

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**DOUGLAS S. CHIN**  
Lt. Governor



**JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

**TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**  
Thursday, February 22, 2018  
11:00 a.m.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2426 HD1**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”). The ADC supports House Bill No. 2426 HD1 which appropriates funds for the acquisition of high value farm land in west Kauai identified as Tax Map Key: (4) 1-2-006:009.

West Kauai’s dry climate and high sunlight has been known for producing very high-quality crops. Keeping high value agricultural lands in agriculture should be considered as a high priority because of the potential benefits it presents for Hawaii’s agriculture industry. Since land is a critical component in enhancing the State’s food security, obtaining agricultural lands may significantly increase the available agricultural land on Kauai for food production and may offer many possibilities to boost the economic viability of the west Kauai community and the entire agriculture industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your consideration of this bill.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**DOUGLAS S. CHIN**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
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 FINANCE**

**FEBRUARY 22, 2018  
11:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2426 HD1  
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2426 HD1, which appropriates funds for the acquisition of high value farm land in west Kauai identified as Tax Map Key: (4) 1-2-006:009. The Department of Agriculture supports this bill.

The Department supports the effort of the Agribusiness Development Corporation and the State in preserving agricultural lands for production. By dedicating resources to support acquisition of agricultural land, the State increases its local production and supports future sustainability for our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.





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February 22, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2426, HD1**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308  
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau is in support of HB 2426, HD 1**, which authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the acquisition of certain farm lands in west Kauai by the agribusiness development corporation.

HFB believes that in order for agriculture to flourish in Hawaii and reach their full potential, land availability and long-term leases at affordable and predictable lease rental rates are critical. The acquisition by the ADC of farm land in west Kauai will significantly increase the available agricultural land under the State's control and will provide farmers with long-term leases that will enhance the economic viability of Hawaii's agriculture industry.

We believe this is an opportunity to further support and expand the state's ability to provide agricultural lands for farmers, which is consistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-2426-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 10:15:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2426-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 9:16:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2018 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Thursday, February 22, 2018

11:00 AM

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2426 HD1 RELATING TO THE  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.  
CORPORATION. DEVELOPMENT

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

Good morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2426 HD1, relating to Agribusiness Development Corporation; Land Acquisition; GO Bonds; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in support of House Bill No. 2426 HD1 and supports its passage.

House Bill No. 2426 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH") as it authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the acquisition of certain farm lands in west Kauai by the agribusiness development corporation.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[a]griculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-78 (2016)).

"We support the designation of Important Agricultural Lands as a step towards preserving high-grade productive lands for current and future needs." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 109-110 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No.2426 HD1 authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the acquisition of certain farm lands in west Kauai by the agribusiness development corporation, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889



Hartung Brothers, Inc.

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February 20, 2018

Committee on Finance  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair  
State of Hawaii Legislature  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 2426 Relating to the Agribusiness  
Development Corporation

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Committee members:

On behalf of Hartung Brothers, and as a private citizen raised in Waimea, this is to provide testimony in **strong support** of HB2426, relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Our Company, Hartung Brothers Hawaii, is the current long-term lessee and active farmer of the agricultural lands identified in HB2426. As such we have a strong interest in ensuring that the lands remain in agriculture and, more broadly, that prime farmland is protected.

The agricultural lands between Waimea and Kekaha are an important part of the rural character of the west side of Kauai. Agriculture on the west side of Kauai is currently being revitalized and will provide an important engine of economic opportunity and growth for our youth. HB2426 will provide a path to help sustain that positive trajectory, secure the long-term future of agriculture in the area, and make additional, critical long-term investments possible.

Sincerely,

Joshua Uyehara

Vice President – General Manager, Hawaii Operations

A Family Owned Seed Company