



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 WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, February 20, 2014  
9:05 a.m.  
Conference Room 211

SENATE BILL NO. 2400, SD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2400, SD1. The purpose of this bill is to create new economic opportunities, and to sustain and enhance Hawaii's diversified agriculture industry through agribusiness development. In coordination with College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources extension services, this program could potentially help farmers discover microclimate crops for each region and pinpoint how much yield is needed to process each crop into value-added products. By identifying individual niche crops, essentially, this program will provide farmers with long-term career opportunities. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports the intent of this bill.

ADC mission is to acquire, and manage in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups, selected high-value lands, water systems, and infrastructure

for commercial agricultural use and to direct research into areas that will lead to the development of new crops, markets, and lower production costs.

The recent acquisition of 1,723-acres of Galbraith land in Wahiawa, ADC has been overwhelmed by interested farmers and ranchers seeking land for agricultural operations. A coordinated plan to provide research, educational opportunities, services and resources to assist new and existing agricultural businesses to thrive and grow will be helpful to building a sustainable farming system.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Comments to the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 9:05 am

by  
Maria Gallo, Dean  
and

J. Kenneth Grace, Interim Associate Dean for Research  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 2400 SD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for this opportunity to comment on SB 2400 SD1.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) have previously provided testimony in support of SB 2400. We support this interagency planning activity and will assist to the best of our abilities. As no funds are currently provided for the planning activity, and the lands in question are under the direct management of the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) and the Department of Agriculture (DOA), we ask that these agencies chair the interagency effort and absorb any planning costs.

We see a strong role for CTAHR in providing extension services to tenants as well as conducting relevant research to maximize the potential of this agricultural resource for the people of Hawai'i. Our ability to implement any additional assistance program for the lands managed by ADC and DOA, beyond the support and training that we provide to all agricultural producers in the State of Hawai'i, will be dependent upon the existence of personnel and resources required for such implementation.

We are pleased to participate in this important effort.



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February 20, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAY AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2400, SD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211  
9:05 AM

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,832 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 supports SB 2400** which creates a partnership between the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to develop a new farmer program. This measure also directs the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and ADC to develop a coordinated strategy for state leases for all size farmers and to maximize the use of the State's agricultural assets to support new and specialty crops.

We applaud the initiative taken by the introducers of this bill to provide research, including crop, market and human resource capacity, educational opportunities, services, and other resources to assist new and existing agricultural businesses to thrive and grow.

CTAHR has a century-long history of supporting agriculture in Hawaii, caring for the environment and enhancing and sustaining ecosystems. CTAHR's scientific community has been crucial to the development of the agricultural sector. We believe that CTAHR's mandate to engage in research, instruction, and outreach plays a vital role in the success of Hawaii's agricultural industry.

We support this partnership between CTAHR, HDOA, and ADC which we believe will teach people interested in a farming and ranching career how to grow, raise, process, capital management, land management, and other components to successfully operate a farming or ranching business. It is important for social, economic and environmental sustainability. This model can later be applied on other agriculture regions throughout Hawaii.

**Please support HB2400 SD1.** Thank you.



February 18, 2014

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

***Re: Supporting Testimony to SB2400 SD1 RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT***

Dear Chair Ige and Committee Members:

This testimony is to provide the support of the Wahiawa Community and Business Association (WCBA) to this bill.

The WCBA is Wahiawa's oldest community association. For over 76 years it has stood for keeping the lands between the Ko'olau and Waianae range from Wahiawa to the North Shore in agriculture.

The UH College of Tropical Agriculture is a world-class institution. The WCBA supports the provision to provide technical support to new and existing farmers to improve productivity, grow crops and raise livestock to meet current and emerging market needs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Benavitz Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Walter R. Benavitz Jr.  
WCBA Government Action Committee Chair

Wahiawa Community & Business Association  
P. O. 861408  
Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786



**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [margaretwille@mac.com](mailto:margaretwille@mac.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2400 on Feb 20, 2014 09:05AM  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 4:43:03 PM

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**SB2400**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2014 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mar	Hawaii County Council District 9	Oppose	Yes

Comments: RE: SB2400 I oppose putting land into these development corporations to be run by a few. Dean Maria Gallo is an advocate for gmo crop production -- and she and others involved are likely to cater to the biotech industry involvement in these "corporate" programs. Lack of Trust, to put it simply.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [alex.kanamu@gmail.com](mailto:alex.kanamu@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2400 on Feb 20, 2014 09:05AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 2:58:23 PM

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**SB2400**

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2014 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alex Kanamu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mendezj@hawaii.edu](mailto:mendezj@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2400 on Feb 20, 2014 09:05AM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 18, 2014 10:45:49 AM

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**SB2400**

Submitted on: 2/18/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 20, 2014 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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