two weeks ago! Yesterday, it was -42!), where farmers can't work more than one crop a year! Not to mention, it will take a GIANT step towards sustainability. It's ironic that the proverb, "Only when the last tree has died, and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish been caught, will we realize we cannot eat money" came from my home country, Bangladesh.

It is a very LARGE project as I have stated and will cost almost \$2 Million to realize, of which a major part is coming from (in the form of loan) the Chisago County (where we are located), Economic Development Authority, who will in turn borrow the funds from the State of Minnesota Department of Economic and Environmental Development (DEED). I am attaching a letter from the executive director of the Chisago County EDA, about the validity of this project.

Now, your honor, allow me to explain my connection to both Tim Mann and Susanne Friend and my reason for writing this letter.

A little over two years ago, while I was searching for a person/entity to develop the aquaponics system I ran across the Friendly Aquaponics and their owners Susanne Friend and Tim Mann. By then, I have spoken to a few of the large aquaponics consulting farms (none of whom had an actual, running operation but just a small show farm where they teach classes etc.) and so, what surprised me was there

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willing attitude about genuinely helping me, from day one, no matter what! Not the “ok, here, it will cost such and such and deposit such and such and we will be in touch” attitude that I have encountered!

Then, within days of my encounter with them, they told me about this mistake that they made in recent past and their remorse as well as the warning that in some time in near future, they will have to face the punishment for their error in their judgment. The fact that they were so honest about such a matter and their sincere remorse literally sealed the deal!

Since then, I have discussed with them for hours and hours about the project and how best to proceed, “frugally”. And to this day, they continue to amaze me!

And without their know-hows, I will be a dead fish (no pun intended)! The LARGE project of mine will probably have to be shelved! Of course, I can build the 82,000 sq. ft. building however, without their expertise, AND physical presence, the aquaponics systems that would be housed inside that building would not be built properly or at the least, I would risk having issues when we become operational (it’s one thing to follow written instruction and it’s another thing completely, to actually build something without ANY ‘hitch’; AND without someone being there to figure out the solution for such ‘hitch’). For, there is NO SUBSTITUTE for their expertise and unfortunately, after two years and numerous hours, I couldn’t become their replacement myself. And thus, I don’t foresee the project going forward if they can’t be on sight! Which will be a devastating loss for the small town as this would have been the first “company” with actual production based out of their small town!! Currently, it’s a tourist town with restaurants, coffee and malt shops, souvenir shops etc. Not even a bank or lodging facility either! And the population has been shrinking for the past ten years!

So, your honor, my own selfish reason is to request you to not send them to jail but put them on probation of some sort (if that is possible at all). For, otherwise, I have to go find someone else who would match the expertise and passion of these folks for all things aquaponics/sustainability! Which is, as I see it, would be almost impossible! At the least, it will delay the project by another year or so!

Let me also tell you a few more things about them and the whole aquaponics world as it is today, in the US. I believe, they are the first aquaponics farm to get the “USDA certified Organics”. They are the only running farm that actually placed a product in a wholesale retail company such as “Costco”. Those things only prove their ability and quality of the product that they produce. I know at least two aquaponics startup that spent five million dollars or more since Tim and Susanne started their farm and couldn’t even last one whole year! And that says the deep knowledge and compassion AND business savviness that both Tim and Susanne possess to be able to continue, especially circa 2008 and the financial meltdown of the whole country, like an energizer bunny!

And lastly, let me talk about the compassion of these fine folks about aquaponics: I have met (in person or over the phone) at least fifty folks related to the aquaponics industry in various degrees, from Dr. James Rakocy (considered the modern day father of aquaponics), to Dave Roeser (the local aquaponics farmer, in Minnesota) and in between, in six different countries over the past two years or so, and I have yet to find someone like Susanne and Tim, who are so much into this AND so open about teaching the rest of the world that “you can’t eat money” (like that proverb)!! Just look at their website! They have

an actual manual (that one can download for free) on how to start an aquaponics farm and scale it!! While majority of everyone else related to aquaponics can't file patent application quick enough to the USPTO on their 'invention' to go with the four thousand year old "aquaponics". Their contribution to the aquaponics industry has been nothing sort of miracle, in my humble opinion as they want to really change the world thru aquaponics and its inherit sustainability.

I think, Susanne and Tim are the only one who gets what Ralph Waldo Emerson had said (and is the motto of our aquaponics project), - **especially the last part** – *"To laugh often and love much, to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children, to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends, to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others, to give of one's self, to have played and laughed with enthusiasm and sung with exaltation, to leave the world a little better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition, this means to have succeeded."*

So, your honor, I earnestly request that you consider both Susanne Friend and Tim Mann for a "supervised release" or 'probation' of some sort instead of a jail sentence. I believe, if they are sent to jail, it will be a tremendous loss for the aquaponics industry as they will lose the contribution of Tim and Susanne and not to mention, if they do end up in jail, I know, my project will not go forward (at least, not the way it is planned or within the time frame).

Should you need any information from me or have question or concern that you need me to address, please don't hesitate to have your clerk contact me at the following method:

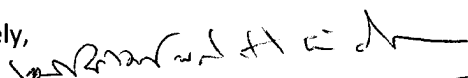
Landline : (651) 583-3677

Mobile : (612) 598-3416

e-mail: [mh@haiderland.com](mailto:mh@haiderland.com)

Thank you for considering my request, your honor.

Sincerely,



Akashlina Haider  
Minnesota, USA

01/24/2014



January 7, 2014

Aloha! Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi!

Following the path of extended enlightenment, I have met many, many people.

Most have something to offer if one is listening, but not all.

When searching for guidance in the field of aquaponics, one has to look no further than Susanne Friend.

I became aware of Susanne in 2012, and she is a treasure trove of knowledge, information and passion. Susanne's work, in her current field of Aquaponics is unparalleled.

As an entrepreneurial food activist she has risen to the top of the charts, her passion for food safety and food production is constantly changing the way the world looks to feed itself. One of our highest priorities in life is to find wholesome food. And with current constraints on availability, carbon footprint aspects of production and repeated health issues concerning production and handling, home aquaponics fits many people's desire for closer to home options. Her work has taken her from the classroom to the field, where the vital aspect of food production falls on no one but ourselves. I have built an aquaponic system at my home, in fact four of them, and with out Susanne's tireless research, my production would be lacking, I have asked for help and countless times she has responded with clear concise answers.

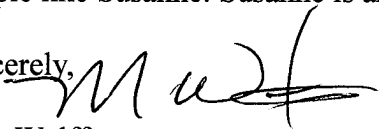
Nearly all of us have had to compromise ourselves for the sake of preservation. Susanne, under monetary pressure to see her farm succeed, made a poor choice, and I'm afraid she is living with that poor choice on a daily basis, her farm, her family, and her followers need her to continue to lead us to a better world.

Your Honor, I plead with you to allow Susanne to continue to lead us to a better place in the food world.

Children need a mother in the most basic way, without a mother there is no family.

Please allow Susanne Friend a pass on her lapse in good judgment, the world is a better place with people like Susanne. Susanne is an inspiration to many, her family needs her, her followers do too!

Sincerely,



Max Wulff  
2656 Burlingham Dr.  
Ashtabula Ohio 44004

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January 7, 2014

To the Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

I consider Susanne Friend to be a sincere, intelligent, and thoughtful person. I became acquainted with Susanne while seeking education in aquaponics. Her tireless research for the advancement of this important field is inspirational. I admire her work ethic, her devotion to her family, and her willingness to share her vast knowledge to benefit others. Personally, I have received information, encouragement, and guidance from Susanne. It is refreshing to know such a selfless and accepting person.

The unfortunate breach of good judgment which caused Susanne's legal problems is serious. Susanne admits her wrongdoing and assumes responsibility for her actions.

Please allow Susanne Friend freedom to continue her work to advance her important work in aquaponics to benefit thousands of people. Helping others is a noble cause. Susanne Friend's work benefits the world.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Wulff  
2656 Burlingham Drive  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004

November 8<sup>th</sup> 2013

To the Honorable Judge Leslie Koybayashi,

A long-time friend of Susanne Friend, my name is Richard M. Hamilton of Norman, Oklahoma. I have been associated with the University of Oklahoma, as a student and employee, since 1969 and am currently employed by the University of Oklahoma Police Department, where I have worked in various law enforcement capacities for the past thirty-eight years, since 1975.

I was a Police Lieutenant when I first met Susanne in the summer of 1981. She was seventeen years old and had just arrived at OU. We met one weekend, sitting around the pool at the apartment complex where we both lived at the time. I had recently joined the Mensa "high IQ" society, and her interest in Mensa was our first conversation. We had many similar interests and became fast friends, developing a strong friendship that has lasted through these many years. After we first met, we interacted regularly over the next five years while she lived in Norman, OK, including trips to nearby Lake Thunderbird, rock-climbing in the Wichita Mountains, and other activities. I was a Police Captain at OUPD when Susanne moved away from Norman in 1985. During her years in Norman, I never knew Suzanne to use drugs, or to be involved in any illegal activity. If she had any faults, it was to be too trusting and too generous. She was an idealist, something we discussed, as I was becoming something of a pessimist from my years in law enforcement.

Susanne has told me about her legal problems. I am very sad to find out she made some stupid choices – and now faces some very serious consequences for her actions. Through my job I've had an opportunity to meet a lot of "bad" people and a lot of good people that have made bad "choices". Susanne has always been a good person, if idealistic to both boon and fault. However, idealism aside, she understands she has made a huge mistake and now must deal with the consequences.

While I can't condone her actions, I hope you are able to find a punishment that can keep her family together and allow her to work to make up for her actions, rather than simply to punish. I've been involved with volunteer projects over the years and, tied with my law enforcement positions, I've been given a number of "workers" by the local municipal and district court to work off community-service time for non-violent offenses. I'm not much "fun" to work for in that regard – people assigned to me do put in hard work – but I've been fair and even have made a few friends over the years supervising "good people" who made mistakes. I've also supervised not-so-good people who probably learned nothing but resentment from their court-assigned "community service"

I certainly don't wish to minimize the seriousness of Susanne's actions. I can only hope you may find a way to put her to work in the community to help make amends rather than simply to punish. Susanne is brilliant, if occasionally gullible/idealistic; but she has a good and generous heart and can learn from her mistakes.

Thank you for your consideration,



Richard M. Hamilton  
5828 Alameda St.  
Norman, OK 73026-0883

(405)-360-1629

The Honorable Judge Leslie Koybayashi  
United States District Court for the District of Hawai'i

December 29, 2013

Re: Character Letter for Susanne Friend

Your Honor,

Susanne and I have known each other for about a year and a half. I had the pleasure of meeting her and her family when I signed up to take their week long Commercial Aquaponics course. My boyfriend and I live in Los Angeles and are aspiring farmers. We researched classes for a long time before choosing Susanne's class in Hawai'i. There is even a course taught less than a mile from our home but something about Susanne's online posts, website and approach made us want to come to Hawai'i to meet her for ourselves. I am so glad we did. That week in Hawai'i, we not only learned an immense amount about aquaponic farming, but we met two people who inspired us to do more, to be better, to dream big.

Susanne is an extremely dynamic and relatable teacher. She exudes passion for not only growing fresh, organic, healthy food, but for the wellbeing of people and our planet. She has a genuine passion for helping others realize their dreams and gives an easy to follow map to do it. I took to her instantly, and I think many others do as well. Every day in class, all of her children were there, and some of their friends too! I know that at that age, the last thing I wanted to do was hang out with my parents on my summer break, so that really said something to me. Another thing I really loved about her was that she was mentoring a high-school aged boy. He helped out on the farm and even helped in teaching some of the course content. It was so awesome to see his pride when showing us something on the farm or teaching this large group of adults about what he knew of aquaponics. She gave him the freedom to try out his own theories and ideas on the farm and he actually came up with an amazing idea that Susanne is helping him turn into an actual business! I could only wish that at that age someone took an interest in me like that.

Susanne is so smart, that people just want to be around her to see what they will learn next. She encourages curiosity and testing and re-testing theories. Her farm is not only a farm, but a place for learning and discovering new things. She is not stingy with her knowledge, everything she learns she shares with others via free weekly newsletters, countless responses on blogs and through writing books and manuals. Even during what is an extremely difficult time with these legal issues, she still finds the time to email me back with responses to my random questions, is still active on the blogs, and is still teaching and writing. One of the biggest perks to taking her class is that we have an open door, free of charge – forever to her and Tim for any questions or issues we have regarding farming and aquaponics.

We have kept in touch since then and she is so interested in us attaining our dream that she actually offered (the week after we left) for us to come stay them on their farm! I was floored by her generosity and openness. She has inspired me to think in the same ways, and to always share my passion and knowledge and bounty with others. What is success and happiness if it can't be shared?

Susanne told us of her legal issues the second day we met. In fact, she told the entire class, which I thought was quite brave. I was shocked at first to hear this woman I admired and I wanted to be like, share her story of growing marijuana when her farm and family were going through some tough financial times. She has turned it around and has used it as a teaching tool to us aspiring to start our own businesses. Because of her bad choices and the consequences that followed, neither I nor anyone else who takes her classes will make the same choices. Susanne and Tim are big advocates of teaching from their mistakes. Not just with their legal troubles, but with the farm too! They publish every mistake and misstep they take so we won't have to make them too. Many people are ashamed of their mistakes and as

experts in their field, try to exude a flawless exterior. Susanne is the opposite, she is transparent and I really admire that about her. Susanne (and Tim) has always been worked into our future business plan when we start our farm business. She will be invaluable in framing our business plan and helping up to set up the structure and dynamic of our new life, I wouldn't trust anyone else.

In closing, I know that one page isn't enough to give full insight into what kind of person Susanne is. But I knew from the first day we met how special and unique she was, that I wanted to know her and learn from her for a very long time. I will always be grateful to Susanne for all she has taught me and for the kind of person she is.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Brekke', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sarah Brekke

3636 Keystone Avenue, #1  
Los Angeles, CA 90034  
(310) 529-2322

The Honorable Judge Leslie Koybayashi  
United States District Court for the District of Hawai'i

December 16, 2013

Character Letter for Susanne Friend

Your honor,

First of all thank you so much for taking the time to read letters of support for Susanne. Those of us who know and love her truly appreciate your consideration.

My name is Dr. Wayne Calvin Byrd II and I am a Los Angeles resident whose life has been forever altered by the time I have spent with Susanne. I first met Susanne in early 2012 when I arrived on the Big Island of Hawai'i for an aquaponics training course she was hosting. Before that moment my only impression of Susanne was from a video her company had posted on YouTube that briefly touched on her life's purpose and some of her guiding principles. The concept of sharing was so evident in the video that I had a suspicion that she and I were kindred spirits.

As it turns out Susanne was even more amazing than I expected. I could immediately tell that I had made the right decision in flying all the way to Hawai'i to learn from her. As a regular seminar attendee I meet all types of presenters all over the world who leave varying impacts on me. Susanne's impact has been deep and lasting. I mention this to put in to context how special a person she is.

While the content that she so passionately shared with me was life changing on its own, the time I have been able to spend with her outside of the classroom has been even more impactful. I want to tell you about a few things that stand out to me.

After Susanne found a way to make a good living utilizing the aquaponic knowledge she had amassed, her personal principles led her to decide that sharing this knowledge would be more beneficial to her community than concealing it in order to be the sole person to capitalize. This decision is tantamount to creating direct competition in a small market. This is a sentiment that almost unheard of in our contemporary business culture. Susanne doesn't see the people she helps as *competitors*; she sees them as members of her aquaponic *community*. This is one of many lessons Susanne's life has seared into my mind.

Susanne says repeatedly that her intention is have others duplicate what she is doing for the benefit of communities around the world. She cares deeply for the wellbeing of people she has yet to even meet, and holds a deep desire for people to be healthy and to learn how to provide healthy food for their communities. She wants people to join her crusade so much so that she continually opens her home to people for months at a time in order to teach them how to replicate her system in other places. Susanne's hospitality is boundless and I aspire to live up to her example.

The life lessons I have been able to glean from Susanne continue to influence my own guiding principles. Possibly the most important lesson is Susanne's insistence on being a contribution. She has built a life around helping people to live more self-sufficient lives and to commit to helping the people around them have access to healthy food.

Susanne is truly a person committed to contribution and willing to make personal sacrifices for the wellbeing of others. She is communal and selfless in nature and I believe the world would be a better place with more people like Susanne in it.

She has been very open about the mistakes she has made in the past and has always understood that the

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time would come when she would have to pay a price for her wrongdoings. My sincere hope is that if at all possible that price might be offset by the amazing amount of good she has done.

Thank you again for your consideration,

*Dr. Wayne Calvin Byrd II*

Dr. Wayne Calvin Byrd II

3636 Keystone Avenue, #1  
Los Angeles, CA 90034  
(310) 678-9461

# T. GREGORY KEMP

**HAWAII**  
550 PAIEA STREET, SUITE 230, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819  
DIRECT 808-237-3295 FAX 808-833-3046 CELL 808-220-6763  
**FLORIDA**  
3000 IBIS WAY, SUITE 201, VENICE, FL 34292  
**NORTH CAROLINA**  
5 CHEDWORTH WAY, ASHEVILLE, NC 28701  
[greg.kemp@kboxusa.com](mailto:greg.kemp@kboxusa.com)

January 8, 2014

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi  
United States District Court  
for the District of Hawaii

Dear Judge Kobayashi,

I write this letter in support of Susanne Friend.

For the past 35-years I have been a real estate developer and investor in Hawaii. However, my passion is to work with charities – both local and international, including Mercy Ships in West Africa.

After returning from Sierra Leone in 2011, our team attended a 3-day in-depth private training program at Friendly Aquaponics in Honoka'a, Hawaii. Susanne taught a number of our sessions. She was kind, very knowledgeable and sincere. I specifically remember joining her family as they gave away produce grown on their farm to the community from the back of their truck.

In the past 2+ years, we have taken the Friendly Aquaponics model to schools and orphanages in Ghana, Togo and Benin. 1,000's of children are learning how to grow food for their families and villages. Much of the credit for our success goes to Susanne and Tim for their hearts to help our mission.

Yours very truly,



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Kp



# KONALAW

Joseph Fagundes, III Attorney at Law, A Law Corporation

January 6, 2014

P.O. Box 2609, Kailua-Kona, HI 96745-2609

P: 808-326-9831 F: 808-326-9821

E: joe@konalaw.com www.konalaw.com

Honorable Leslie Kobayashi  
U.S. District Court  
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room C-353  
Honolulu, HI 96850

Re: Susanne Friend

Dear Your Honor:

I understand that my long time acquaintance and friend, Susanne Friend, and her husband Tim, will be appearing before you for sentencing in a criminal matter. I respectfully submit this letter for the Court's consideration when determining the sentence.

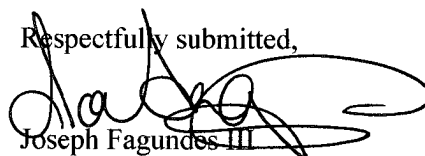
I first met Susanne Friend while attending Alcoholics Anonymous back in 1997. Susanne was desirous of making lifestyle changes and she appeared to be very motivated and committed to doing so.

I have had infrequent contact with her over the years, but am aware of both Tim and her pursuits in sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and self-sufficiency. I know Susanne to be an honest and straightforward woman who doesn't make excuses for her conduct. At the time of her arrest, Susanne shared with me the facts and circumstances surrounding the incident, not as an attorney but as a friend. She indicated to me at the time that despite and contrary to her understanding at the time of the incident, that she intended to enter a plea accepting responsibility for her conduct. Such a perspective and position is totally consistent with my knowledge of Susanne.

It appears that is precisely what has occurred and now she is before you for sentencing in this matter. I submit Susanne Friend is an honorable person who deserves leniency in her sentencing due to her cooperation with the authorities, her acceptance of responsibility for her actions and the likelihood that her path will not cross that of the law in the future.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Fagundes III

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Dear Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

This letter is concerning Susan Friend. ... I am an organic farmer, massage therapist & business person on the west side of the island. I have known her for about 7 or 8 years & have visited their aquaponics farm a few times to learn from them and also to take other people to learn. They are really setting a great example for how we can live sustainably and organically. I would not want to see her punished for something thing that she didn't really even know she was doing wrong. Now that this has been pointed out to her she is very sorry and won't do it again.... She has been publically regretting her choices. She is an outstanding citizen of the Hamakua community with integrity & honor. She is a hard worker and a good mother.... She will be a great asset to the community still (even more) if allowed to continue on being a teacher, mother, community member.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Nikki Spencer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nikki Spencer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "N".



Laboratory Data Consultants FL, Inc. 112 Kings Way, Royal Palm Beach, FL 33411

January 9, 2014

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

It is to my dismay to learn the circumstances and trouble in which Mrs. Suzanne Friend is at this time and the seriousness of the accusations against her, but at the same time I am very proud of her as she has clearly stated to her friends her acceptance of her responsibility for her actions past.

I'm a scientist specializing in environmental analysis and own a company that specializes in teaching ethics and quality assurance in the environmental industry. Outside of my business focus, I'm interested and participate in a wide palette of endeavors: I fly sailplanes and also design and fly radio control models, I'm a certified beekeeper and restaurant food safety manager. And I have a special interest in the self-sustainable growth of vegetables and fisheries systems as could be applied successfully in underdeveloped societies.

I met Suzanne through my research on the best type of hydroponics and fish farming as applied to a self-sustainable mix of both sciences. Her company developed and continues improving on a system that combines both, but what is more important, they teach other people on how to do it successfully in an honest, pragmatic and realistic way.

From the beginnings she has been honest on communicating what to expect about costs, hardships, yields, return on investment and performance and under no circumstance has followed the path of false promoters and she has answered all my questions in a very professional way.

The type of research work in which she is involved, is the type of work that in the long run benefits society and it is important to allow her and her partner to continue their mission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julio Paredes,  
President



January 8, 2014

To: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi

From: Janelle Engle

2800 SW 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Suites 6-8

Bentonville, AR 72712

RE: Suzanne Friend

Dear Judge Kobayashi,

My Name is Janelle Engle. I live in Northwest Arkansas where I own and operate a retail Yarn shop. I am a wife, mother, college graduate, Notary Public, and I sit on the Board of Directors for my church the First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista Arkansas.

I have gotten to know Suzanne Friend over the past 2 years through her business Friendly Aquaponics via emails, and by following her newsletters which I receive regularly. I have found her to be an intelligent and caring person. She has written in her newsletters about her children and their successes and growth. She's also given helpful advice by telling how she has cared for her horse's illness, and passed on some wonderful animal husbandry information. She has shown me respect and concern in answering questions about my efforts to grow plants hydroponically. She has often written about her family and their efforts to create a lasting legacy of improved farming for themselves and the world.

She has always been very sincere in her writings that she intends everyone to use her information to benefit themselves and their community by growing food, and never to try and grow anything that is illegal. She states very plainly in her eBook that she does not want anyone to try and grow marijuana; saying that besides it being illegal that it will not work in hydroponics or aquaponics systems.

She has always been respectful when referring to her competitors, backing her statements with facts about her personal findings and experimentations in hydroponics. She has shown great integrity and generosity in sharing her finds with the worldwide community. I know that she hosts regular farm tours, and training seminars geared to educate and promote hydroponic growing. They are designed with the amateur gardener in mind so as to impact as many lives for good as possible.

She also shares business information with her customers that is priceless for anyone who's dreamed of starting a farming business, but doesn't know what's involved, as well as teaching how to test and monitor your crops to ensure profitability.

**Hobey Waioli Beck**

**Waikoko Farms**

**P.O.Box 371**

**Hanalei Hawaii 96714**

To: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi

January 8, 2014

Regarding: Susanne Friend

Dear Honorable Judge Kobayashi,

I have been farming taro, vegetables and cut flowers for 22 years on my family farm established in 1948. I supply over 4,000 lbs per week of taro to poi manufactures on 5 islands. My wife runs a certified preschool at our Farm (Waikoko Kids). Together we are raising 4 children ages 9, 13, 17, 19. I have dedicated myself to providing quality food, flowers and childcare to our local community and state. Without the diversity of endeavors on my farm we would not be able to continue.

I am writing in supporter of Susanne Friend. I have witnessed the good work and positive character from Susanne and her business Friendly Aquaponics through participated in her week long Aquaponics course in 2010. Through Susanne's guidance I built an Aquaponics facility at my farm here in Hanalei HI. I use this facility to teach children how nutritious food can be produced at home on many sizes and in many different locations.

I believe Susanne is a positive contributor to our local farming and family community. As a parent I also believe that taking a parent out of the home for any period of time is not an option for raising healthy children.

Susanne has been up front with the wrong decisions she has made in the past. She has paid dearly for those mistakes. After meeting her and taking her course I offered to help support where I can. Please consider Susanne's positive attributes of carrying, mothering, sharing and progressing Hawaii's sustainability effort when you render your decision.

Sincerely,



Hobey Beck

CC: Susanne Friend/ Philip H. Lowenthal

Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi

Luke Fowler  
4980 Hayes Tower Rd.  
Gaylord, MI 49735

January 11, 2014

Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

My name is Luke Fowler. I currently reside in the state of Michigan with my girlfriend, 11 year old daughter, and our shih tzu dogs. I am employed through Nestle USA, and hold the position of Route Sales Representative. I have high ambitions to create a vision of growing food differently through the systems of aquaponics.

I am writing this letter in regards to a friend of mine; Susanne Friend, of Friendly Aquaponics, Inc., in Hawaii. I began speaking with Susanne in December of 2011, after discovering her and her family's aquaponic farm and business online. I was very interested in learning how to grow vegetables with aquaponics systems and I instantly knew Friendly Aquaponics was the right choice.

My girlfriend, daughter, and I traveled to Hawaii in February of 2012 to take several courses teaching about commercial aquaponics, and greenhouses that would work well with these systems. When I met Susanne Friend and Tim Mann in person, they were extremely down to earth, very friendly people. The knowledge and experience shared and spoken of was with a very high level of respect and integrity. What Susanne and Tim have to openly share was and is very valuable to me, and assists me in moving forward with my vision of changing the way food is grown, starting with myself and family.

Susanne has so much good information to share with the people of this world. What she has to offer is very much in alignment with helping this world to be a better place for all of us. She has awesome potential and opportunities for making this happen each and every day. This would be limited, if she were to ever have to be imprisoned for a poor choice made in her past that did no harm to anyone else.

I would love for her potential and opportunities to always be there, and for her to be able to continue to live with her husband and family; continuing to teach and share such valuable knowledge.

Thank you so much for your time.

Sincerely,

Luke Fowler



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Douglas DeMers  
57 Armitage Hill Road, Riverside, WA 98849  
(509) 429-4104 (cell) Douglas@douglasdemers.com (email)  
January 11, 2014

To: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi.

RE: Susanne Friend

My name is Douglas DeMers, and I am writing to you to offer my thoughts about Susanne.

In 2003, I retired from management in a high-tech company, and am currently excited about being involved in the Permaculture movement since 2007. In addition, I currently am Vice President of the Okanogan (Washington) Slow Food chapter. Slow Food is an international organization which envisions a world in which all people can access and enjoy food that is good for them, good for those who grow it and good for the planet. The emphasis is on supporting sustainable, natural and local food production and consumption. In my opinion, aquaponics – as implemented and taught by Susanne at friendlyaquaponics.com – is in accord with Permaculture and Slow Food principles.

I was introduced to aquaponics in January of 2012 while visiting a permaculture friend on Kaua'i. Through this connection, I met another couple on Kaua'i who were using aquaponics, and both of these contacts recommended friendlyaquaponics.com. When I returned from Kaua'i, I contacted Susanne and Tim at friendlyaquaponics.com; I signed up for their free emails, and soon purchased a set of plans for an aquaponics system. I am looking forward to building my own aquaponics system, and I feel confident in being able to follow the plans and the voluminous amount of hints, tips and procedures that I have, and continue to receive.

I have also had several email conversations with Susanne regarding the operation of aquaponics system; for example asking for her reasoning for suggesting not raising crawdads in an aquaponics system. I have been appreciative that she has been willing to take the time to send an answer despite the volume of correspondence she and Tim receive. I appreciate her willingness to respond to my inquiries and her obvious enthusiasm and first-hand knowledge about aquaponics. Although I have not yet met Susanne in person, through her newsletters and personal email conversations I have had with her, I feel very good about Susanne's basic character.

I am in support of the work that Susanne is doing now with aquaponics. She and Tim are doing great things together to spread their knowledge and wisdom about aquaponics. They make this information freely available so that others may benefit from this knowledge and create a more sustainable life.

I believe it would be a major blow to sustainability and the aquaponics movement if Susanne is locked up in prison. Susanne has been candid about her legal problems, and I believe she recognizes clearly their bad judgement. I urge you to consider a lenient sentencing in deliberating this case.

Thank you for your consideration,

Douglas E. DeMers



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January 11, 2014

To Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

I write to you this morning in support of Susanne Friend. It has come to my attention that Susanne has been charged with the federal crime of growing marijuana. Though I understand that this is a serious matter in the eyes of the federal criminal justice system, I want you to know what a strong and positive influence Susanne has had in the community of aquaponics and I encourage you to consider this positive impact when issuing her sentence.

I am a professional documentary filmmaker and college lecturer at the University of California, Santa Barbara. I first met Susanne Friend and Tim Mann in September of 2013 when I traveled to their farm outside of Hilo, Hawaii. I was pursuing a commercial knowledge of employing aquaponics to grow fruits and vegetables for a blossoming fresh juice business in Santa Barbara, CA. For four days, Tim and Susanne hosted me and provided an incredible working knowledge of aquaponics. They were extremely giving in both knowledge of the trade and hospitality. Susanne is one of the brightest and most-giving people I have ever met. She is extremely giving of her time and energy to those who are seeking to better understand aquaponics and its many benefits.

Susanne is a kind woman who made the wrong decision in a time of great stress and need on her family. She does not deserve to go to prison for this crime. I believe that she has learned her lesson. To take her from her young family would be doubling the suffering she and her family have already endured as a result of this mistake.

Please consider a supervised release for Susanne knowing that there is so much more she will do for the community at large than if she were to be locked away.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Michael Hanrahan

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km



January 11, 2014

White Violet Center for Eco-Justice  
1 Sisters of Providence  
Saint Mary of the Woods, IN 47876

To: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi

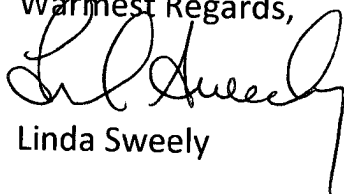
I write this letter in regards to Susanne Friend's arrest and upcoming sentencing. I am a small business owner who has taken a six month leave of absence from my work to do an internship at an organic farm, run by the Sisters of Providence in Terra Haute, Indiana. I am working with them on a feasibility report of being able to provide produce for the sister's consumption, in their dining halls and long term care facility, and Susanne has been very helpful over the last few months with openly offering information and guidance on my project, which involves the possible use of an aquaponic system to provide food for the sisters at this convent.

She has been forthright about the crime that she was involved in and very remorseful of her participation in it. As a mother myself, I can only imagine the anxiety and stress this has placed on her, knowing that she could be incarcerated and separated from her children.

I feel that Susanne has done so much good for the world in creating aquaponic systems that it would be a shame to see her taken away from her life's work and hope that the court finds it within their mercy to allow her to return to the teaching and development of food systems to make the world a better place.

Thank You for your consideration in this matter.

Warmest Regards,



Linda Sweely

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# Aquaponics No Ka 'Oi

## Maui Grown Organic

198 Kono Place  
Kahului, HI 96732

808-344-9756  
<http://apnko.com>

Since 2010

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi  
United States District Court  
District of Hawaii  
300 Ala Moana Blvd C-338  
Honolulu, HI 96850

Dear Judge Kobayashi,

I am writing this letter in support of Susanne Friend of Friendly Aquaponics, Inc. who will be up for Federal sentencing on February 13th, 2014, on marijuana charges.

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Patty Yonashiro. I graduated from the University of Hawaii Hilo College with a BA in English and a minor degree in education. I then went on for my BSN degree at the University of Hawaii, Manoa Campus and became a Registered Nurse soon after. I am married to Larry Yonashiro and we have been blessed with four beautiful daughters, three of which are married and have started families of their own. The oldest majored in International business, our second daughter is a Food Scientist, our third daughter is an Architect. Our youngest daughter was sworn in to the Hawai'i Bar this past November. Although you haven't met us, my family was present when you gave your inspirational talk drawing on Tammy Duckworth's experience in Iraq. Thank you!

I worked as an RN for a short while, then raised our four girls. I started back into the Nursing field while in Dillingham, Alaska. Alaska was a wonderful place to raise our children and we lived there for ten years. We have also lived in Japan, Okinawa, Seattle, and Colorado. Three of our daughters were born overseas on Military bases. When my mother suffered a stroke, became bed and wheelchair bound, we returned to Maui to care for her and also my mother in law. My Mom passed away a few years ago and my Mother in Law passed away at age 93 on September 29, 2013.

My husband was interested in Aquaponics and in October of 2010 we attended a class in Honoka'a taught by Susanne Friend and her husband. The classes were four days long and during that time, we learned to get to know Susanne, her talents, her honesty, her love for learning and her focus on family, Ohana and the idea of sharing. During the class both Susanne and Tim repeatedly reminded us, the students to not think of ourselves as competing with each other... that there was room for all of us to be successful.

One of the things Susanne shared was that they made a horrible mistake and they wanted everyone in the class to be aware of their mistake, the consequences of that mistake and their pleas for us not to make the same mistake. Susanne was very forthright and honest about how they grew marijuana, hoping that it would get them out of financial trouble. I was impressed by their honesty and the fact that they did not blame anyone but themselves for the choices they made.

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KP

During the years that I have known Susanne, I have found her to extremely focused on family, Ohana and building up individuals. She is extremely hard working and talented as seen in her graphics and artwork. She is constantly working on ways to make things better. What is most impressive is her willingness to share her ideas freely and wants all of us to succeed.

I have met Suzanne and Tim's children and they are polite, sweet and are hard working like their parents. We continue to receive Friendly Aquaponics Newsletters with inspiring, encouraging information on how we can succeed in being sustainable and help others in similar situations.

Please take the following into consideration before you decide on this case. Susanne is fully aware of wrongfully growing marijuana, was the first to bring this up in the class we attended in 2010, has repeatedly told us that she would never do this again and has made it known that she will tell people not to do what they have done. I was impressed then and continue to be impressed by her honesty, her openness and her willingness to serve us, her family and the community. Susanne continues to be an inspiration, a great support and a tireless teacher.

Due to the fact that this is Susanne's first and only offense, and that she has four children and an 88 year old mother to care for, I plead with the judge for her good judgement in this case.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patty Yeiko Yonashiro".

Patty Yeiko Yonashiro, Vice President  
Aquaponics No Ka 'Oi



# Aquaponics No Ka 'O'i

## Maui Grown Organic

198 Kono Place  
Kahului, HI 96732

808-344-9756  
<http://apnko.com>

Since 2010

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi  
United States District Court  
District of Hawaii  
300 Ala Moana Blvd C-338  
Honolulu, HI 96850

Dear Judge Kobayashi,

I am writing this letter in support of Susanne Friend of Friendly Aquaponics, Inc. who will be up for Federal sentencing on February 13th, 2014, on marijuana charges.

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Larry Yonashiro. I was born and raised in the plantation camp of Upper Paia on Maui, then moved to Kahului in 1960. I am an Honorably Discharged Air Force Veteran and served a year in Vietnam. I attended the University of Hawaii on the GI Bill, but later graduated from the University of Maryland in Business and Management. I am a lifetime member of the honor society of Phi Kappa Phi. I received a Graduate Certificate in Information Systems Management from City College in Bellevue, Washington. I also spent ten years as Chief Information Officer for the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, an Alaska Native Tribal Organization, in Dillingham, Alaska. I have never been in trouble with the law. My youngest of four daughters, Connie Yonashiro, was recently sworn in to the Hawai'i Bar this past November, and I really enjoyed your inspirational "standing your perimeter" talk drawing on Tammy Duckworth's experience in Iraq.

I worked for a Department of Defense Contractor, Sperry Univac, on military installations in the Pacific, Japan, and Okinawa. My highest security clearance at that time was Top Secret/SI. We returned to Hawaii in 2002 to care for my Mother-in-law, who had a stroke and was partially paralyzed. Luckily, the company that I had a contract with at that time, IBM in Boulder, Colorado, allowed me to work from home in Hawaii. We also cared for my mother, who was in her 80's. Both of our mothers were widowed. My wife is a Registered Nurse and devoted herself full time to their care. We currently volunteer weekly with the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources Master Gardener extension program.

I first met Susanne Friend when I took a training class from her and her husband, Tim Mann, in October of 2010 in Honoka'a where I learned about Aquaponics as a means of sustainable food production. The timing of the class coincided with my retirement from over thirty years of work in information systems technology and management. My intent was to learn enough about Aquaponics to establish my own farm as a retirement business and contribute to the food supply of Hawaii. I had read about Friendly Aquaponics in a 2009 issue of the Honolulu Advertiser (<http://the.honoluluadvertiser.com/article/2009/Sep/27/il/hawaii909270311.html>), where they were described as the largest and oldest Aquaponics operation in Hawaii and the nation's first Aquaponics operation to be organically certified. The article also described a commercial account that they had obtained with COSTCO on the Big Island.

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KP

During the training in 2010, it was made it very clear that Susanne and her husband, Tim, had made a serious mistake regarding the cultivation of marijuana and sales to a cannabis church in Hilo. They were very candid about how they were deceived about the legality of growing marijuana for "religious" purposes, but claimed full responsibility for their actions since they were financially stressed at that time, but did not use that as an excuse. They were and are still adamant that breaking the letter of the law comes with definite legal consequences.

I have not known Susanne as well as I have Tim, but have developed a similar respect for her in terms of her honesty, integrity, and hard work. Susanne and Tim work as a team in promoting Aquaponics, and in the charitable giving of their knowledge to further their passion of Aquaponics as a solution to the world food crisis. They complement each other with their strengths. Susanne's training is in the biological sciences and excels in scientific research and documentation, and Tim has an amazing grasp of engineering principles. Together, they provide the Aquaponics community with a unique and valuable resource and knowledge base that is not found anywhere else.

Susanne especially, has been working very hard in the Aquaponics community to atone for her sins. She has made it very clear that she had learned her lesson regarding compliance with the law, and continues to encourage others not to make the same mistake that she has made. She feels that she will spend the rest of her life trying to right this wrong that she has committed. Susanne and her husband Tim are devoted parents to four children. Susanne is also a caregiver to her 88 year old mother who lives with them.

I plead with the judge for leniency in the sentencing, not to diminish the seriousness of the crime or the justice required, but to somehow allow Susanne Friend to continue to positively impact the community and her family.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Larry Y. Yonashiro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "Y".

Larry Y. Yonashiro, President  
Aquaponics No Ka 'Oi

# Aqua Harvest Greens

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi

Dear Judge;

My name is Mark Kelly. I have been in the restaurant business for 23 years. I have set up 84 Food and Deli locations. I have known Tim & Susanne for over a year. I am the President of my corporation, Since meeting Tim & Susanne I have started Aqua Harvest Greens, a company that is growing Microgreens for restaurants and will soon grow organic lettuce and vegetables thru Aquaponics for stores and restaurants. Our trade name is " The Two Fish Project " because our goal is also to build sustainable food production for orphanages our Church sponsors around the world.

Along with my brother Matthew last year we installed Friendly Aquaponic Systems in Indonesia, South America, South Africa and the Philippines. All were for orphanages in these countries. I did a personal training last August at Tim & Susanne's Farm. They both welcomed me and even opened their home to me. I ate with their family and we shared stories. Tim & Susanne through their generosity and Aquaponic Trainings have greatly multiplied their efforts to have our society provide and consume sustainable, organic certified, high quality and great tasting vegetables.

They freely share their knowledge and experiences to assist future organic farmers like myself to have a successful business. Tim & Susanne have made an incredible positive impact on thousands of people through their works with Aquaponics and I look forward to a great relationship with them in the future.

Warmest Regards,



Mark Kelly  
President  
Aqua Harvest Green

T: 408-921-8148 • [www.aquaharvestgreens.com](http://www.aquaharvestgreens.com)

JAN 15 2014

**KEN RICHARDSON**

17580 Spur Ranch Road • Peyton, CO 80831  
Phone: 719-229-3220 • Fax: 719-522-0455 • E-mail: ken700@sycraft.com

January 13, 2014

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi  
U.S. District Court for the District of Hawaii  
300 Ala Moana Boulevard  
Honolulu, HI 96850

c/o Philip H. Lowenthal  
33 N. Market St. Suite 101  
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

Dear Judge Kobayashi:

I am writing in support of Susanne Friend, with the hope that you will consider sentencing her to supervised release rather than incarceration for her marijuana trafficking crime.

Susanne Friend and Timothy Mann have been of great service to me for almost four years via their generous sharing of information about how to grow vegetables using "aquaponics". Their information is especially valuable because it greatly improves the operational efficiency over other available methods.

Their generosity is noteworthy because their methods are based on their own original research and experimentation. They have given much time to this work, and they likely could have patented the results rather than sharing it so freely.

Although I am employed as a Director of Engineering for a large technology company, my use for the aquaponics information is actually for a separate family-operated enterprise, to grow healthy organic vegetables in a climate-controlled manner in the unpredictable and often freezing Colorado growing environment. I believe this venture would not have been economically feasible without the information published openly by Susanne Friend and Timothy Mann.

Susanne Friend's crime is serious. However, she has been very open about her crime and her regret for having done it, so I believe she has fully owned her mistake and will not repeat it. Consequently, I believe both her family and the global aquaponics community would be better served if she could serve her sentence under terms of supervised release, to allow her to continue in her very valuable service to others.

Regards,



Ken Richardson

JAN 15 2014

**To: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi**

From: Anya Pozdeeva,  
Vertically Integrated Farms, Inc.  
730 Noble ave. Bridgeport, CT 06608  
646 841 3490

Your Honor,

I know Susanne Friend for at least six years as a hardworking and talented business owner, educator and a great mother. I met her children during their visit to NYC and the love and respect they have for their mom is impressive. It takes a lot of patience, love and wisdom to craft young children into fine persons, and Susan has all these qualities.

Susanne puts her soul and heart into teaching how to grow organic food in the most ecological manner. She wrote hundreds of pages of educational materials and a lot of this information she gives people free of charge- as educational charity.

This past summer we had Tim and Susanne lecturing at our facility in New York, where they introduced us to their new design of Aquaponics green house, which can produce organic food year-round in any climate.

I believe that Susan was fooled into a trap of growing Cannabis, which she deeply regretted many times.

I am an urban farmer and teacher, I learned aquaponics from many sources, but I find the Friendly's design to be most elegant and simple. It is simple enough to teach to children, which I do at THEPOINT, CDC, a Community Development Corporation in the Bronx, NY

Thank you for considering my letter,

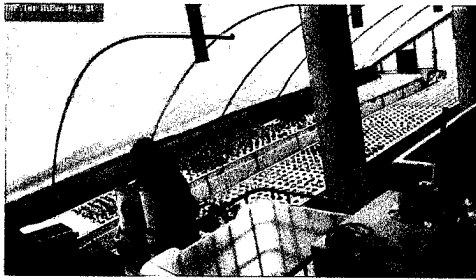
Anya Pozdeeva  
Urban Farmer @ Vertically Integrated Farms, Inc.

*Anya Pozdeeva*  
01/10/14

RECEIVED  
1-18-14



Oregon Truffle



Tryst Farm

12 January 2014

**The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi:**

**I have recently become aware of the pending court date for Suzanne Friend. Although our relationship is strictly professional I would like to express my appreciation for the work she has done.**

**I was employed for twenty-nine years by the Hewlett-Packard Corporation, mostly as a Factory Automation Technician, and was summarily dismissed in May of 2009 when the corporation downsized and sent many jobs overseas. I went back to school for two years and earned a degree in Horticulture since I own about thirty-six acres. Even after the two years of schooling the economy did not improve and, nearing sixty years old, I was unable to secure employment after trying for more than a year following my graduation. Seeking a new career, or indeed any viable source of regular income I came across Suzanne's website describing Aquaponics. And not just Aquaponics, but organically certified Aquaponics! It was exactly what I was looking for and I began my own system.**

**During my initial research and startup I have relied heavily upon the expertise provided by Suzanne. I have corresponded with her many times requesting clarification, help or suggestions. She has been friendly, courteous, punctual and professional in all of our interactions. I am still developing my farm and Aquaponics operation and it will likely take a few years more before it is a consistently profitable business. I would be dismayed to find that I have lost the resources provided by Suzanne.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**Robert Frenock**

**RECEIVED**  
1-21-14

*KP*

P.O. Box 727, Toledo, OR 97391

541-270-6556

<http://oregonTruffleTryst.com>

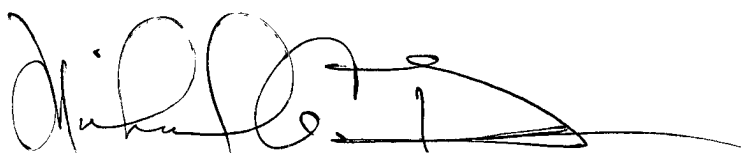
Michael A. Brown  
P.O. Box 1217  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

January 16, 2014

To The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

My name is Michael Brown. I am a network engineer by profession and I know Susan Friend through my endeavor to prepare my retirement for a life as a farmer. I am writing this letter to you today in support of Susan. I believe that Susan is an absolutely necessary member of society. I understand that some improprieties against the law may have been committed by her, but Susan is a forward thinking individual. As you are probably aware the rest of the country is starting the long road to making a change to the Nixon Administration's War on Drugs. This is a reversal of law, which is of the magnitude of ending the Prohibition Laws for alcohol. Susan Friend has been an invaluable entrepreneur actually teaching people to be self sufficient and insuring food security in our communities across the nation, actually around the world.. This required her to setup a business and deal in the public trust and she has been doing this for a number of years. Any type of punishment for the transgressions that she has admitted to, would actually be heavy handed and would bring undue hardship to someone who doesn't need or require punishment. On Susan's behalf Judge Kobayashi I ask for leniency and forgiveness for Susan Friend a valued member of our society.

Sincerely,



Michael A. Brown

RECEIVED  
1-21-14

**AMNI AMRY**  
D-2-3 Sri TTDI Condominiums  
Lorong Rahim Kajai 14  
Taman Tun Dr Ismail  
60000 Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

January 10, 2014

**Attention: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi**

**Re: Susanne Friend**

I have never met Susanne and I have never had any kind of email correspondence with her or her husband Tim Mann personally. However, I have been following their business and experimentation with aquaponics through the newsletters that they supply to my wife and me, as we had also wanted to start a similar project in Malaysia. Despite not having had any sort of direct contact with Susanne or Tim over the last four years (since we purchased one of their setup manuals in 2010), I have a good sense of what they have been through and the challenges they have faced these last few years.

I was a corporate man who was the Chief Executive Officer for two companies in a publicly-listed conglomerate here in Malaysia. I left seven years ago at the age of 36, disillusioned about what it took to climb the corporate ladder, to get noticed for promotions, bonuses, and everything else that does a good job of compromising one's values and principles as a decent human being. From disillusionment, next was fear, because leaving at the top of my career was just not the done thing. What do you do next? You can't do anything, really, other than growing a pair and using the fear of the unknown to pace yourself, before you dive headfirst into your fresh start.

When I was in my corporate life, the friends I had at work were rarely ever going to be good friends. Corporate culture is just that way. I consider myself lucky to have found one best friend before he died of cancer. Even so, I felt that I was prepared going into post-corporate life about what to expect from people when doing business. Still, I got cheated but it didn't wipe us out, even though it hurt just the same. I like to believe that deep in all of us, we hope to meet decent people, and I am no different despite my life experience so far.

But the most obvious people who could have cheated us were Susanne and Tim. They could have NOT sent me the manuals after I paid \$1000 online. \$1000 is the average monthly salary for a family in Malaysia, so it's a lot of money. Susanne and Tim did not have to send me softcopy files with free updates two years later – updates that they had put A LOT of work into. They could have not bothered to send us monthly newsletters because after all, we are on the other side of the world. What can we really do to take action to get what we signed up for? Nothing. And yet, they are nice, kind, honest people with a huge passion for what they do.

RECEIVED  
1-23-14

**CHRISTINE LIM**  
81, Lorong 17/33A  
46400 Petaling Jaya  
Selangor  
Malaysia

January 10, 2014

**Attention: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi**

**Re: Susanne Friend**

I recently received an update by email from Ms. Friend and her husband Tim Mann of Friendly Aquaponics Inc informing me that they are awaiting sentencing for a crime related to growing marijuana on their farm. I am writing to provide a character reference in the hopes that it will mitigate their sentence. They have been open and transparent about their mistake and admitted their culpability. I also believe that they are sincerely repentant and are better parents and business people because of it.

I am a business owner in Malaysia, in education and seafood. I hold two degrees from the University of Pennsylvania and co-chaired the alumni interview committee in Malaysia, interviewing applicants to Penn for 15 years. I have been a business owner since 1999, and became interested in aquaculture in 2006, when my husband retired from corporate life to start an aquaculture facility.

I first heard of Friendly Aquaponics in 2010, when I was doing research into starting an aquaponics farm. In June 2010, our company bought the Commercial System manual from Friendly Aquaponics. Because of land-related issues, we did not build this system. In 2012, I contacted Tim to request an update and soft copies of some of the files they provide to customers and this was provided expeditiously by both of them. I was pleased by their continuous support to customers like me, which is a promise they made from the start.

While we have decided not to proceed with building an aquaponics farm at this point due to the complexity of integrating both aquaculture and hydroponics on a commercial level, I have continued to receive and read their newsletter updates for the last 4 years. Though I have not met Susanne, she continues to amaze me with her energy and passion for giving others hope through aquaponics. I also subscribe to newsletters from other vendors and in comparison, Susanne's newsletters arrive promptly and regularly, providing information that is not usually shared elsewhere. It has been a delight and inspiration to see how they have progressed through the years and it would be a shame if all the good they have done is undone by their incarceration.

I wish Susanne all the best and I hope you will consider this letter in support of leniency to allow Susanne to continue her good work.

Yours sincerely,



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1-23-14  
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January 17, 2014

To The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi;

We write this in support of Tim Mann and Susanne L. Friend, not to condone the commission of their crime but to ask for the mercy from the court.

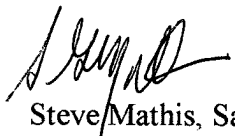
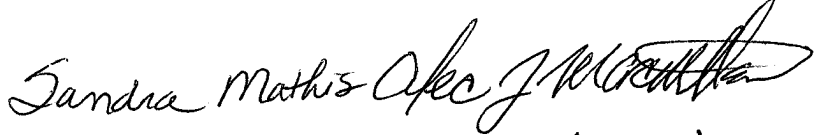
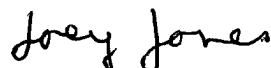
Our family comprises Four Streams Family Farms in Cleveland, TN. We have been developing a commercial aquaponics business for the last twelve months. Susanne and Tim have played a major roll in the development of our business. We have attended their trainings, purchased their manuals and committed to send our son to their farm internship program. They have conducted all of our business transactions with integrity and professionalism. Their commitment to the aquaponics industry is without question. The development of sustainable food sources is a recognized need around the world.

My wife, Sandy, is a former publisher and elementary school teacher. I am the owner of Mathis Insurance Services here in Cleveland, TN. She and I have spent much of the last 14 years in the drug and alcohol recovery ministry. We were on staff at an 85 bed recovery center in Okeechobee, FL and started and developed two half-way houses for recovering addicts and those returning to society from jail or prison. Our experience has shown us the crimes people commit under varying circumstances. We have learned that the two keys to recovery are repentance and personal responsibility. We believe Tim and Susanne have taken responsibility for their actions and are truly sorry. The promises they have made to never to do it again are sincere.

Society and certainly the aquaponics industry will not benefit from the incarceration of Tim and Susanne. The damage to their family, especially their younger children could impact generations.

They have admitted their guilt without condition to the court and to their industry. We believe the punishment they have endured thus far is enough. They are convicted felons with the damage to their reputations, let that be enough. Let them serve the rest of their sentence serving their family, humanity and their industry.

Sincerely,

   
Steve Mathis, Sandra Mathis, Alec Macmillan, Joseph Jones   
Four Streams Family Farms

RECEIVED  
1-24-14  
Koo

Dean C. Richardson  
President

Tropical Treescapes, Inc.  
13290 S.W. 192nd Street  
The Palm Factory  
13250 S.W. 192nd Street  
(305)251-6966

1/18/14

To: The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi  
Fm: Dean Richardson, President/Owner  
Tropical Treescapes, Miami, Florida

I am writing in support of Suzanne Friend who, along with her husband Tim Mann, has helped me immensely in my business. She recently confided in me concerning the error in judgment that they made concerning their involvement in a marijuana production project. While considering what sentence to impose upon her, I urge you to take into consideration the hundreds if not thousands of people that she and her husband have helped and encouraged to start their own business' growing healthy food.

I had a successful nursery operation for over 25 years until "the great recession" of the last seven years put it near bankruptcy. I diversified into growing vegetables to help supplement my income, and with considerable help from Suzanne and her husband Tim, I am refining that part of my business by expanding into aquaponics, a system that was out of reach economically until I stumbled onto Friendly Aquaponics. Their very simple and very complete DIY (do it yourself) scalable systems made it doable and a reality for me. They have been extremely generous and unselfish with their time and help whenever I have e-mailed them a question. Their instruction manuals are extremely complete, easy to understand, and answer nearly all of the questions that arise while building the system. I am currently in my third month of my small system startup, and am confident that I will be ramping up to a much larger operation in the spring, which I fully expect to bring me back into profitability by the end of the year. None of that would have been possible without the help and guidance from Suzanne, Tim and Friendly Aquaponics.

I understand, as they have described it, that they definitely committed a crime and tremendous error in judgment, and should incur some form of punishment. They are both very contrite. Taking into account all of the positive works that they do helping people like myself, I would hope that you can envision a community service type of project that would benefit the local communities, but allow Friendly Aquaponics to continue operations as both a profit making as well as an educational learning place. Yes, they do charge for their manuals and classes, but not nearly the kinds of fees that are charged elsewhere. Taking them out of the public domain by incarceration would be harmful to the growing number of aquaponics enthusiasts like myself that depend on them for their expertise. They are good people that did a dumb thing.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

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1-24-14  
18

Mailing Address: 13141 S.W. 96th Avenue • Miami, Florida 33176 • (After Hours Telephone 305 233-3936)

# HAWAII CATCHMENT COMPANY

16-643 KIPIMANA ST., BAY #19  
KEAAU . HAWAII . 96749  
PH. (808) 982-8888 . FAX.: (808) 966-8889

January 23, 2014

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi  
c/o Mr. Philip H. Lowenthal  
33 N. Market St., Suite 101  
Wailuku, HI 96793

RE: Susanne Friend

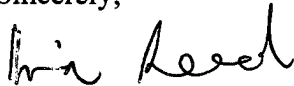
Dear Honorable Judge Kobayashi,

Susanne Friend has been our customer at Hawaii Catchment Company, LLC since 2006. Our company sells water catchment products such as water tanks, UV filters, pressure tanks and pumps. We also provide catchment cleaning services. We have been in business for over 20 years. We have started our business from our garage and with hard work, dedication and perseverance, we now have our own shop at a business center.

Susanne Friend, with Friendly Aquaponics, Inc., has purchased water tanks from our company during the past few years. During those times, she has conducted herself with integrity and honesty by always paying for the items purchased on time. She was always kind and courteous whenever she comes to our shop. She was a hardworking woman who cares and loves her children. The aquaponics system that her company was trying to teach the community was a great idea.

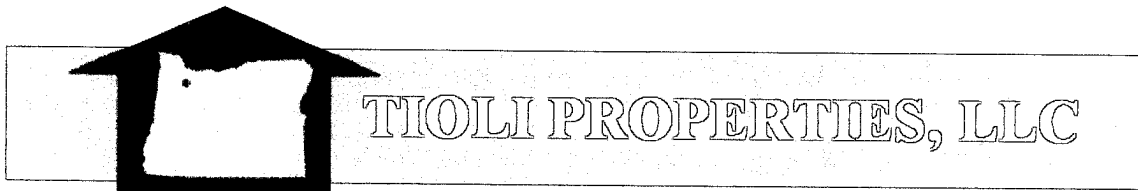
Although, we do not agree with the decision she has made that led her in the situation she is in now, we ask for your leniency in handing out her sentence in this case. We believe that she has learned the biggest lesson in her life. Please give her a chance to be around to raise her children as they certainly need her love and support as they grow up.

Sincerely,



Rex & Lina Reed, Owners  
Hawaii Catchment Company, LLC

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1-27-14  
16



January 21, 2014

In regards to: Suzanne Friend  
Co-Owner of Friendly Aquaponics

Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi

Dear Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi:

My name is Richard Proebstel. I am 50 years old and currently the President of TIOLI Properties located in Salem, Oregon.

I have known Suzanne for just under one year now. My wife Amy and I attended a weeklong class at Suzanne's farm in April of 2013.

Suzanne is the absolute sweetest, nicest and caring person. Her attention to our needs during the class both before and after have been incredible. During the intensive training week we saw first hand how much compassion Suzanne has for her family and business. Her eyes just light up when talking about them. My wife had a personal matter requiring Suzanne to re-work their training syllabus for us. Suzanne didn't even bat an eye. She willingly saw our need and met it with flying colors. I can see she deeply cares to make their business successful and her customers feel like family. Suzanne also talked with us about their mistake in getting caught up with the minister and the marijuana issue. Suzanne and Tim's candor during this difficult situation shows the humility and conviction they have in not letting this type of thing happen ever again.

I certainly hope you can see how much my wife Amy and I definitely care about Suzanne and her family. If you would like to talk to me, please call me collect on my personal cell phone at (503)580-0908. I would be more than happy to talk to you about Suzanne. Suzanne has so many gifts she gives us all. Her heart is much larger than I can describe here. I hope you can have mercy on Suzanne during this difficult time. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Richard Proebstel

President, TIOLI Properties

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1-27-14



January 19, 2014

**The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi**

Your Honor,

I am writing you on behalf of Susanne Friend, who is a defendant in a case pending in your court.

My name is Terry Justice. I am a 59 year old industrial and hazardous waste management safety professional and have held several national safety certifications. My father became interested in aquaponics in May of 2013. He asked me to look at several different websites and give him my recommendations. After reviewing several sites, I told him that I believed he should work with Friendly Aquaponics. I decided to partner with my father and build an aquaponics business, starting with a small greenhouse on his property here in California.

I recommended Susanne and Friendly Aquaponics because it was clear that they were interested in sharing their knowledge first and weren't emphasizing their own personal gain. They talked about helping people help themselves, their families and their communities by making them self reliant for the production of a large portion of their food requirements. I also was drawn to how they incorporated positive Hawaiian culture into virtually everything they did.

In the very first part of the information they provided, Friendly Aquaponics emphasized, in red, bold type, that their system would not work for marijuana production. They also asked that anyone who came to their farm for visits or training not bring any illegal drugs onto their property.

Susanne has stated several times how remorseful she is about the mistake she made that brings her into your courtroom. I do not condone or approve of her decision. I do understand the circumstances that resulted in a desperate, albeit wrong, action.

I do approve of her conduct since we began working with her last year. She has acknowledged her mistake and counseled others on ways to avoid making the same mistake.

I strongly support Susanne and Friendly Aquaponics and firmly believe that she should continue to benefit her family, community and hundreds of aquaponics enthusiasts. She does not belong in prison.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Terry Justice  
5435 Heavenly Ridge Lane  
El Sobrante, CA 94803

RECEIVED  
1-27-14

January 19, 2014

**The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi**

Your Honor,

I am writing you on behalf of Susanne Friend, who is a defendant in a case pending in your court.

My name is Bob Justice. I am 85 years old and a retired former owner of a hazardous waste management company here in California. I also spent more than 11 years in the California Highway Patrol and several years in other law enforcement agencies. My first contact with Susanne was in May of 2013. I have been searching for an opportunity to invest my time and money in a sustainable, eco-friendly venture for most of my retirement. I found out about aquaponics on the internet and was immediately interested. I have researched many aquaponics companies and was impressed by the openness and honesty expressed on the Friendly Aquaponics website. Their willingness to help others help themselves was clearly evident.

The information they provided emphasized that their system would not work for cultivating marijuana. They talked about respecting others and the value and importance of family. They also incorporate Hawaiian culture and values into all they do. Most of all, they want to promote a healthy, sustainable lifestyle for themselves and others. The information and training they provide are a framework for individuals to help themselves and their community thrive.

After looking at several different aquaponics systems, I decided to invest in their program and I am currently in the process of building an aquaponics greenhouse based on their plans.

Susanne has been open and very forthcoming about her regret, remorse and dismay about her mistake that has brought her to your court. I do not condone what she has done, but I do understand the circumstances that lead to a poor decision.

I do approve of how she has conducted herself since my first contact with her almost a year ago.

I strongly support her and Friendly Aquaponics and firmly believe she would be a positive and valued contributor to the community. I do not believe she should go to prison. There are a lot of new aquaponics enthusiasts that depend on the training and experience provided by Friendly Aquaponics.

Thank you for your consideration.

  
Bob Justice

5435 Heavenly Ridge Lane  
El Sobrante, CA 94803

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1-27-14  
16



## Sahib Aquaponics

3586 Aloma Ave # 3  
Winter Park, FL 32792  
Phone: 407-415-8502  
E-Mail: sahib@sahibaquaponics.com  
Web: sahibaquaponics.com

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi  
c/o Philip H. Lowenthal  
33 N Market St.  
Suite 101  
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

**Re: Reference and Support Letter for Susanne Friend**

Dear Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

My name is Pardeep K. Vedi and I am a licensed FL Insurance Agent who owns and runs his own Independent Insurance Agency. In the world of Aquaponics I am known as Sahib Punjabi and I am the owner and Aquaponics Farmer at Sahib Aquaponics, an urban wasteland research farm that is located in Winter Park, FL. I am also the founder of Feed Hunger Now, Inc. a 501(c)(3) non-Profit Organization. Our small urban hybrid Aquaponics research farm has been written about by numerous organizations and has been included in the Cornell University Small Farmers urban newsletter as well as recommended by the Recirculating Farm Coalition, a national non-profit, headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana whose goal is to work with communities to support creating innovative, sustainable ways of having better access to healthy fresh food.

I write this letter in strong support of Susanne Friend and humbly request that you do all in your power to not sentence him to jail time. Susanne Friend and her partner Tim Mann have been instrumental in helping so many people around the world by empowering them to grow their and community food without having to resort to harmful pesticides or chemical fertilizers. They have done all that is possible to make such growing systems affordable and share their knowledge with as many people as possible. I learned and relied considerably in my initial research in Aquaponics on the Friendly Aquaponics training manuals written by Susanne Friend and Tim Mann. Following their visit to my facility in Winter Park, FL in September 2011 and their appreciation of the Hybrid Aquaponics systems that I was developing, Susanne Friend and Tim Mann began encouraging that I teach my Aquaponics knowledge and provide such training. Initially I used the Friendly Aquaponics training manuals as part of my workshops. Due to Susanne Friend and Tim Mann's encouragement, I have had well over one thousand visitors and numerous people who now grow their own food using Aquaponics methods.

Upon receiving IRS Tax Exemption for Feed Hunger Now, Inc. I requested their assistance to help raise funds for those with limited means to learn such knowledge and help build such food growing systems. Susanne Friend and Tim Mann agreed to provide whatever help I needed. They flew at their own expense to Florida and participated in a One Day Feed Hunger Training event on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2013 where we had numerous participants. They charged no fees and donated their training manuals to the value of \$200 for each participant who donated \$100 to Feed Hunger Now. They repeated such charitable events in California and New York.

I value Susanne Friend's friendship, her knowledge in the field of Aquaponics, her willingness and commitment to help whenever possible and I look forward to a continue working with her to help our society and to empower people to grow their own food, thus doing our part to reduce the world hunger epidemic. Therefore, I humbly request for your lenience in sentencing her and avoiding any jail sentence.

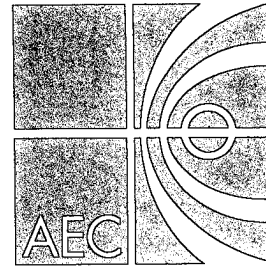
Sincerely,

Pardeep K. Vedi, CIC  
aka Sahib  
Sahib Aquaponics Jan18<sup>th</sup> 2014

RECEIVED  
1-27-14

**Allied Environmental Consultants Limited**  
Acousticians & Environmental Engineers

19/F., Kwan Chart Tower, 6 Tonnochy Road, Wan Chai, Hong Kong  
Tel.: (852) 2815 7028 Fax: (852) 2815 5399 Email: info@aechk.com



沛然環境評估  
工程顧問有限公司

The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi  
c/o Philip H. Lowenthal  
33 N. Market St.  
Suite 101  
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

17th January, 2014

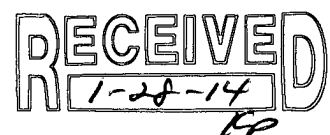
Dear Judge Kobayashi,

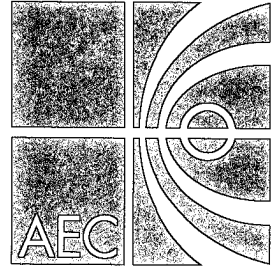
**Letter of Appreciation and Support for Susanne Friend - Please don't put Susanne in prison.**

My name is Prof. Ir. Dr. James Wing Ho Wong. I am a Chartered Engineer from United Kingdom and a Registered Professional Engineer in Hong Kong. I am the Founder and President of Allied Environmental Consultants Ltd. Founder Member of the Hong Kong Institute of Acoustics; the Hong Kong Institute of Environmental Impacts Assessment and the Founder President of the Institute of Energy. My Allied (Environmental) Group has been in the areas of design and construction of sustainable buildings, roads, railway stations and airports for governments, private and international corporate clients. I have extensive hands-on experience in green building systems, establishing design criteria in planning of new towns, hotels, commercial, institutional and residential property developments as well as transportation networks. I was responsible for many recording and TV studios, performing arts venues as well as many of the awards winning Hong Kong iconic green buildings like The International Commerce Centre (abbr. ICC Tower) is a 108 floor, 484 m (1,588 ft), the tallest building in Hong Kong, the JP Morgan's Asia Pacific Headquarter Charter House, ICAC Building, Customs Building and many District Governmental Offices.

My established Allied Environmental Consultants Limited has been working on advanced sustainable building and town planning concepts for the housing sectors as well as research in sustainable products and their applications. My company has involved over 100,000 private and public high rise residential flats in Hong Kong. I have conducted research in the areas of architectural acoustic, especially acoustics in theatres and concert halls, as well as acoustics applications in healthcares. I held seminars in the Hong Kong University's and the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Architectural Departments as well as the HKUSPACE in Sustainable Design and a School Ambassador of the Hong Kong Institute of Engineers. I have been a pioneer in applying stealth technology, nano-technology and effective mircoorganisms in my projects. I also have a number of invention patents, ranging from heat transfer matrix to environmental building components. I managed construction projects from car plants, power stations, hospitals as well as stage engineering, lighting, I.T., architectural design, environmental impact assessments, LEED and BEAM studies.

I have known Ms. Susanne Friend since October, 2010 when I attended the Aquaponic Training Course in her farm on the Big Island. After the training course, I have shown my clients and friends how this very practical and sustainable farming technique introduced to me by Susanne may be applied in Hong Kong and nearby regions. Within a very short time, a group of interested people got together and formed the Aquaponics Association of Asia-Pacific (AAP) group, within the





Institute of Energy in Hong Kong. Our members has been very active and you can see some of the work they have accomplished in YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39YvtmnNLDQ>.  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=But\\_uh5s9kE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=But_uh5s9kE). <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtVj4kwAHH4>.  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K0aLO-KD5A8>. Without Susanne, this will not be achieved.

I was informed by Susanne about the legal case against her during the training course back in 2010. She has admitted her foolishness in testing the law. Ms. Susanne Friend has integrity and honesty, she is a family people, she has been a good parents, and a hard worker too. I do not put my appreciation and support lightly. I want to point out that when my Taiwanese friend Ms Steffi Li, a single parent with two young daughters, who suffered brain cancer and had an open skull operation in 2011 ask for Susanne's help, Susanne offered her a training place and free accommodation on her farm immediately. According to Steffi, they treated her like a daughter in their family, and their love has helped my friend recovered miraculously. She is now fully recovered and free of cancer medications. Steffi has since returned to Taiwan and established her own aquaponics training farm in Taipei. Steffi Li's website is <http://www.aquaponics.com.tw>. and, <https://www.facebook.com/avataaquaponics>. Steffi's students have also established their farms and practice groups, for example, <http://community.theaquaponicsource.com/profile/FrankWei>. Without the pioneer work and labour of love from Ms. Susanne Friend, these people will not enjoy their life and career.

Judge, please do not put Susanne Friend in the prison.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Ir. Dr. James Wing Ho Wong  
President

To The Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi,

My name is Lillian Paiva. I am the Head Instructor for Honokaa Ki Aikido Club. I am a wife, Mother, Grandmother. I am a member of the Waimea Bonyu Kai Bonsai Club, Hilo Orchid Society and have my own modest Garden Consultation business.

I have known Susanne Friend for about 5 years. Her two sons, which I know by their nicknames of Jack (age 12) and Lucky (age 11) have been with Honokaa Ki Aikido since 2010. When Susanne's daughter Rose reached the required age of 7, she started with us in 2012.

Susanne Friend and husband Tim Mann have raised a caring, loving family that truly care about their community. All 3 kids hug me goodbye and thank me after practice every Tuesday and Thursday. The boys are comfortable with emotions. Something you don't often see in boys their age. These are happy, intelligent children that truly connect with others easily.

The whole family is always there at the front of the line for dojo clean up days and fundraisers. Susanne came to my aid one evening when a window was broken. My husband was out of town and I was trying to figure out the best way to deal with it. Susanne on her own initiative drove home and came back with supplies to secure the dojo until the window could be fixed properly.

When they were growing all of the organic lettuce and vegetables I saw them first hand give away food to those who could use it.

When the legal action came up, Susanne sat down with me and explained what was going on. She wanted me to hear it from her first. She was open and honest about her involvement and mistakes and all that she asked was for me to continue to love and support her children.

I could give many more examples of this family's love of each other, love for their community and wanting to make this a better world, but for now I ask that you please don't separate this family. Please let them repent in a positive way.

Sincerely,



Lillian J. Paiva  
46-3760A Kapuna Rd.  
Honokaa, Hi. 96727  
(808) 775-0425

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DLH INVESTMENTS INC.

208-250-1400  
Douglassholladay@msn.com  
4904 E Greenhurst Rd.  
Nampa, Idaho 83686

January 7, 2014

Honorable Judge Leslie Kobayashi  
33 N Market Street Ste., 101  
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

I am Douglas L. Holladay, a business man and CEO of DLH Investments Inc. I own and operate 5 successful entities relating to investment properties, property management, storage facilities, day spas and a very successful real estate firm in Idaho.

I came to know Susanne Friend when I happened to come across a web site that detailed an aquaponics farm that she and Tim Mann had created. I had been searching for years for a simple farm that I could build to become self-sufficient for my self and my neighbors. I believed that I had found one system and took the training necessary to build that system.

In the process of building that system, I continued to search the internet and gather information when I came upon the site of Friendly Aquaponics. I immediately recognized it as the most complete and comprehensive system that was on the web. I immediately contacted Tim Mann and was astonished at the knowledge & comprehension of aquaponics that he and Susanne possessed.

I was so impressed with the Friendly Aquaponics system that I have begun the process of starting a new business of training, supplying and creating a large commercial aquaponics farm for growth of food to supply to our local food bank and churches. I could not have begun to think about this venture without the help of Susannes' training, knowledge, and the research that she was doing.

I have been very impressed with the candid honesty about those items that have been going on in her life and with her family. I realize that we all make mistakes, but how we overcome and grow from those mistakes is what separates those who have really learned and are committed to bringing about a positive change in their lives as well as others, and those that were just caught with their hand in the cookie jar and are trying to get by until their next con job.

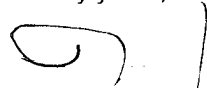
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The work that Susanne is doing all over the country, within his community and the gift that he is giving the world in teaching them to become self reliant is unmeasurable in value. There are those who have gifts that keep them to themselves to create their own wealth And then there are those like Tim Mann & Susanne Friend that share those gifts with others.

I for one will be forever grateful for the time, experience, and financial sacrifice that she and her family have put in not only for their behalf, but for the fact that she has so freely shared that wealth of knowledge with others through her books and training.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. L. Holladay', written in a cursive style.

Douglas L Holladay

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