

**LINDA LINGLE**  
Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

**SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DUANE K. OKAMOTO**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

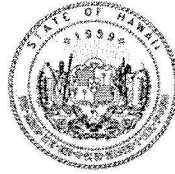
**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE  
AND  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
FEBRUARY 6, 2008  
8:30 A.M.**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3309  
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Chairpersons Tsuji and Morita and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 3309. The purpose of this bill is to establish an agriculture business complex which would house the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii, the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii, UH CTAHR's Agricultural Business Incubator, Poamoho field station, and extension services, and established and start-up agriculture based businesses. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture is very familiar with the organizations that will be located in central Oahu and recognizes the significant contribution they have made to the agricultural industry in the State. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure provided that it does not displace or adversely affect the priorities of the Executive Biennium Budget and recommends that the committee adopt the language provided by the Hawaii Agricultural Research Center and UH CTAHR.



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  
AGRICULTURE

February 6, 2008  
8:30 a.m.

HOUSE BILL 3309  
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 3309. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Biennium budget.

This bill would allow many of the stakeholders to set up operations in close proximity to each other, therefore creating mutual support and synergy. ADC operates the Waiahole Water System nearby and is very familiar with the Kunia area. The departure of Del Monte has created a great opportunity for diversified agriculture to make use of this prime agricultural land which is centrally located on Hawaii's most populated island.

Thank you for considering our comments on this bill.

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY



## HB 3309 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture

February 6, 2008 at 8:30 a.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

Presented by

Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Testimony Presented before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
February 6, 2008  
8:30 a.m.

by  
Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor  
Presented by  
Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## **HB 3309 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Brower, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports House Bill 3309, which makes an appropriation to the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) for the acquisition of land for its agricultural business incubator, its Poamoho field station, and other needs.

We strongly support HB 3309 but request the language be amended by modifying the two paragraphs beginning on page 3, line 16 through page 4, line 4 with the following:

The legislature finds that the ~~acquisition of the subject land for usage by synergies provided by the above mentioned programs of the University of Hawaii, college of tropical agriculture and human resources~~ co-locating at the Kunia site will further the State's responsibility to promote diversified agriculture and increased agricultural self-sufficiency.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State Hawai'i the sum of \$        or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 ~~for the acquisition of agricultural land and related improvements of use to cover the expenses incurred by the University of Hawai'i, college of tropical agriculture and human resources to move the Agribusiness Incubator and Poamoho Station projects and personnel to the Kunia site.~~

Today we have a unique opportunity to support diversified agriculture on O'ahu. A land owner is willing to contribute to the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC) approximately 119 acres of land adjacent to Kunia Road plus worker housing and office facilities. HARC, the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii, and the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii are interested in co-locating their operations at this site to share business-related resources and develop synergies and economies of scale. CTAHR is also interested in locating some of its programs at this site, including the Agribusiness Incubator Program currently housed at the Mānoa campus, the Poamoho Research Station, and some extension services. Large and small agribusinesses have also expressed interest in establishing long-term leases and locating and expanding their businesses at this location.

In the heart of Central O'ahu's agricultural lands, we can create a remarkable synergy by bringing together large and small agricultural businesses, public and private non-profit research programs, organizations that advocate for the agricultural community, and a business incubator dedicated to helping agribusiness ventures of all sizes establish and expand. Creating this agricultural business complex will facilitate close, sustained collaboration between researchers and outreach providers and the stakeholders they serve. Being closer and more accessible to our clients will promote greater interaction and more effective service, and developing demonstration plantings that are easy for our clients to visit will expand opportunities for hands-on training.

Locating the Agribusiness Incubator Program at this agricultural business complex will make it easier for start-ups and established businesses to benefit from consulting and product development services they might not otherwise be able to access. The National Business Incubator Association reports that 87 percent of enterprises developed in an incubator environment survive their first five years, compared with only 25 percent of those developed without the benefits of incubation.

The current site of the Poamoho Research Station is less suitable than the proposed new site for agricultural research activities. The disadvantages of the current site include vulnerability to fire and agricultural theft, each of which can destroy years of research in a few minutes. Much of the station's acreage was burned by brushfires in fall 2007, and the highway that bisects the station makes it easier for thieves to gain access. Irrigation costs at the current site are also high.

CTAHR researchers and extension faculty, their colleagues at HARC, and their cooperators in industry all stand to gain from co-locating. The resulting agricultural advances and the development of new entrepreneurial businesses will also help our economy and environment. As our state's most populous island, O'ahu faces considerable demographic pressure to build housing on usable, undeveloped land. High land values coupled with the decline of the sugarcane and pineapple industries have put many thousands of acres of O'ahu's important agricultural lands at risk. Keeping these lands in farming will encourage the continued growth of a diverse agriculture in Hawaii. By producing food near our state's largest market for agricultural products and minimizing the fuel needed to transport that food to consumers, Hawai'i agriculture—and O'ahu agriculture in particular—contributes to greater food security and sustainability. The development of bioenergy resources holds promise for decreasing our reliance on costly imported petroleum and lessening our greenhouse gas emissions. I believe that the scientific and commercial opportunities made possible by HB 3309 will benefit not only O'ahu but all of Hawai'i.

For these reasons, we strongly support HB 3309 with the amendments proposed above.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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February 6, 2008

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**HB 3309**

**RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committees:

My name is Alan Takemoto and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

The Farm Bureau supports HB 3309, which makes an appropriation to CTAHR to move its agricultural business incubator, its Poamoho field station, and other needs. The HARC is planning to purchase or lease the land that is the former Delmonte worker and industrial site in Kunia, Oahu. The discussion is that HARC will partner with several organizations including CTAHR to accommodate their needs. Farm Bureau also is seriously looking at moving its offices to this area as well. This area has great potential to satisfy a large portion of our office space, ag worker housing, processing facilities and industrial needs. The infrastructure is invaluable as we can utilize the existing structures and housing for agricultural operations in the area.

Thank you for allowing us to testify in support of this measure.



## 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 HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE

#### HOUSE BILL 3309

#### RELATING TO UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

February 6, 2008

Chairman Tsuji and Members of your committee:

**HARC strongly supports of House Bill 3309 Relating to University of Hawaii but requests the language be amended by modifying the 2 paragraphs beginning on page 3 line 16 through page 4 line 4 with the following:**

The legislature finds that the acquisition of the subject land for usage by synergies provided by the above mentioned programs of the University of Hawaii, college of tropical agriculture and human resources co-locating at the Kunia site will further the State's responsibility to promote diversified agriculture and increased agricultural self- sufficiency.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State Hawaii'i he sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009 for the acquisition of agricultural land and related improvements of use to cover the expenses incurred by the University of Hawaii'i, college of tropical agriculture and human resources to move the Agribusiness Incubator and Poamoho Station projects and personnel to the Kunia site.

As indicated in the proposed bill a significant opportunity has been provided to HARC regarding the Del Monte village which includes agricultural worker rental housing and industrial facilities. (see attached map) on over 100 acres of land. There is over 11,000 sq ft of existing administration space in one of the buildings and several agricultural support organizations have already committed to co-locate in this facility. There are several acres surrounding this property on which to co-locate CTAHRs field support functions for the agricultural incubator and its experimental farm. The funds are to support some renovation of the facilities, moving personnel and field preparation and security.

This is a rare opportunity which develop suddenly. **We urge you to pass House Bill 3309** with the suggested amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawaii  
Crop  
Improvement  
Association

Sarah Styan, President  
P.O. Box 609  
Waimea, Hawaii 96796  
Phone: 808- 338-8300 ext 113

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Testimony by: Sarah Styan  
HB 3309, University of Hawaii  
House AGR Committee  
Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2007  
Room 325: 8:30 am

Position: Strong Support, Support HARC proposed amendments

Chair Tsuji, and Members of the House AGR Committee:

My name is Sarah Styan. I am a Kauai resident, President of HCIA and research scientist of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Waimea Research Station. The HCIA represents seed production and research facilities operating in Hawaii for nearly 40 years. The HCIA is comprised of five member companies that farm an estimated 8,000 acres on four islands, valued at \$97.6 million in operating budget (2006/2007 HASS). We are proud members of Hawaii's diversified agriculture and life sciences industries.

HCIA strongly supports this measure that recognizes the rare opportunity for multiple agencies (HFBF, HARC, ALFH, UH-CTAHR and Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii) to not only work together, but co-locate their operations at the proposed site. This synergy will assist, and create new opportunities for the growth of Hawaii agriculture. The co-location of CTAHR's field support functions for the agricultural incubator and moving its Poamoho station to that area makes sense, as the former Del Monte lands are the most fertile agricultural lands on Oahu. The support of this endeavor does much to preserve agricultural lands on Oahu.

Please seize the opportunity and support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



**From:** Karen Chun [karen@MauiPaddle.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 04, 2008 1:42 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on HB 3309

To: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Re: HB 3309  
From: Karen Chun, 87 Lae St. Paia 96779

Please amend this bill to restrict use of this land so that:

This land may not be used for genetically modified seeds or plants nor for projects whose result may be to patent taro or other traditional Hawaiian plants.