



# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
Senate Committee on Education  
March 14, 2008, at 2:00 p.m.

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

### **HB 3309 HD1 RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII**

Chair Tokuda, Chair Sakamoto, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawaii'i supports House Bill 3309, HD1, which makes an appropriation to the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to move the Agribusiness Incubator Program and Poamoho Research Station projects and personnel to a site in Kunia.

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, HD1 will benefit not only O'ahu but all of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
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TESTIMONY OF ALFREDO LEE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON  
AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
AND  
EDUCATION

Friday, March 14, 2008  
2:00 p.m.  
Room 225

HOUSE BILL 3309, H.D. 1  
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairpersons Tokuda and Sakamoto, and Members of the Committees:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports this bill; however we have concerns about the possible budgetary impact this bill may have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

The ADC operates the Waiahole Water System nearby and is very familiar with the Kunia area. We recognize that this bill would allow the stakeholders affected by this bill to set up operations in proximity to each other, therefore creating mutual support and synergy.

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

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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
AND  
EDUCATION  
FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2008  
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ROOM 225

HOUSE BILL NO. 3309, H.D. 1  
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

Chairpersons Tokuda and Sakamoto and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 3309, H.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to make an appropriation to the college of tropical agriculture and human resources to move the agribusiness incubator and Poamoho station projects and personnel to a site in Kunia. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports this bill; however, we have concerns about the possible adverse budgetary impact that this bill may have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

The co-location of the agribusiness incubator, Poamoho station projects and personnel in close proximity to the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, the Agricultural Leadership Foundation of Hawaii, the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii, and established and start-up agriculture based businesses will bring together a critical mass of organizations dedicated to the protection and improvement of agriculture in Hawaii. We believe the synergy created at the site will result in new ideas that are developed and implemented at a faster rate and look forward to the beginning of combined operations at the Kunia site.



# Food Company Hawaii

1116 Whitmore Avenue Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786

March 14, 2008

To: Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Honorable Norman Sakamoto, Chair  
Senate Committee on Education

From: Dan Nellis, Operations Manager  
Dole Food Company Hawaii

**RE: HB 3309, HD1, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII—SUPPORT  
March 14, 2008, 2 PM, Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in support HB 3309, HD1, Relating to the University of Hawaii.

The purpose of this bill is to establish an agriculture and business complex to co-locate Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH-CTAHR) operations into one area.

Although we have enjoyed having UH-CTAHR as a neighbor to Dole at their Poamoho facility, we support this move to consolidate its operations along with the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the Agricultural Leadership Foundations of Hawaii, and the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii at the Kunia location. The move is expected to better support diversified agriculture on Oahu, which we support.

Dole is fortunate to enjoy continuous agricultural operations in Hawai'i for more than 100 years. At one point in our history, we were one of the largest sugar growers in the state. Today, Dole is one of this state's largest pineapple growers. We also farm coffee and cacao on our properties and lease much of our land to diversified agriculture farmers. We know the importance of supporting more diversified agriculture in this state.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge your passage of HB 3309, HD1. As always, we are grateful for the opportunity to share our views with you.