

SB-2085

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Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Friday, February 2, 2018
1:15 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2085 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Good afternoon, 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 Senate Bill No. 2085, relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation Grant Program. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. 2085 and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. 2085, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes a grant program to be administered by the

agribusiness development corporation to provide financial support for agriculture-related improvements to existing and emerging farms and agribusiness operations.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, “Agriculture 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. . . .

To ensure wise use and equitable distribution of our precious water, we must stress water conservation and alternative patterns of water treatment and consumption such as the use of recycled water for irrigation water storage reservoirs, and the use of catchment systems by the public.

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and diversified local food production, and “Buy Local” strategies to assure greater food security and food safety.

We recognize the essential link between the availability of adequate and affordable water and low-cost electrical power as essential components of viable agricultural businesses.

We support land use planning and infrastructure development to support sustainable diversified agriculture, including low-cost inter-island transportation of agricultural products, We, likewise, support publicly funded research and development for agricultural diversification and value-added products.

We support the designation of Important Agricultural Lands as a step towards preserving high-grade production lands for current and future needs. (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-78, 93-110, (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. 2085 provides for the Agribusiness Development Corporation Grant Program, 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

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