

**SCR 71/SR 44**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



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

RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI  
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE COMMITTEES ON  
AGRICULTURE  
AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

**LATE**

MARCH 31, 2011  
2:55 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71/SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44  
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.

Chairpersons Nishihara and Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 71/Senate Resolution No. 44. The purpose of this resolution is to assess and make recommendations to improve the ability of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to better address current and future agricultural issues. The Department supports the measure and offers the following comments.

The key components to ensure better success for the agriculture industry in general, including defining the role and responsibilities of ADC, is the appropriate use of agricultural lands and irrigation water. Should this resolution move forward, the department respectfully recommends that two additional members be added to the working group. The first is a member who has experience in the development and management of irrigation water systems, and the second is a member who has experience in agricultural land planning, development, and management. We believe the addition of these members would produce a well rounded group, capable of adequately addressing all aspects of the ADC's functions.



TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
HCR NO. 83  
MARCH 11, 2011, 11:30 A.M.  
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
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

**LATE**

TESTIMONY OF ALFREDO LEE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE  
COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Thursday, March 31, 2011  
2:55 p.m.  
Conference Room 229

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 71/  
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 44  
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

Chair Nishihara, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on S.C.R. No. 71 / S.R. No. 44. Since its establishment by the legislature in 1994, due to limited personnel and resources, the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) has had to selectively focus its priorities in order to achieve results. For this reason, ADC has been primarily engaged in partnering with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups to acquire and manage high-value lands, water systems and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use.

With a small staff of four, ADC currently manages about 18,000 acres of prime agricultural land on Kauai, to include water systems and related infrastructure.

ADC's Waiahole Water System provides about 6 MGD of water to 5,600 acres of agricultural land in Central Oahu. For future projects, we are working to acquire water tunnel sources to increase availability of water to farmers in the Kau district on the Big Island. We are also working with the Trust for Public Land to acquire the remaining Galbraith estate of approximately 1,200 acres on Oahu, in order to conserve and protect important agricultural land from urban sprawl.

As ADC continues to evolve in the face of these difficult economic times, we welcome the opportunity to receive advice and support from the leaders and stakeholders in the local agricultural industry and community to help further enhance our mission. However, we hope it is understood that in order for ADC to successfully function beyond its current scope and capacity, additional staffing and resources are essential.

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi  
Acting Director

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**LATE**



LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania Street, Room 446  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Written Comments

**SCR71**  
**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**

Comments by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Economic Development and  
Technology

Thursday, March 31, 2011, 2:55 pm  
Conference Room 229

Chairs Nishihara and Fukunaga and Members of the Committees:

I am Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. The Bureau appreciates this opportunity to submit the following written comments on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 71:

S.C.R. No. 71, among other things requests the Department of Agriculture to convene a working group to review the duties and responsibilities of the Agribusiness Development Corporation and make recommendations regarding the Agribusiness Development Corporation's programs and budget priorities.

The measure also requests that the Legislative Reference Bureau assist the working group with drafting legislation, if any, that the working group deems necessary.

The Bureau takes no position on the merits of the measure, but notes that, as the measure is presently drafted, the functions required of the Bureau appear to be manageable and we would undertake them to the best of our ability.

Honorable Clarence Nishihara  
Honorable Carol Fukunaga  
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However, to minimize interference with our heaviest bill drafting period in the run-up to the start of session and to ensure that the legislation will be submitted to the Legislature in a timely manner, we respectfully request that the measure be amended to direct the working group to transmit a draft of its proposed legislation to the Bureau no later than November 1, 2011.

Thank you again for allowing us to comment on this measure.



**Hawaii Farm Bureau**  
F E D E R A T I O N

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March 31,2011

**TESTIMONY**

**Re: SCR71/SR44:** 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.

Chair Nishihara, Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of commercial farm and ranch families and organizations in the State we support SCR71/SR44 reviewing the role of the Agribusiness Development Corporation(ADC) in the future of Hawaii's agriculture.

ADC was established in 1994 as sugar and pineapple operations closed down. The business climate and the condition of the State Budget was very different. Agriculture today, compared to 1994, faces increased challenges including outlook of the local and global economy, labor, regulatory climate, and technical support. With the new Administration and budgetary constraints, it makes sense to have a systematic review of the roles that the Department of Agriculture and ADC will have in Hawaii's agricultural future. A collaborative effort that identifies the roles each can best play, and their relationship with DBEDT , UHCTAHR and other agencies is important.

HFBF generally is against unfunded mandates placed on the Department of Agriculture at this time due to their reduced staffing and expanding responsibilities. However, we feel the review recommended makes sense. As lead, HDOA can best provide the background and information regarding complementary responsibilities.

HFBF respectfully requests this measure pass as written. We appreciate this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.



# LATE



## **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM** Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on Agriculture/Economic Development and Technology  
Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 2:55pm  
Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor

By  
Sylvia Yuen  
Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR71/SR44, 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

Chairs Nishihara and Fukunaga and members of the committees on Agriculture and Economic Development and Technology, thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR71/SR44, which requests 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.

Seventeen years ago when the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC ) was established, Hawaii's agriculture was transitioning from sugar and pineapple plantations to diversified crops. The transition has been virtually completed, and there are, perhaps, more opportunities and challenges facing agricultural operations today. Within this context, the ADC can play a critical role in advancing Hawaii's agriculture, particularly in serving as the interface between public and private sectors, streamlining processes within the government to achieve positive agricultural outcomes, and identifying how current and future agricultural issues can be more effectively addressed.

CTAHR supports the intent of SCR71/SR44 and will be pleased to participate on the working group as called for in these resolutions.