



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

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April 19, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 67 SD1
RECOGNIZING THE HAWAII AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER FOR ITS
BENEFITS TO THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY AND URGING THE HAWAII
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER TO ESTABLISH THE PROPOSED KUNIA
AGRICULTURE PROCESSING AND SALES CENTER

Room 224
10:30 AM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, 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 67 SD1 which supports the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center's (HARC) establishment of the Kunia Agriculture Processing and Sales Center.

HARC has done tremendous research work for coffee, papaya, sugarcane, forestry, and is continuing to bring in new agricultural business to the state. They play a critical role in furthering the development of diversified agriculture. They also offer important and valuable historic information (i.e. soil conditions, rainfall, infrastructure, etc...) on the growing conditions of former sugarcane lands, which has shown positive effects for the production of new crops. As a private entity, HARC can move quickly on various research projects that are critical to many agribusinesses. It is important for the agricultural industry to have access to a private research organization in Hawaii to service their needs.

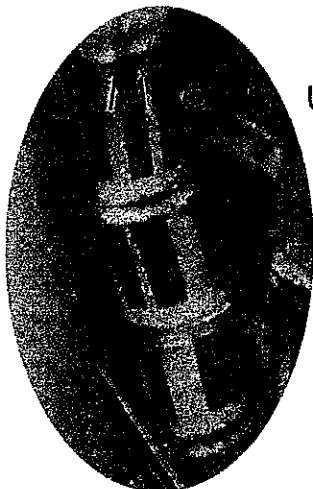
In today's world, our economy has become so globalized that it has changed the way we are able to process or manufacture products. Agriculture is no different as it has become difficult to process our own raw agricultural crops into value added products. If a Hawaii farmer wants to process his product into a higher value added product, he is

often times forced to send it to the mainland as we lack the facilities to handle all types and quantities. The other challenge is the cost of transportation that often times discourage farmers to venture into this area.

Hawaii is losing millions of dollars as we lack the ability to process our own agricultural products. We need to be creative and find our niche market as it is difficult to compete with the global economy. An agricultural processing facility in Kunia will provide the farmers an opportunity to establish another market for their product.

The development of the Kunia Agriculture Processing and Sales Center is consistent with HARC's long term vision for their facility. HFBB strongly supports this resolution.

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



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SCR 67,SD1

Recognizing the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center for its Benefits to the Agriculture Industry and Urging the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center to Establish the Proposed Kunia Agriculture Processing and Sales Center

Date April 18, 2012

Chairman Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

My name is Robert Dawson, and I am a founding member of Manulele Holdings, LLC. I wish give my strong support to SCR 67 SD1 in recognizing the efforts of the Hawaii Agricultural Research Center (HARC) in their efforts to revitalize the rural economy within the Kunia Village plantation site.

Manulele Holdings, LLC is the parent company of Manulele Distillers, LLC, Manulele Farms, LLC, and Manulele Foods & Products, LLC. Together, these companies will produce distilled spirits and food products in a farm-to-bottle operation within the proposed location. We currently manage a two acre sugar cane farm in Kunia and employ farmers in Waialua where we grow an additional 10 acres for our production. We are in negotiation with additional farmers in Kunia to expand our operations with another 5-10 acres. The Kunia Agricultural Processing and Sales Center will allow our company to rapidly grow our operations through a direct retail channel in an historically relevant location on Oahu whereby we will employ not only additional agricultural workers, but also retail staff and managers.

The fine work being done by Jason Brand at Kunia Country Farms aquaponics facility further expands the interest in farm-to-table agri-tourism opportunities.

Thank you for the opportunity to give my support to SCR 67 SD1.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Dawson



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SCR 67,SD1

Recognizing the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center for its Benefits to the Agriculture Industry and Urging the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center to Establish the Proposed Kunia Agriculture Processing and Sales Center

Date April 19, 2012

Chairman Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center.

HARC strongly supports for SCR 67 SD1 recognizing the Center for its efforts to support agriculture through the development of an agriculture processing and sales center in Kunia Village.

We are truly excited about the development of this agricultural infrastructure. This could only be materializing because of the partnership we are forming with Pacific Gateway Center and visionary producers, Jason Brand and Robert Dawson.

Campbell Estate generously provided the Del Monte Kunia Village plantation site to HARC to maintain as infrastructure for agriculture on Oahu. HARC, a non-profit, has struggled with the enormous financial burden/opportunity that this property poses.

For the housing portion of this property it has partnered with the Rural Community Assistance Corporation, a partner that works with community to support development. Through its efforts it has been awarded USDA-Rural Development Agricultural Worker Housing loans and is waiting on the results of its application of low income housing tax credits from the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.

For the business portion of this property several agricultural companies seeking security in long term leases have stepped up to renovated the agricultural accessory structures on the property. The retail store presents its own unique challenges; it is part of the historic character of the property and the demographics do not support its past use.

Pacific Gateway Center is incubating several small farmers on adjacent land who will need a food safety certified processing facility as does Jason Brand who is located next to the store; Robert Dawson wants to process his product in conjunction with a retail outlet, the store. Combining these needs into a processing and sales center will establish a viable use for this structure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 67 SD1.

**PACIFIC GATEWAY CENTER****TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE****SCR 67,SD1****Recognizing the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center for its Benefits to the Agriculture Industry and Urging the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center to Establish the Proposed Kunia Agriculture Processing and Sales Center****Date April 19, 2012**

Chairman Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

My name is Tin Myaing Thein. I am Executive Director of the Pacific Gateway Center.(PGC). I am testifying today on behalf of the Center.

PGC strongly supports for SCR 67 SD1 recognizing that to support agriculture is through infrastructure such as the development of an agriculture processing and sales center in Kunia Village.

We are appreciate the planning strategy about the development of this agricultural infrastructure. This is a partnership formed with Pacific Gateway Center and visionary producers, Jason Brand and Robert Dawson.

Several agricultural companies seeking security in long term leases have stepped up to renovated the agricultural accessory structures on the property. The retail store presents its own unique challenges; it is part of the historic character of the property and the demographics do not support its past use.

Pacific Gateway Center is incubating several small farmers on adjacent land who will need a food safety certified processing facility as does Jason Brand who is located next to the store; Robert Dawson wants to process his product in conjunction with a retail outlet, the store. Combining these needs into a processing and sales center will establish a viable use for this structure.

PGC is a non-profit organization that assist low income residents of Hawaii, a segment of whom are farmers. We urge you to support this initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 67 SD1.