

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Monday, March 12, 2018
1:15 p.m.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2426 HD1
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”). The ADC supports House Bill No. 2426 HD1 which appropriates funds for the acquisition of high value farm land in west Kauai identified as Tax Map Key: (4) 1-2-006:009.

West Kauai’s dry climate and high sunlight has been known for producing very high-quality crops. Keeping high value agricultural lands in agriculture should be considered as a high priority because of the potential benefits it presents for Hawaii’s agriculture industry. Since land is a critical component in enhancing the State’s food security, obtaining agricultural lands may significantly increase the available agricultural land on Kauai for food production and may offer many possibilities to boost the economic viability of the west Kauai community and the entire agriculture industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your consideration of this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**MARCH 12, 2018
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2426 HD1
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2426 HD1, which appropriates funds for the acquisition of high value farm land in west Kauai identified as Tax Map Key: (4) 1-2-006:009. The Department of Agriculture supports this bill.

The Department supports the effort of the Agribusiness Development Corporation and the State in preserving agricultural lands for production. By dedicating resources to support acquisition of agricultural land, the State increases its local production and supports future sustainability for our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.





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March 12, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 2426, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224
1:15 am

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau is in support of HB 2426, HD 1, which authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the acquisition of certain farm lands in west Kauai by the agribusiness development corporation.

HFB believes that in order for agriculture to flourish in Hawaii and reach their full potential, land availability and long-term leases at affordable and predictable lease rental rates are critical. The acquisition by the ADC of farm land in west Kauai will significantly increase the available agricultural land under the State's control and will provide farmers with long-term leases that will enhance the economic viability of Hawaii's agriculture industry.

We believe this is an opportunity to further support and expand the state's ability to provide agricultural lands for farmers, which is consistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-2426-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 11:46:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Monday, March 12, 2018
1:15 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224

RE: Testimony in Support of **HB2426 HD1** : RELATING TO THE
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair and
Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2426 HD1** relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation; Land Acquisition; GO Bonds; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2426 HD1** and supports its passage.

HB2426 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the acquisition of certain farm lands in west Kauai by the agribusiness development corporation.

The Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, 2016, provides that "[a]griculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability.

This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times. (Platform of DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-78, 82-86 (2016)).

To ensure wise use and equitable distribution of our precious water, we must stress water conservation and alternative patterns of water treatment and consumption such as the use of recycled water for irrigation, water storage reservoirs, and the use of catchment systems by the public.

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy sustainable, diversified local food production, and "Buy Local" strategies to assure greater food security and food safety.

We recognize the essential link between the availability of adequate and affordable water and low-cost electrical power as essential components of viable agricultural businesses. (Platform of DPH, P. 2, Lines 93-102 (2016)).

We support the designation of Important Agricultural Lands as a step towards preserving high-grade productive lands for current and future needs." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 109-110 (2016)).

Given that **HB2426 HD1** authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the acquisition of certain farm lands in west Kauai by the agribusiness development corporation, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

HB-2426-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 7:06:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	Yes

Comments: