

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**DOUGLAS S. CHIN**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**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 WAYS & MEANS**

**APRIL 3, 2018  
10:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2426 HD1 SD1  
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2426 HD1 SD1, 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.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hbf.org](mailto:info@hbf.org); [www.hbf.org](http://www.hbf.org)

April 3, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2426, HD1, SD1**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran 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, HD1, SD1**, 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 (ADC).

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.



Hartung Brothers, Inc.

P.O. Box 823  
Kekaha, HI. 96752

Tel. 808-337-1408  
Fax. 808-337-1560

March 30, 2018

Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

State of Hawaii Legislature  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 2426 Relating to the Agribusiness  
Development Corporation

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee members:

On behalf of Hartung Brothers, and as a private citizen raised in Waimea, this is to provide testimony in **strong support** of HB2426, relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Our Company, Hartung Brothers Hawaii, is the current long-term lessee and active farmer of the agricultural lands identified in HB2426. As such we have a strong interest in ensuring that the lands remain in agriculture and, more broadly, that prime farmland is protected.

The agricultural lands between Waimea and Kekaha are an important part of the rural character of the west side of Kauai. Agriculture on the west side of Kauai is currently being revitalized and will provide an important engine of economic opportunity and growth for our youth. HB2426 will provide a path to help sustain that positive trajectory, secure the long-term future of agriculture in the area, and make additional, critical long-term investments possible.

Sincerely,

Joshua Uyehara  
Vice President – General Manager, Hawaii Operations

**HB-2426-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2018 5:58:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2426 HD1 SD1** relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation; Land Acquisition; GO Bonds; and an Appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2426 HD1 SD1** and supports its passage.

**HB2426 HD1 SD1** 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 SD1** 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 on Legislative Priorities to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

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