

TESTIMONY
SB 1317
LATE



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HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

2343 ROSE STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96819

Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date & Time: Wednesday, 2-11-09 @ 2:45 pm in Room 229

SB 1317; Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Chairman Hee and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation is the largest general agriculture organization in the State of Hawaii with over 1600 members Statewide and we **"Strongly Oppose SB 1317"** repealing the law authorizing the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

ADC was created many years ago to help agriculture expand and become a viable economic force of Hawaii. It was designed to act quickly, by passing some of the bureaucratic processes. This would not be possible if the program was merged within the DOA and for this reason, it was created as an independent agency. This has helped for example to deal with the transition from sugar to diversified agriculture upon the closure of the plantation in Kekaha.

ADC has finally become self sustaining and can be a significant party in strengthening the future of agriculture. If we agree that agriculture must be an integral role in food safety and self sufficiency then even more agriculture will need all the help it can get. ADC will play an important role in the growth and stability of agriculture.

HFBF respectfully requests that this measure be held. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Okimoto, President
Hawaii Farm Bureau

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