



## *Hawaii's Thousand Friends*

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February 21, 2013

### COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator David Ige, Chair

Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice-Chair

SB 715 SD1

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Committee Chair and members;

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a statewide land and water advocacy organization, opposes SB 715 SD1 that exempts non-agricultural park lands leased to the agribusiness development corporation from HRS 166E-8, under certain conditions.

The Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) was created in 1994 by the legislature in reaction to the closing of sugar and pineapple plantations across the state. These closings were viewed as an opportunity for the conversion of agriculture into a dynamic growth industry. The estimated seventy-five thousand acres of agricultural lands and fifty million gallons per day of irrigation water would be released from plantation operations. The valuable arable land, along with supporting infrastructure, including irrigation systems, roads, drainage systems, processing facilities, and warehouses, was viewed as a windfall and a challenge to both the public and private sector to conserve and convert all this land and infrastructure into smaller aggressive diversified agricultural enterprises.

To assist in this conversion, the Legislature established ADC with the responsibilities of transitioning plantation operations into new diversified agricultural enterprises. Given the extraordinary powers ADC has faltered and never achieved the goals of transforming a plantation based agricultural industry into diversified agricultural enterprises.

With 92% of our food imported and up to 90% of the value of Hawaii's crop production exported it is safe to say that ADC has not met its mandate to create new diversified agricultural opportunities.

The Department of Agriculture has the same responsibilities, and more, than ADC, so is unclear why DOA needs or wants to lease lands under its control to ADC. If one of the reasons is to evade the disposition of public land through public auction of non-agricultural parks lands thus allowing, "deals" to be made then SB 715 SD1 is the going in the wrong direction than first envisioned for ADC.

Hawaii's State Constitution Article XI Section 3 states, "The State shall conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands..."

SB 715 SD1 does nothing to promote diversified agriculture or increase agricultural self-sufficiency. What SB 715 SD1 does do is increase the possibility of backroom deals i.e. no public auction of publically owned agricultural lands to large agribusinesses.

SB 715 SD1 is not in the public's best interest and should be held in committee.



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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 21, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alicia Morrier	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
April Lee	Individual	Oppose	No

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 21, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brad Parsons	Individual	Oppose	No

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 21, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Kong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: NO! to the PLDC in any form...

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Caki Kennedy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please stop trying to pull the wool over our eyes, OK?

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Bruch	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana G. Moss	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose lands being placed in the Agribusiness Development Corporation. This is the fore-runner of the PLDC on Kaua`i. It has leased out the lands to the gmo industry who are insensitive and impervious to the needs and interests of the people of Kaua`i. They seem to be above the law and poison our lands. They make no effort to listen to the strident voice of the people who feel abused by the land use. We need to move away from this vehicle for land management, not increase their power.

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
G. Pedro Tama	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 21, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Murray	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonathan R Cole	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: No, No, No!!!!

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Horn	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 21, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerri Marks	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 21, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Andrews	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Repeal the PLDC in all it's forms. Mahalo nui loa.

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 21, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mitsuko Hayakawa	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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WAM 211 Feb 21, 2013 9:15 AM

RE: SB715

Position oppose

Testimony of Puna Pono Alliance

Aloha Senator David Y. Ige, Chair, Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice-Chair, and committee members

Puna Pono Alliance opposes SB715. The bill appears to copy some aspects of the PLDC.

Specifically do we need a private corporation to lease our agricultural and park lands for us?

Could public park lands be taken away by the corporation and if so would the public have a voice and be able to participate in the process?

Will the qualification requirements leave Hawaii's small farmers out in the cold? We are concerned SB715 will end up favoring national and international farming corporations like Monsanto or DOW chemical and other giants that are looking to exploit our lands for short term gains. In the past the large farms/plantations like sugar and pineapple have contaminated our aquifers, soiled our reefs, and led to situations like the high levels of Heptaclor we saw in our milk supply.

These new giants of farming industry dwarf the old plantations in size and special interest lobbyist, and potential to permanently damage our and and environment. That makes for a dangerous situation when considering a land development corporation driven by profit. Their should be more regulation than in the past, not less. We need to learn from the past degradation of our environment and protect our remaining precious water, land, and ocean resources from exploitation and contamination. We are still dealing with the impacts of sugar and pineapple, lets not repeat those same or make even worse mistakes.

We worry this private corporations will profit at the expense of our environment and smaller local farmers, particularly the highly prized organic producers, that can not compete with the giant international corporate farms. Will we lose even more of our small farmers? Will this strengthen our food security or drive even more small farmers away from farming?

Will we see still more long term negative impacts from the Agribusiness Development Corporation promoting mono cropping and or GMO crops? Will there be further contamination of our environment and traditional farms, or organic crops? Those are questions and concerns that should be addressed.

Thank you for your consideration

Robert Petricci  
President Puna Pono Alliance

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 21, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Scarr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please get rid of the PLDC and any entity that smells like it.

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	No

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sherrian witt	Individual	Oppose	No

**Comments:**

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**SB715**

Submitted on: 2/21/2013

Testimony for WAM on Feb 21, 2013 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Withington	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Repeal PLDC all the way. No more fixes.

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