

LINDA LINGLE  
Governor



ALFREDO A. LEE  
Executive Director

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 HOUSE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 21, 2008  
10:30 a.m.

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

Chairperson Oshiro 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.

According to the 2007 Legislative Reference Bureau report, "Agribusiness Development Corporation: Revisited," many agriculture stakeholders believe that the ADC should be limited to 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 of significant economic impact.

Unless ADC is directed to take on projects with a different focus, we believe that adding specific board member expertise requirements are not necessary.

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



## **Maui County Farm Bureau**

*An Affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation and Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation  
Serving Maui's Farmers and Ranchers*

### **TESTIMONY**

#### **HB2085 HD1**

#### **RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

#### **HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

My name is Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau, a non-profit general agriculture organization and an affiliate of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

MCFB on behalf of our member farmers, ranchers and agricultural organizations, strongly supports HB2085 HD1, expanding the board makeup of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Agriculture of tomorrow will require a wide range of expertise. The proposed amendment expanding the range of knowledge within the Board will bring a broader base of knowledge for good decisionmaking by the body.

We respectfully request your strong support of this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren K. Watanabe  
Executive Director  
MCFB

P.O. Box 148  
Kula, HI 96790

ph: 808 2819718  
email:mauicountyfb@hotmail.com

**nemo**

TO: House Finance Committee  
 ATTN: Testimony  
 FAX#: 1-800-535-3859  
 RE: HB 2085 HD1--Opposed  
 FROM: Teena Rasmussen  
 DATE: February 20, 2008  
 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 Marcus Oshiro and Members of the House Finance 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.

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