

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

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Lt. Governor



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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 18, 2016
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2271
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2271 which establishes a grant program within Chapter 163D, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Department supports this administration bill.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation serves as the development arm of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and their ability to provide grants will enhance capabilities to expand Hawaii's agricultural economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. 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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 18, 2016
9:00 am
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2271
RELATIING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) strongly supports House Bill No. 2271 which establishes a grant program within Chapter 163D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to support Hawaii’s farms and emerging agribusiness operations.

The ADC is an agency attached to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture tasked with transitioning former plantation lands and water systems for diversified agriculture and providing solutions to certain bottleneck issues facing today’s agriculture industry.

Establishing a grant program under 163D HRS will give ADC the ability to provide capital to farmers and agribusiness operations for critical agriculture-related improvements such as modernizing and expanding existing agricultural

operations, which includes equipment modernization and/or replacement, infrastructure repairs, research and development of new markets and products, and technical training and educational services.

The ability to issue grants will not only allow the ADC to streamline its operations, it will: 1) provide the means to assist local farming operations; 2) make investments to strengthen and diversify Hawaii's agricultural; and 3) attract and retain businesses. In addition to providing ADC with another tool to help move agriculture forward, the ability to issue grants may help foster partnerships to facilitate ADC projects.

In regard to Section 1, subsection (e) on page 3, line 15, the ADC already has a self-imposed limit due to its limited amount of funds and cannot issue a grant it cannot sustain. Furthermore, a limit on the grant amount may limit or deter certain grant proposals. For these reason, the ADC request the removal of this provision to provide the grant program with more flexibility. We appreciate your consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 9:15 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2271 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM*

HB2271

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

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Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 312, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 2271 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** HB 2271, which establishes a grant program within chapter 163D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Chamber supports HB 2271, which establishes a grant program to provide grants to qualified farmers for certain farming activities. The decrease in direct Federal appropriations for agriculture has resulted in an increased level of dependence on grants. Many federal programs have turned into competitive grant programs. Access grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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February 18, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2271
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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.

HFB supports HB2271, which establishes an Agribusiness Development Corporation grant program.

ADC was initiated by the agricultural industry as the closure of plantations escalated and there was a need to identify mechanisms that could quickly place farmers on lands that were destined to be idle.

HFB believes that ADC has a tremendous amount of power and has a responsibility in continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to ADC grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.