

Honolulu, Hawaii

A 25 , 2007

RE: S.B. No. 837
S.D. 2
H.D. 2

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Finance, to which was referred S.B. No. 837, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to preserve agricultural lands on Oahu by authorizing the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to purchase, via general funds or revenue bonds, agricultural lands located in the Kunia and Ewa areas of Oahu and to lease the lands for up to fifty-five years. In addition, this bill provides additional flexibility to ADC by allowing ADC to:

- (1) Purchase, accept, maintain, and transfer permanent conservation easements in accordance with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program; and
- (2) When leasing ADC-controlled agricultural land, contract with a financial institution that is transacting business in this state to provide lease management services.

The University of Hawaii, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, and the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association supported this bill. The Department of Planning and Permitting of the City and County of Honolulu



supported this bill with reservations. The Department of Agriculture and ADC submitted comments.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Allowing the agricultural lands in Kunia and Ewa to be purchased through general obligation bonds (GO) and reimbursable GO bonds;
- (2) Changing its effective date to July 1, 2020, to encourage further discussion; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for style, clarity, and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Finance that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 837, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Third Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 837, S.D. 2, H.D. 2.

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



MARCUS R. OSHIRO, Chair



