

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
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 AGRICULTURE
Friday, April 13, 2018
10:15 a.m.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 59
URGING THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO START A FARM
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation ("ADC"). The ADC supports Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 59 that urges the Agribusiness Development Corporation to start a Farm Apprenticeship Program.

The ADC believes that farmer proficiency and operational competency is crucial for agriculture development and is closely tied to consistent and safe food production. Towards that goal, ADC requires its farmers to meet the following standards:

- (1) United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP);
- (2) United States Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA);
- (3) Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (MSPA); and

(4) United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Agricultural Worker Protection Standard (WPS).

However, ADC has found that many of Hawaii's farmers struggle to meet the above standards, so it fully endorses the concept of a replicable education/training framework to develop the necessary skills for success. ADC also feels that the proposed support from the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) extension program is essential for program continuity and long-term success.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**APRIL 13, 2018
10:15 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 59
URGING THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO START A FARM
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify SCR 59 that urges the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to start a farm apprenticeship program. The Department supports this measure.

The efforts of both the ADC and the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) will be extremely important in successfully moving Hawaii's future farmers and ranchers in the right direction. With a successful model that abides by the many federal regulatory structures that fall to local farmers, Hawaii's agricultural industry is better served with increased self-sustainability and food security. CTAHR's expertise is integral to the entire efforts of the ADC.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these resolutions.



SCR-59

Submitted on: 4/12/2018 5:01:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/13/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

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

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SCR59** relating to the establishment of a farm apprenticeship program by the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

The OCC on Legislative Priorities is in favor of **SCR59** and supports its adoption.

SCR59 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it urges the Agribusiness Development Corporation to establish a farm apprenticeship program that creates an efficient and effective framework or model to manage farming operations through a sublease structure in which a lead farmer is responsible for the actions of the farmer's lessees; and the farm apprenticeship program (1) will include the establishment of the lead farmer as a single point of contact with whom the Agribusiness Development Corporation will communicate to improve fiscal management and communication; (2) be a replicable model for expanded production;(3) ensure compliance with applicable best practice programs; (4) coordinate crop selection and rotation to ensure optimal production; and (5) develop proficiency and competence among sublessees who may move into a lead farmer position on another parcel.

The Platform of the DPH provides that: "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. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources in order to achieve sustainability of our marine resources, and ensure and improve the health of our reef

and marine life.

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 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.

We will promote ethical and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry and eggs." (Platform of DPH, P.2, Lines 76-88 (2016)).

We support the growth of Native Hawaiian farming, agricultural and healing practices. We value and wish to foster the preservation of our host culture. (Platform of DPH, P.7, Lines 213-214 (2016)).

Given that **SCR59** urges the Agribusiness Development Corporation to establish a farm apprenticeship program that creates an efficient and effective framework or model to manage farming operations through a sublease structure in which a lead farmer is responsible for the actions of the farmer's lessees; and the farm apprenticeship program (1) will include the establishment of the lead farmer as a single point of contact with whom the Agribusiness Development Corporation will communicate to improve fiscal management and communication; (2) be a replicable model for expanded production;(3) ensure compliance with applicable best practice programs; (4) coordinate crop selection and rotation to ensure optimal production; and (5) develop proficiency and competence among sublessees who may move into a lead farmer position on another parcel, it is the position of the OCC on Legislative Priorities to support its adoption.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC on Legislative Priorities

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Friday, April 13, 2018 at 10:15 a.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 59 – URGING THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO START A FARM APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on
Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 59.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, is the home of the Hawai'i Cooperative Extension Service as part of the Land Grant Mission of the College and the University. As such we are committed to providing training to the Hawaiian citizenry with respect to agriculture and natural resources.

If the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) forms a farm apprenticeship program, the College and Extension Service is committed to engage in technical and workforce development issues, including outreach and training as much as the available resources will allow.

In the absence of the ADC forming such a program, the College and Extension Service will continue its already significant programs in these areas.