

HB 2085 HD1



STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF ALFREDO LEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 20, 2008
2:45 p.m.
Room 224

HOUSE BILL 2085, H.D. 1
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) opposes House Bill 2085, H.D. 1, which would add expertise requirements to members serving on the ADC board, as we feel our board already encompasses expertise so this bill is unnecessary.

According to the 2007 Legislative Reference Bureau report, "Agribusiness Development Corporation: Revisited," many agriculture stakeholders believe that the ADC should focus on the vital role of restoring and operating agricultural infrastructure. Results of last year's ADC strategic planning session also concluded that the best way to use ADC's limited state resources is to focus on a few, large-scale land and water projects with significant economic impact.

The attached chart shows the ADC Board members and their area of knowledge and experience. We believe that the board is strong and the criteria by which members are currently selected is appropriate.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments on this bill.

EXPERIENCE	BOARD MEMBERS									
	Teena Rasmussen	Robert Sutherland	Robert Cooper	Robert Osgood	Duane Lau	Wayne Katayama	Christine Daleiden	David Rietow		
(Existing Law)										
Small/Large Business	X	X	X		X	X	X	X		
Ag Economics				X		X				
Banking							X			
Real Estate			X				X			
Finance						X	X	X		
Promotion	X				X	X		X		
Marketing	X				X	X		X		
Management		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
(New Law)										
Retail	X				X	X				
Wholesale	X				X	X				
Distribution of Ag Products					X	X		X		
Packaging & Processing										
Transportation & Shipping					X	X		X		
Venture Capital							X			

Teena Rasmussen = Paradise Flowers
 Robert Sutherland = Trustee, John T. Waterhouse, Ranch Operations
 Robert Cooper = President & CEO, W. H. Shipman, Ltd.
 Robert Osgood = Private ag consultant, AgResult. Former Vice President/Asst. Director, HARC
 Duane Lau = Vice President of Sales and Marketing of May's Wonder Gardens Hawaii
 Wayne Katayama = President and General Manager, Kauai Coffee Co.
 Christine Daleiden = Attorney, formerly with Attorney General's Office, Div. of Financial Institutions and Cemetery & Funeral Trusts Program.
 David Rietow = Co-owner, Agro Resources, Inc. and Consultant/Managing Member of Agricon Hawaii, LLC



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

99-193 Aiea Heights Drive, Suite 300

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

Ph: 808-487-5561/Fax: 808-486-5020

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

HOUSE BILL 2085 HD1

RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

March 20, 2008

Chair Tokuda and Members of your Committee:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am President and Research Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center, our research and support staff, and our members and clients.

HARC opposes House Bill 2085 HD1 Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation as unnecessary and potentially creating a burden for recruitment.

Following is the the current language with the suggested amendment:

The eight members shall be selected on the basis of their knowledge, experience, and proven expertise in small and large businesses within the agricultural industry, agricultural economics, banking, real estate, finance, promotion, marketing, and management[-]; provided that at least four of the eight members shall also have knowledge, experience, and expertise within the fields of retail, wholesale, and distribution involving agricultural products; packaging and processing of agricultural products; transportation and shipping of agricultural products; or venture capital involving agricultural businesses. Of these eight members, one shall be from the city and county of Honolulu, one shall be from the county of Hawaii, one shall be from the county of Maui, one shall be from the county of Kauai, and four shall be appointed at-large.

There appears to be a lot of restrictions and requirements to meet: multiple expertise, county affiliation, business size, etc., all to be found in 8 individuals. It would seem that this could be achieved by the existing board setting up advisory committees for specific tasks as the need arises. This would provide for focused groups of more than one expert in the area to work on a particular issue as needed. These committees would not be standing committees but formed for specific purposes and dissolved when the task is accomplished. That would seem to be a more functional and practical alternative than trying to find individuals to meet all these criteria. In addition, the added language underscored appears to just be adding subsets of the more general expertise already required.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Hawaii's agricultural needs but in opposition to this proposed measure.

Christine M. Daleiden
95-977 Wikao Street
Mililani, HI 96789
(808) 625-8755

TO THE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
AND THE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

THE TWENTY-FOURTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

Thursday, March 20, 2008
2:45 p.m.

TESTIMONY ON H.B. NO. 2085 - RELATING TO
THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

TO CHAIRS,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Christine Daleiden. I am currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) and I would like to submit this testimony in opposition to H.B. 2085. This bill would require a portion of the ADC board members to have experience relating to wholesale, retail, and distribution of agricultural products, packaging, processing, transportation and shipping of such products and experience in venture capital pertaining to such products.


While I agree that additional experience and expertise on the board is always beneficial, I do not see the need to make this a statutory requirement for board members. First of all, many of the existing board members do have such experience or expertise, as such expertise generally arises out of working in the agricultural industry. Secondly, and more importantly, making such criteria a requirement of a board member would surely limit the spectrum of potential board members, who have other important qualities and expertise, and may discourage community members from applying to become members of this voluntary board. The diversity of the board members and their different backgrounds is one of the board's strongest attributes and promotes robust discussion and awareness of the different issues that come before the board.

For these reasons, I must therefore oppose this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely yours,

Christine M. Daleiden



**Hawaii
Aquaculture
Association**

To:

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008

COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS;
AND ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Jill N. Tokuda and Ron Menor, Chairs

HEARING

DATE: Thursday, March 20, 2008
TIME: 2:45 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 224, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

From: Ron Weidenbach, President, Hawaii Aquaculture Association
Phone: 429-3147, Email: hawaiiifish@gmail.com

Re: HB 2085, HD1, Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation

Chairs Tokuda and Menor, and Committee Members:

The Hawaii Aquaculture Association (HAA) strongly opposes HB 2085, HD1, which requires that at least four of the eight members of the Board of the Agribusiness Development Corporation to have knowledge, experience, and expertise within certain secondary industries related to agriculture.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) has gone through a study by the Legislative Reference Bureau in 2006 and a planning session in 2007. ADC's mission and objectives have not changed since these positioning efforts. There is little or no reason to require that the expertise and experience of its board members to be altered.

The HAA therefore strongly opposes the passage of HB 2085, HD1, which requires changes to the Agribusiness Development Corporation's board composition.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

testimony

From: Jeffrey McCall [JeffreyMcCall@StarBand.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2008 5:43 PM
To: testimony
Subject: testimony on HB 2081 HD1
Attachments: oledata.mso



McCall Flower Farm, Inc.

Mail to: P.O. Box 837

Ship to: 96-1029 Center Rd.

Pahala, HI 96777

Phone (808) 928-6456 Toll Free 1-877-554-3300

Fax (808) 928-9016 Toll Free 1-877-554-3305

TO: Senator Jill Tokuda
Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Jeffrey McCall, Secretary/Treasurer, Ka'u Agricultural Water Cooperative District

DATE: March 18, 2008

RE: House Bill 2085 HD1 Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation

Hearing March 20, 2008
2:45pm

Agribusiness Development Corporation has been instrumental in the formation of our cooperative to secure and manage the Ka'u water sources developed by the sugar plantations in years past. We find that the current board and staff to be very responsive and oppose any changes to its makeup.

I strongly oppose HB 2081 HD1.



**East Kauai
Water Users' Cooperative**

4334 Rice Street, Suite 202
Lihue, Kauai Hawaii 96766
Phone: 808-246-6962
Fax: 808-245-3277

March 19, 2008

TO: Senator Jill N. Tokuda
Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
and
Senator Ron Menor,
Chairperson, Committee on Energy and Environment

House of Representatives, State of Hawaii

RE: Testimony on HB 2085 HD1 Thursday March 20, 2008, Room 224

Chairpersons Tokuda, Menor, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Jerry Ornellas. I am the president of the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative.

The East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative is opposed to HB 2085, which would add expertise requirements to members serving on the ADC board.

The Board already contains individuals who meet the proposed requirements of expertise and is fulfilling its main mandate, to transition agricultural lands from sugar to diversified use. Adding this requirement will make it more difficult to find board members, and potentially will distract ADC from its critical task.

I respectfully ask that you do not pass this bill.

East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative

Jerry Ornellas, President

memo



Senate Committee on Agriculture
TO: and Hawaiian Affairs
ATTN: Testimony
FAX#: _____
RE: HB 2085 HD1--Opposed
FROM: Teena Rasmussen
DATE: March 20, 2008, 2:45 p.m.
NUMBER OF PAGES: 1

Craig and Teena Rasmussen, Owners
331 Ihe Place
Kula, HI 96790
Phones: (808) 878-2591
Fax: (808) 878-1864
Email: info@paradiseflowers.com

REMARKS: URGENT ORDER FOR YOUR REVIEW PLEASE REPLY

To Chairman Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in opposition to HB 2085 HD1.

As the current Chair of the ADC, it is our opinion that this bill is not necessary. After going through a strategic planning process last year, and after being studied by the Legislative Reference Bureau, the ADC has narrowed our focus so as not to be duplicative with the Dept of Agriculture. We maintain and lease ag. Lands to farmers, maintain the water systems that feed those lands, and engage in funding small research and demonstrative projects. The entire board agrees that these areas are what we should be focusing on, and this is what we do best. We have a very diverse and talented board...all of whom add a certain element of expertise to the ADC. I would say that currently we have board members that fit all of the criteria of this bill, and we accomplished that with no legislative restrictions. It is difficult enough to find board members to serve from each of the different islands. This bill puts restrictions on us that are not necessary and would be burdensome, cumbersome, and very subjective as to who meets the criteria. Please do not try to fix something that is not broken.

I urge you to vote no to this bill.

Sincerely,
Teena M. Rasmussen
Chair, ADC
Co-Owner of Paradise Flower Farms, Inc.

testimony

From: Bobby Cooper [eleuhilo@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 19, 2008 2:31 PM
To: testimony
Subject: HB 2085 HD1

HB 2085 HD 1
Hearing on 3/20 @ 2:45 pm Conf Rm 224

Senate Committee on Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs, Senator Tokuda, chair
Senate Committee on Energy & Environment, Senator Menor, chair

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

The proposal would require the Agribusiness Development Corp to require it's board of directors to be selected in a manner that would assure a broad spectrum of experience. The present board actually has this broad spectrum and I don't believe that such a bill is necessary. The current make up of the board is quite diverse and my experience is that many sides of issues that come before us are thought through which helps us come to good decisions. I have been a board member for a couple of years now and am pleased with it's current operation. Robert Cooper, 486-B Akolea Road, Hilo, Hawaii