

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

554

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 19 , 2021

RE: H.B. No. 1271

Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2021  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred H.B. No. 1271 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Repeal the Agribusiness Development Corporation; and
- (2) Transfer all lands held by the Agribusiness Development Corporation and all of the Agribusiness Development Corporation's staff, except for the Executive Director, to the Department of Agriculture.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from Animal Rights Hawai'i, Malama Moloa'a, Hawai'i SEED, Indigo Foundation, Clark Elements, Pele Lani Farm LLC, Pesticide Action Network North America, Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action, Food+ Policy Internship 2021, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, OrganicHawaii.org, and numerous individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Agribusiness Development Corporation; Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative; Friends of Waimanalo; Dole Food Co. Hawaii; Larry Jefts Farms, LLC; Lin's Farms; Kekaha Agriculture Association; Whitmore Economic

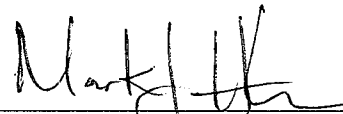


Development Group; Umi's Farm; Hawaii Crop Improvement Association; Kaua'i Chamber of Commerce; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Ho Farms; CropLife America; Biotechnology Innovation Organization; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from Kalepa Coalition, Pono Hawai'i Initiative, North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership, and two individuals.

Your Committee finds that the Agribusiness Development Corporation was established in 1994 to take a lead role in converting the State's agricultural lands from plantations producing mainly pineapple and sugar for export to more economically viable farms. Your Committee further finds that a recent audit report from the Office of the Auditor found that the Agribusiness Development Corporation has not taken critical steps toward achieving its overarching goals. Your Committee also finds that the results of the audit show that the Agribusiness Development Corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and should, therefore, be repealed. Your Committee believes that placing the assets and staff of the Agribusiness Development Corporation would be suitable and more effective if situated in the Department of Agriculture.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1271 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Agriculture,



MARK J. HASHEM, Chair



**Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> <i>HB 1271</i>	<b>Committee Referral:</b> <i>AGR, FIN</i>	<b>Date:</b> <i>02-17-21</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. HASHEM, Mark J. (C)	✓			
2. PERRUSO, Amy A. (VC)	✓			
3. LOWEN, Nicole E.	✓			
4. MARTEN, Lisa		✓		
5. MATAYOSHI, Scot Z.		✓		
6. TODD, Chris		✓		
7. TOKIOKA, James Kunane			✓	
8. MATSUMOTO, Lauren		✓		
<b>TOTAL (8)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b> <i>Amy Perruso</i>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				