

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 COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, March 1, 2016
1:30 p.m.

SENATE BILL NO. 2800
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director for the Agribusiness Development Corporation ("ADC"). The ADC strongly supports Senate Bill No. 2800 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.