

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**FEBRUARY 2, 2018
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

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

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 3087, 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 solo 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 the Hawaiian solo 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.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
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 AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, February 2, 2018
1:15 p.m.

SENATE BILL NO. 3087
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chairperson Gabbard 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, 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.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 1, 2018

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

Re: SB 3087 Relating to Assisting the Papaya Industry
Hearing Date: 02/02/18 – 1:15 pm; Conference Room 224

Thank you for this opportunity to support SB 3087. 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 currently written, is 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 might be appropriate to direct the research to the industry as a whole. On the other hand, it may be the Legislature's intent to restore the Solo variety to its former level, because of its non-GMO status or otherwise.

In either case, I hope you will move forward with some version of SB 3087.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 2, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 3087
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Room 224
1:15 pm

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, 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, 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 solo papaya.

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.