Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2426, 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.
Chairperson Creagan 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 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.
**HB-2426**
Submitted on: 2/5/2018 4:12:27 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:45:00 AM

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<th>Submitted By</th>
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<td>Dale Sandlin</td>
<td>Hawaii Cattlemens Council</td>
<td>Support</td>
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Comments:
January 30, 2018

Committee on Agriculture
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, 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 Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite 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
Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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, 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 its 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.
Re: Chair Creagan and Vice Chair DeCoite
House Committee on Agriculture
HB 2081

The Kauai County Farm Bureau supports the passage of HB 2081 relating to the Red Rose Ringed Parakeet (RRRP). The RRRP has continued to affect Kauai farmers and they are taking a financial loss due to the aggressive feeding and roosting habits of the parakeets. The visitor industry is also being affected by the loud volume and nuisance that they are displaying at the visitor destinations not to mention the health hazards of their waste. They are also becoming a threat to our native birds, their food and nesting sites. This is a major problem that is escalating very rapidly. Kauai County Farm Bureau has over 300 members and we encourage you to approve funding for continued research and most importantly eradication!

Respectfully,
John R. Gordines
President
Kauai County Farm Bureau