
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CONVENING OF A WORKING GROUP TO REVIEW THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE CORPORATION'S EFFICIENCY AND PROGRAMS TO BETTER ADDRESS CURRENT AND FUTURE AGRICULTURAL ISSUES.

1 WHEREAS, the Agribusiness Development Corporation was
2 established by the Legislature in 1994 to facilitate the
3 transition of Hawaii's agriculture industry base from sugar and
4 pineapple plantations to a diversity of crops; and
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6 WHEREAS, the Agribusiness Development Corporation is
7 administratively attached to the Department of Agriculture and
8 bridges the void between the public and private sectors to
9 address complex agricultural issues; and
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11 WHEREAS, the mission of the Agribusiness Development
12 Corporation is to partner with farmers, ranchers, and
13 aquaculture groups to acquire and manage high-value lands, water
14 systems and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use, and
15 to direct research into areas that will lead to the development
16 of new crops, markets, and lower production costs; and
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18 WHEREAS, since the inception of the Agribusiness
19 Development Corporation, Hawaii's agriculture industry has
20 evolved tremendously and new agribusiness operations and other
21 industries have recently been established on former plantation
22 lands; and
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24 WHEREAS, the Agribusiness Development Corporation has the
25 ability to streamline the process of government to address
26 critical bottlenecks in various agricultural projects; and
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28 WHEREAS, there is a need to review and assess the
29 performance of the Agribusiness Development Corporation and
30 whether it is meeting the present and future needs of the
31 agricultural industry; now, therefore,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-sixth
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2011,
3 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to convene a
4 working group to review the duties and responsibilities of the
5 Agribusiness Development Corporation and make recommendations
6 regarding the Agribusiness Development Corporation's programs
7 and budget priorities; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group consist of:

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11 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the
12 Chairperson's designee, who shall serve as the Chair;
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14 (2) The Director of Business, Economic Development, and
15 Tourism, or the Director's designee;
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17 (3) The Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and
18 Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa,
19 or the Dean's designee;
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21 (4) The Executive Director of the Hawaii Community
22 Development Authority, or the Executive Director's
23 designee;
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25 (5) The Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau
26 Federation, or the Executive Director's designee;
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28 (6) One member who has experience in marketing of
29 agricultural products;
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31 (7) One member who has experience in agricultural loans
32 and financing;
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34 (8) One member who has experience in the transportation of
35 agricultural products;
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37 (9) One member who has experience in agricultural
38 processing facilities;
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40 (10) One member who has experience in development and
41 management of water irrigation systems; and
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43 (11) One member who has experience in agricultural land
44 planning, development, and management; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to review and assess the duties, responsibilities, and performance of the Agribusiness Development Corporation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group address and recommend improvements to programs that would increase and enhance the efficiency of the Agribusiness Development Corporation in addressing current and future agricultural issues; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture is requested to report the working group's findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Reference Bureau is requested to assist the working group with drafting legislation, if any, that the working group deems necessary; provided that the working group submits a draft of its proposals to the Legislative Reference Bureau no later than November 1, 2011; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Executive Director of the Hawaii Community Development Authority, and Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

