

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
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 WATER, LAND & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Wednesday, February 6, 2019
9:30 a.m.

HOUSE BILL NO. 860
RELATING TO LAND AND BUILDING ACQUISITION

Chairperson Yamane and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”). The ADC supports House Bill No. 860, which appropriates funds to the Agribusiness Development Corporation for the acquisition of certain property, provided that the price does not exceed the amount appropriated.

TMK (1) 9-2-001:011-0000 is located at 94-488 Kunia Road on Oahu and encompasses 282 acres with existing baseyard and greenhouse infrastructure. The existing facilities and buildings are in good working order and can be repurposed with minimal changes. This parcel will have multiple purposes, which may include certain HDOA Animal Industry and Plant Industry activities, research and development projects for outdoor and controlled environment growing systems, and commercial agriculture.

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



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February 6, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON HB 860
RELATING TO LAND AND BUILDING ACQUISITION

Room 325
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director 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 860, which appropriates funds to the agribusiness development corporation to acquire the Kunia Dow DuPont Pioneer Land.

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 farmland in Kunia 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 this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

HB-860

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 8:28:38 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie A Whalen	HARC	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Yamane and members of your committee,

I regret not being able to attend due to a prior commitment, but I believe this is a very important proposal for the development of agricultural new farming opportunities.

The land referred to in this bill is prime agricultural land; it is close to the market; right off the freeway; has superior infrastructure in place (several large greenhouses), irrigation in place with conservation measures already installed. In addition it has office and laboratory facilities and agriculturally related structures. There will be no issues in deriving revenue from this ready to farm land.

It is also a great opportunity to support/train the many new farmers entering this sector where land is so difficult to come by for beginning farmers. The cost to develop a farm from scratch is significant; land preparation; installation of irrigation; road access; and market access. While the programs in place to develop farmers with training are implemented, getting the graduates onto land has been more than challenging.

While this is a significant expenditure, it will be one of those milestones that propel the industry forward. Please pass this measure.

Sincerely

Stephanie whalen

HB-860

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:15:07 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie Barton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-860

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 1:13:06 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Fernandez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-860

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 3:55:00 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyler Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB860. I will admit to you that I am often not in favor of the State acquiring more land from the private sector. Nevertheless, there are occasional opportunities that I believe serve the public's best interest for the State/ADC to take ownership. The unique characteristics of this parcel of land make this one such occasion. This is some of Hawaii's most productive agricultural land, has immense infrastructure in place, is located near the state's population center, is very accessible to transportation routes and has access to a trained labor force. State/ADC ownership of this parcel will ensure that these unique assets are conserved and utilized to improve food production in Hawaii, and I highly encourage the Legislature to support this endeavor and pass this bill. Thank you for your time

Tyler Jones

HB-860

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:24:08 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments: