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## Waiahole farmers and others win fight against urbanization

A 12-year struggle by farmers and other residents of Waiahole Valley to protect the area from urbanization ended in cheers and applause yesterday during a City Council meeting.

The Council yesterday agreed to exempt Waiahole Valley agricultural park and residential subdivision from various city land use requirements.

It was the last step in the lengthy resolution of a controversy that began in 1974 when Waiahole Valley and Waikane Valley tenants and farmers fought a move by the landowner to evict them and sell the land for a residential subdivision.

"For us, this is the end of 12 years of struggle," said David

Chinen, president of the Waiahole-Waikane Community Association.

"I guess you could say this is a victory for all the farmers and tenants who really believed that Waiahole should remain as it was," said Chinen.

In 1977, Gov. George Ariyoshi averted a pitched battle between tenants and landowner Elizabeth Loy McCandless Marks when he authorized the state to spend \$6 million to buy 600 acres of Waiahole Valley land.

The Hawaii Housing Authority then worked out a plan to provide long-term, affordable leases to residents and farmers and to preserve and enhance agricultural use in the valley.

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