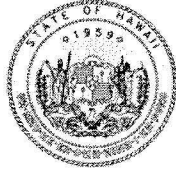


LINDA LINGLE
Governor



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**

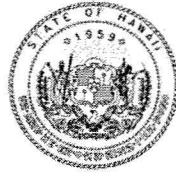
**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
FEBRUARY 12, 2008
2:15 P.M.**

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

Chairperson Chang and Members of the Committee:

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 the intent of this measure provided that it does not displace or adversely affect the priorities of the Executive Biennium budget.

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.



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

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF ALFREDO LEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
HIGHER EDUCATION

February 12, 2008
2:15 p.m.

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

Chairperson Chang and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 3309 H.D. 1. 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 proximity to each other, therefore creating mutual support and synergy. The 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 leaders in the industry to work more closely together toward the future of diversified agriculture on this centrally located prime agricultural land on Hawaii's most populated island.

Thank you for considering our comments on this bill.

**Hawaii
Crop
Improvement
Association**

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

Testimony by: Sarah Styan
HB 3309hd1, University of Hawaii
House HED Committee
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2007
Room 309: 2:15 pm

Position: Strong Support

Chair Chang, and Members of the House HED 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.



Food Company Hawaii

1116 Whitmore Avenue Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786

February 12, 2008

Honorable Jerry Chang, Chair, Committee on Higher Education
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 309
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 3309, HD1, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII-SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

I am Dan Nellis, Operations Director of Dole Food Company Hawaii ("Dole"). 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.

Sincerely,

Dan Nellis
Operations Manager, Dole Food Company Hawaii