

HB487SD1

Testimony



STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
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BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, March 19, 2013
2:45 p.m.
Conference Room 229

HOUSE BILL NO. 487, HD2, Proposed SD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 747, HD2, Proposed SD1. Part II of this bill authorizes the department of agriculture (HDOA) to dispose of lands and negotiate and enter into leases with the agribusiness development corporation (ADC). The bill also exempts non-agricultural parks lands disposed to ADC from section 166-8(b) (2) and (5), HRS. ADC supports Part II of this bill.

ADC's mission is to create a vehicle and process to make optimal use of agricultural assets such as land and infrastructure. This bill seeks to allow HDOA to lease lands under its control to ADC for the purpose of administering a cooperative and comprehensive agribusiness development program to provide options for farmers to access land, help create jobs in the agricultural industry, and reduce our state's dependence on imported foods.

While ADC supports any measure that can enhance the State's agricultural production, we defer to HDOA with regards to the specifics of how this disposition provision would be set up.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.