

SB 754

Testimony

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, February 12, 2013
2:55 p.m.
Conference Room 229

SENATE BILL NO. 754
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LAND ACQUISITION

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 754. This bill makes an appropriation for the agribusiness development corporation (ADC) to purchase agricultural land. ADC supports the intent of this bill.

ADC's primary mission is to transition former plantation land and water systems for diversified agriculture. Dole Foods Company has recently announced that it plans to sell over 16,000-acres of agricultural lands in Central Oahu and North Shore. Funding from this bill would go towards acquiring these lands to ensure that it is kept in agriculture for perpetuity. In addition, ADC can provide opportunities for farmers to access agricultural land by offering a long term lease through its licensing process pursuant to chapter 163D. The ability to enter a long term lease allows the farmer to obtain the necessary capital to make investments and achieve the

economies of scale. In addition, ADC's comprehensive plan that leverages existing infrastructure and proximity to resources such as support services and workforce housing, can drastically reduce the overhead cost for the farmer and provide greater opportunities for the integration and development of new and diversified agricultural products.

ADC wants to emphasize the necessity of acquiring arable lands for agricultural operations. While some initial steps have been taken towards acquiring the Dole properties for agricultural uses, it is simply not enough to satisfy the growing demand.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB754 on Feb 12, 2013 14:55PM*
Date: Saturday, February 09, 2013 7:58:43 AM

SB754

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for AGL on Feb 12, 2013 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB754 on Feb 12, 2013 14:55PM
Date: Friday, February 08, 2013 1:19:29 PM

SB754

Submitted on: 2/8/2013

Testimony for AGL on Feb 12, 2013 14:55PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine D.	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Surely this bill has a typo: it should read 'lease' or 'rent' because most of the Ag Lands are former Government Lands or Crown. Since you left the specific TMK #'s out of this bill, how will you determine the lands' legal status? This bill blankets all lands as acceptable purchases. That is unacceptable. What is even more UNacceptable is that these lands are intended for GMO field laboratories.

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