

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

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 14, 2018  
8:30 a.m.

SENATE BILL NO. 3087 SD2  
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”). The ADC strongly supports Senate Bill No. 3087 SD2, which appropriates funds to the agribusiness development corporation to identify factors that affect the quality of local papaya and to develop and establish protocols to enhance the marketability of the Hawaiian papaya.

The papaya is one of the State’s most established and recognizable local agriculture export products. However, growing a fruit of superior appearance, flavor and texture is the simply first link in a chain of processes required to deliver the product to the consumer with the least amount of degradation. The post-growing activities of harvesting, processing, packaging and distributing must be coordinated to ensure the product reaches the consumer in optimal condition. Currently, the system to process and deliver papayas is not optimized and the product suffers. The ADC, in its role of developing agriculture initiatives, is uniquely positioned to take a comprehensive view of

the papaya delivery system and to identify either the appropriate technology or define the standards or protocols needed to support industry expansion and to assist in the implementation of the solution.

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

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**DOUGLAS S. CHIN**  
Lt. Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**MARCH 14, 2018  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 3087 SD2  
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 3087 SD2, which appropriates funds to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to identify factors that affect the quality of local papaya and to develop and establish protocols to enhance the marketability of the Hawaiian papaya. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The Department believes that the ADC has the ability to hedge private sector investments to develop technologies or standards and protocols to support the marketability expansion of Hawaiian papaya. Providing post-harvesting and processing technologies will directly support the papaya industry in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i  
Office of the Mayor

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March 12, 2018

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair  
Committee on Agriculture  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 312  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Creagan and Committee Members:

**Re: SB 3087, SD 2 Relating to Assisting the Papaya Industry**  
**Hearing Date: 03-14-18 – 8:30 am; House Conference Room 312**

Thank you for this opportunity to support SB 3087, SD 2.

The papaya industry has been of great value in Hawai'i County, particularly in the Puna District. It is our #3 edible product, behind only coffee and macadamia nuts.

However, papaya has faced its share of economic problems. Considerable damage was done by Hurricane Iselle, and production is slowly recovering. Your assistance in funding research that could improve the product and enhance its commercial viability would certainly be welcomed.

Part of the focus of SB 3087, as originally written, was on Solo papaya. My experts tell me that the production of the Solo variety (non-GMO) has been greatly reduced because of the Papaya Ringspot Virus. The Rainbow and SunUp varieties are now the major ones (both are genetically modified). So to maximize the benefit of SB 3087, it is appropriate to direct the research to the industry as a whole.

I hope you will move forward with SB 3087 SD 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim  
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

**SB-3087-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 10:20:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 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:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312

**RE: Testimony in Support of SB2846 SD2, RELATING TO THE  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

To the Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair; the Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

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 **SB3087 SD2** relating to Agribusiness Development Corporation and the marketability of Hawaiian papayas.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB3087 SD2** and supports its passage.

**SB3087 SD2** is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds to the agribusiness development corporation to identify factors that affect the quality of local papaya and to develop and establish protocols to enhance the marketability of Hawaiian papayas.

The DPH Platform states 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.

This approach includes but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include the development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times. (Platform of the DPH, P.2, Lines 76-78, 82-86 (2016)).

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. (Platform of the DPH, P.2, Lines 97-99 (2016)).

Given that **SB3087 SD2** appropriates funds to the agribusiness development corporation to identify factors that affect the quality of local papaya and to develop and establish protocols to enhance the marketability of Hawaiian papayas, 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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March 14, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 3087, SD 2**  
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Room 312  
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 supports SB 3087, SD 2**, which appropriates funds to the Agribusiness Development Corporation to identify factors that affect the quality of local papaya and to develop and establish protocols to enhance the marketability of Hawaiian papayas.

Papaya is one of Hawaii's signature crops. The papaya plant is grown in every tropical and subtropical country and ranks highest in potential health benefits among various fruits due to its high concentrations of certain nutrients including carotenoids, potassium, fiber, and ascorbic acid content. With such an impressive nutrient content and potential for positive health benefits, there should be an overwhelming demand for a papaya, especially Hawaii papaya, available across the world.

HFB believes that the papaya industry capacity is underutilized. Fresh whole papaya fruit does not transport well; bruising due to a soft skin, a short shelf life, and potential chill injury do not allow for (or make very costly) shipments from Hawaii to travel beyond the west coast of the continental US.

HFB believes that the ADC can help identify the appropriate technology and the standards or protocols needed to support the continued growth of Hawaii's iconic papaya industry.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

**SB-3087-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 9:40:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dennis Gonsalves	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Date: March 12, 2018

Subject: Dennis Gonsalves testimony of SB3087

I strongly support Bill SB3087 because this bill focuses on funding research that will identify factors that affect the quality of Hawaiian solo papaya that are exported to places like mainland U. S. I have worked many years on improving papaya production in Hawaii, and in fact, I led the team of researchers that developed the Rainbow papaya that saved the Hawaiian papaya industry. Furthermore, I helped to successfully introduce Rainbow papaya in Japan, and am involved in the current effort to expand the Hawaii papaya market to mainland China.

Hawaii-grown solo papaya is arguably the most delicious papaya in the world when grown in Hawaii. However, I have observed that the quality of Hawaii solo papaya that are exported to places like mainland U. S. have markedly decreased by the time it is sold on the supermarket shelves on the mainland. Thus, it is imperative to do research that identifies the major factors that affect the quality of the papaya after exportation to the U. S. mainland. Bill SB3087 will certainly help researchers to identify the factors that affect quality of exported papaya. The result of this research will then help Hawaii's papaya industry to develop protocols that enhance the quality of exported Hawaiian papaya.

I strongly believe that Hawaii has the capacity to markedly increase papaya production because of the availability of land and ideal climate, especially on Hawaii island. And I am convinced that the demand for Hawaiian-grown papaya will increase, if the quality of the exported papaya remains high. The passage of Bill SB3087 will help Hawaii meet its



goal of high quality exported papaya by funding research that identify the factors that affect quality of exported Hawaii-grown papaya.