

SB 1306

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 AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
MONDAY, February 4, 2019
1:20 p.m.

SENATE BILL NO. 1306
RELATING TO 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 supports Senate Bill No. 1306, which appropriates \$15,000,000 to the ADC to acquire Kunia Dow DuPont Pioneer land - TMK (1) 9-2-001:por11.

TMK (1) 9-2-001:por11 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 4, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 1306
RELATING TO AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Room 224
1:20 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau is in support of SB 1306, 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 the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-1306

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 5:23:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/4/2019 1:20:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie A Whalen	Testifying for HARC	Support	Yes

Comments:

Dear senators,

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.

sincerely

Stephanie