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THE ALOUN FAMILY STATEMENT,
AUGUST 4, 2011

ON BEHALF OF MY BROTHER, MIKE, AND OUR FAMILIES, **WE WANT TO THANK ALL OF OUR FRIENDS, SUPPORTERS AND EMPLOYEES OF ALOUN FARMS FOR BELIEVING IN US.** WE HAVE SILENTLY KEPT OUR FAITH IN OUR INNOCENCE IN THE FACE OF UNFAIR, FALSE ACCUSATIONS, MANY OF WHICH WERE REPEATED PUBLICLY IN THE PRESS.

WE HAVE DEMONSTRATED BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT THAT THE ACCUSATIONS MADE BY SOME OF THE THAI WORKERS AND THEIR RECRUITER WERE FALSE. WE ALWAYS BELIEVED THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THESE FALSE ACCUSATIONS WITHOUT CONDUCTING AN ADEQUATE INVESTIGATION. LOCAL, HAWAII RESIDENTS WERE NEVER INTERVIEWED--LOCAL PEOPLE WHO WORKED SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE THAI WORKERS WERE NEVER INTERVIEWED TO CORROBORATE THE ALLEGATIONS BY THE THAI WORKERS.

WE DID NOT SNEAK ILLEGAL ALIENS INTO HAWAII TO TAKE AWAY JOBS. AT THE TIME WE HIRED THE THAI WORKERS, THERE WAS A LABOR SHORTAGE IN HAWAII AND WE FILED ALL OF THE REQUIRED PAPER WORK TO BRING THE WORKERS HERE. WE PAID THEM A FAIR WAGE, GAVE THEM FREE HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM WORK. WE PROVIDED COOKS TO PREPARE THEIR MEALS. OUR LOCAL WORKERS TOOK THEM UNDER THEIR WINGS AND SHOWED THEM TRUE ALOHA.

IN RETURN, MY BROTHER AND I HAVE BEEN VILIFIED AND UNFAIRLY PROSECUTED. OUR BUSINESS HAS SUFFERED IRREPARABLE DAMAGE BUT WE HAVE CONTINUED WITH THE BUSINESS WHILE FIGHTING TO PROVE OUR INNOCENCE BECAUSE WE BELIEVE ALOUN FARMS PROVIDES AN IMPORTANT PRODUCT TO HAWAII - LOCALLY FRESH GROWN PRODUCE FOR THE ISLAND OHANAS.

WE WANT TO THANK OUR ATTORNEYS, TOM BIENERT AND TOM OTAKE (and team Caprice Itagaki, Anne Uyeda, and Jan Phillips), WHO TOOK OUR CASE BECAUSE THEY BELIEVED IN OUR INNOCENCE DESPITE THE PUBLIC OPINIONS WHICH WERE UNIFORMLY AGAINST US. THEY DID A TERRIFIC JOB!

FINALLY, WE LOOK FORWARD TO A PEACEFUL ERA OF FARMING AND PRODUCING QUALITY ISLAND FRESH PRODUCE FOR ALL AND LOOK FORWARD TO THE UPCOMING OCTOBER PUMPKIN FEST!

MAHALO & ALOHA,


ALEC SOU,


MIKE SOU,