

SCR 171/SR 101

Testimony



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 JAMES NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

Tuesday, March 27, 2012
2:50 p.m.
Conference Room 229

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 171/SR 101
REQUESTING THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO
ACQUIRE LAND FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO ITS INFRASTRUCTURE
NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE ITS MISSION

Chairpersons Nishihara and Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on S.C.R. No. 171/S.R. 101. The purpose of this resolution is to look into the feasibility of acquiring land located at Tax Map Key 74012016 which is adjacent to farmlands and is within close proximity to Agribusiness Development Corporation-owned and Agribusiness Development Corporation-leased farmlands.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation strongly supports this resolution.

The location at Tax Map Key 74012016 in Wahiawa, near adjacent farmlands offers many possibilities to enhance the economic viability of the agricultural community. Some possibilities may include a certified kitchen and/or a food processing facility which will allow the farming community to process added value products. Another possibility is the creation of a market place for vendors to sell their

produce which will directly benefit the growers as well as stimulate business in the area.

For example, in Waipahu there is a fledgling open market which attracts many vendors and shoppers especially on the weekends, in a part of town which was once considered a dead zone. The possibilities are numerous to help grow agriculture in Wahiawa. The land acquisition at Tax Map Key 74012016 will allow Agribusiness Development Corporation to improve infrastructure necessary to achieve its mission.

Thank you.



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

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

March 27, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

TESTIMONY ON SCR 171/ SR 101
REQUESTING THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO ACQUIRE
LAND FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO ITS INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO
ACHIEVE ITS MISSION

Room 229
2:50 PM

Chair Nishihara, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF is in strong support of SCR 171/SR 101, requesting the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) acquire land to improve their infrastructure necessary to achieve their mission.

ADC was initiated by the agricultural industry as the closure of plantations escalated and there was a need to identify mechanisms that could quickly place farmers on lands that were destined to be idle.

HFBF believes that ADC has a tremendous amount of power and has a responsibility in continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

We respectfully request your strong support of SCR 171/SR 101.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.