

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
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

Friday, March 19, 2021

10:00 a.m.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING

SENATE BILL NO. 335  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) appreciates the intent of Senate Bill No. 335, which requires the Department of Agriculture and ADC to annually lease at least fifty percent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production beginning January 1, 2022 and requires the Department of Agriculture and the ADC to submit reports to the legislature on leasing activities.

We share the Legislature's goal and objectives to increase local food production for our State. The ADC has made food production its highest priority when issuing land licenses to agricultural operators. Over a thousand acres of the Galbraith Agricultural Land and surrounding area on Oahu are licensed to small and medium farms growing food for the local consumer market.

Markets and demand tend to shift over time, and we need the ability to respond and adapt to these shifts. Emerging crops such as hemp, which has a wide range of

uses, has significant potential due to its high-yielding, high agronomics, and environmental attributes. Other agricultural operations such as nurseries, flower and ornamental, and medicinal crops has potential to become major Hawaii exporters. We have concerns that this measure limits ourselves by regulating the size and type of crops that can be grown on State lands, which may have inadvertent effects to the agriculture industry down the road.

Farming, big or small, is like any other business and the bottom line is it needs to be economically feasible for the farmer to prosper and make a living for themselves and their family. Rather than regulating the landowner and imposing limits, perhaps a better way to encourage farmers to grow more food for local consumption is to find ways to incentivize growing food crops. We should also support the family owned and operated farms who are currently growing food for Hawaii's local consumers and exporting premium Hawaii grown products around the world. These multigenerational farms have made substantial investments to comply with all county, state, and federal laws and regulations and have the expertise and capability to achieve the economies of scale. In addition to the crops they grow and jobs they create, they also bring in and generate taxable revenue to our State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS ATTA  
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 PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**MARCH 19, 2021**

**10:00 A.M.**

**VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 335, SD2  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 335, SD2. This bill requires the Department of Agriculture (“Department”) and Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) to annually lease at least fifty per cent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production beginning 1/1/2022. It also requires the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to submit reports to the legislature on leasing activities, and requires ADC to implement the recommendations in State Auditor’s Report No. 21-01. The Department respectfully opposes this bill.

Local farming is a difficult business due to the State’s remote location leading to high input costs. The Department has consistently championed the growth of diversified agriculture by providing opportunities for affordable, long term leases and irrigation water. We recognize that in order for farmers to have the best chance of financial success, they must be able to rapidly pivot to the market. We also recognize that it is desirous to produce food to be consumed locally to the greatest extent possible. This measure, while encouraging food production, would severely limit the income of some



farms and hurt other diversified agricultural sectors such as nurseries, crops for export, agroforestry, and energy crop production. Additionally, this bill will negate the lease conversion provision which was widely supported by the agricultural industry in recognition of the broad benefits which allows a successful diversified agricultural operation to renew an existing lease with approval of the Board of Agriculture. This action allows successful entities to complete succession planning and reinvest capital into their operation.

We respectfully caution that not all of the department's lands are suitable for food production due to soil quality and slope of the land. For example, our Keahole Ag Park is a very successful ag park; however, due to challenging soil conditions such as lava tubes, has a high production of potted plants above ground. For its prime agricultural lands like Kunia Agricultural Park, the Department is strongly considering terms to prioritize food production.

Local produce prices, excluding specialty crops, are greatly influenced by imported crops. Often, in order for them to be competitive, the farmer will have to sell their crop for less, or at times generate no profit making the business a higher risk and unattractive. These restrictions would also affect the State and program's revenue as lease rent with such restrictions would be appraised lower than an unrestricted, diversified agricultural market value. The Department's land program's special funds run very close to break even on any given year. The reduction in revenue would need to be made up with general fund supplement.

Lastly, the Department currently maintains the authority to establish other terms and conditions it deems necessary on leases and ask that this flexibility be retained to fully utilized its agricultural lands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:13:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bill DeCosta	County of Kauai	Support	No

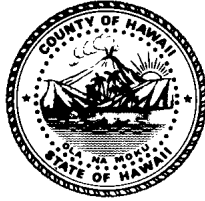
Comments:

Aloha,

Attached is testimony of Councilmember Bill DeCosta of Kauai County Council on SB 335, SD 2, relating to agriculture.

Mahalo

Mitchell D. Roth  
Mayor



Douglass S. Adams  
Director

Dr. Sulma Gandhi  
Deputy Director

## County of Hawai'i

### DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4252  
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March 18, 2021

Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair  
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture

Dear Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members:

**RE: SB 335, SD 2 Relating to Agriculture**

The County of Hawai'i supports SB 335, SD 2, with comments. SB 335, SD 2 requires the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and the Agribusiness Development Corporation to annually lease at least 50% of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is, or supports, local food production beginning 1/1/2022.

The County of Hawai'i supports the intent of this bill, which is to increase local food production. This is in line with Governor Ige's call to double local food production.

The County of Hawai'i is concerned that setting a requirement of at least 50% of its inventory may disrupt established non-food agricultural operations to meet that requirement. We are also aware that Hawai'i's terrain is not suited for certain types of agricultural operations and may force the department to invest heavily to meet this requirement. If this bill passes, will the department receive additional funds to develop the infrastructure needed to allow producers to raise their products?

Your consideration of this bill and our comments is greatly appreciated.

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglass S. Adams".

Douglass S. Adams  
Director, Research and Development

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:20:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sylvia Dolena	PELE LANI FARM LLC	Support	No

Comments:

**Support SB 335 w/ Amendments - Require ADC to Lease Lands for Local Food Production!**

We must be self-sufficient for food and our economy.

COVID has shown how vulnerable we are in many areas. We must grow our own food and rebuild a small farm economy for our residents.

Mahalo,

PELE LANI FARM LLC

Sylvia Dolena, Owner

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:48:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
pamela burrell	apollo kauai, zero waste kauai	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii Senators,

With the closure of the plantations starting 50 years ago, prime ag land has for the most part layed fallow. It is ridiculous that we continue to import our "fresh " food still. I have a home garden and am amazed the amount of food I can produce in a small space! Previously I would support our local farmers at our community markets. I almost feel guilty for growing my own!

But It's crucial that we address our overdependence on food imports with tangible solutions. Moving forward with SB335 is a step towards this

SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy

And for the health of the environment and our people, Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint and grow our food security.

The time is long over due. Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.

SB 335 will create local jobs not dependent on tourism.

Please consider this bill a win win.

Regards,

Pamela Burrell, Kalihiwai, Kauai



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:00:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
laurel brier and Helen Cox	Kauai Climate action coalition	Support	No

Comments:

The pandemic has once again demonstrated Hawaii's need for greater food security by way of locally grown food. Smaller farms are more likely to have regenerative practices which help sequester carbon and address our greenhouse gas emissions. This bill can help build the local food economy for a healthier people and place

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:19:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bruce Corker	Rancho Aloha	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

As a coffee and avocado farmer in Hawaii County, I support SB335. In almost 3 decades the ADC has failed to effectively pursue its stated mission. This bill is a step in the right direction toward correcting that failure.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Corker



To: The House Committee on Agriculture  
From: Sherry Pollack, 350Hawaii.org  
Date: Friday, March 19, 2021, 10am

**In strong support of SB335 SD2**

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Agriculture Committee members,

I am Co-Founder of the Hawaii chapter of 350.org, the largest international organization dedicated to fighting climate change. 350Hawaii.org **strongly supports SB335 SD2.**

This bill will expand farmers access to affordable land in Hawaii and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy. Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to our communities.

The pandemic has made it very clear that we need greater food security and self-sufficiency. With the growing instability of our climate system, it is reckless to import 90% of our food, making us completely vulnerable to natural disasters and global events that might disrupt shipping and our food supply. SB335 SD2 will help us be better prepared for any possible future pandemics or disasters.

We strongly urge that priority be given to regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off. Further, regenerative agriculture practices help to sequester carbon and therefore can address the climate crisis in a substantial way.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this very important bill.  
Sherry Pollack  
Co-Founder, 350Hawaii.org



## House Committee on Agriculture

### Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB 335 SD2

Friday, March 19th, 2021 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee,

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) supports SB 335 SD2, which requires the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to annually lease at least 50% of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production.

Requiring at least 50% local food production on Hawaii's agricultural (ADC) lands and annual reporting on ADC leases is an important and vital first step, which HAPA strongly supports.

**However, we believe that the Legislature should also put great consideration into deciding on if dissolving the agency altogether is a better option.**

HAPA is a Hawaii-wide organization, but grows out of the movement on Kaua'i to advocate for fair and sustainable food systems. Starting around the beginning of 2013 a groundswell of community engagement arose when local residents became concerned about their exposure to pesticide drift from agrochemical tenants on both ADC lands and privately owned lands on Kaua'i's west side. A multi-year advocacy effort to provide basic public health protections from pesticide drift ensued. While the state auditor has highlighted many failings of the ADC<sup>[1,2,3]</sup>, our testimony is largely informed by concerns arising from the ADC's mismanagement of its vast west side Kaua'i landholdings.

#### Public Lands Should Serve the Public Good

Considering that ADC lands represent the largest swath of public (crown) agricultural land on Kaua'i, lawmakers should consider the highest and best use of those lands, for the public good.

As a "public-private corporation", in the name of bypassing "bureaucratic red tape" the legislature granted the ADC broad powers to buy, own, and develop public lands. In other words, a partly privatized entity has been granted significant control over "public" lands. Without a clear mandate as to how to serve its purpose, in practice the ADC has functioned to redistribute public lands and resources for narrow private gain through an entirely non-democratic process.

The ADC controls some of the most fertile agricultural lands on Kaua'i, equipped with irrigation and road infrastructure from sugar days. Rather than being made available to meet State goals of local food production, they have mostly been handed over to the largest agrochemical companies in the world for research facilities. This is a huge subsidy to already extremely wealthy corporations. In 2019, on the west side of Kaua'i the State's Public Land Trust Information lists a lease with Syngenta for 2,369 acres, with BASF for 977 acres, another with BASF for 10 acres, and one with Pioneer for 1,462 acres. These have transferred to Hartung Brothers, Becks, and Corteva, respectively.<sup>[4]</sup>

The lands leased to agrochemical tenants have been associated with heavy pesticide usage and toxic drift into adjacent communities<sup>[5]</sup>. The 2016 Joint Fact Finding Group report *Pesticide Use by Large Agribusinesses on Kaua'i* showed that agrochemical tenants in Kekaha directly adjacent to Hawaiian Homes purchased three times the national average of chlorpyrifos, a dangerous neurotoxin insecticide now banned by the State of Hawai'i and several other states.<sup>[6]</sup> The Hawaiian Homes development in Kekaha is approximately 100 feet from the ADC fields. Chlorpyrifos (which is now banned in Hawai'i) and other organophosphates (a certain class of insecticide) are known to drift up to a mile.

Additionally, small farmers and ranchers seeking ADC leases have been denied with little to no justification. It appears that the ADC has largely handed over management of its lands to a private association, the Kekaha Agricultural Association, whose leadership and membership is largely agrochemical / seed companies. According to the state audit: "ADC also owns two water systems and associated lands on Kaua'i, a total of 18,628 acres, which are operated and maintained by the Kekaha Agricultural Association, pursuant to an agreement."<sup>[1]</sup>

ADC's non-democratic process was also reflected in its handling of its Central O'ahu landholdings. Rather than work closely with the local community which had been caring for the long neglected former Dole lands in Whitmore Village the ADC issued 30 day eviction notices once it acquired the lands. The area had a history of criminal activity, so local residents had taken initiative to plant gardens and fruit trees and care for the area. The ADC ultimately bulldozed their backyard gardens.<sup>[7]</sup> Coverage of the incident in 2018 noted that the ADC acts with an "unusual lack of accountability," including failing to submit annual reports to the Legislature as required by law.

### Mismanagement of ADC Lands and Water

ADC's lack of oversight and mismanagement has led to water hoarding and wasting in Kekaha, ultimately leading to a contested case at the Water Commission.

Beginning in the early 1900s, the Kekaha Sugar Plantation built the Kekaha and Kōke'e ditch systems, which diverted much of the water flowing down the Waimea River and its tributaries to grow sugar. When the plantation went out of business in 2001, the State of Hawai'i took over the ditch network. The ADC leased the ditch network and lands to the Kekaha Agriculture Association (KAA). But, although the association was cultivating only a fraction of the previous plantation land, and growing much less water-intensive

crops, the diversions remained at plantation-era levels, leaving vast stretches of dry stream bed in the Waimea River and headwater streams.

Proceedings before the Water Commission revealed that the association (KAA) was diverting far more water than was needed for agriculture and, instead, was using this public trust resource to feed an antiquated hydropower system that helped subsidize its operations. And much of the water was simply wasted.”<sup>[8]</sup>

The ADC has facilitated agrochemical companies’ exemption from compliance with Clean Water Act standards by extending a decades old sugar plantation permit to discharge toxic chemicals into the water. The exemption was recommended by the ADC because the Clean Water Act criteria would “likely be extremely difficult to meet” with more stringent federal limits for pesticide discharge now in force.<sup>[6, pg 46-47]</sup> If we want to put things in the language of costs, this is another subsidy granted by the ADC to some of the largest corporations in the world at the expense of public health.

In 2019 the ADC was ruled to have polluted waters of West Kaua’i without a permit since 2015 by a federal judge, violating a federal Clean Water Act<sup>[9]</sup>. The ruling stems from the ADC lacking a permit to drain polluted waters since it’s permit expired in 2015. The water was found to contain the herbicide Glyphosate, which has been linked to cancer and 2 billion dollars in lawsuit winnings over the use of popular Glyphosate-based herbicide Roundup.<sup>[10,11]</sup>

### Discrepancies in Reporting on Kaua’i ADC Landholdings

It is worth noting that there are discrepancies in the ADC’s reportings on its landholdings on Kaua’i. In addition to concerns raised by the auditor regarding poor record keeping, this discrepancy in reporting (not included in the auditor’s report) should also be cause for concern.

According to the ADC’s 2018 report to the legislature, the agency reported to manage a total of 35,000 acres on Kaua’i - 28,000 acres of land in Kekaha, and 7,000 acres of former Lihue Plantation land (now referred to as Kalepa).<sup>[12]</sup>

Yet in the ADC’s 2019 report to the legislature, the agency reported to manage a total of 19,000 acres on Kaua’i - 12,000 acres of land in Kekaha, and 7,000 acres of Kalepa lands.<sup>[12]</sup>

The state auditor’s report states: “when Kekaha Sugar Company on Kaua’i shuttered, ADC became involved in the management of 12,500 acres of state agricultural land and related infrastructure, including the former Kekaha and Koke’e plantation irrigation systems. After making a number of improvements and formally assuming management of the state land in 2003, ADC entered into an agreement with the Kekaha Agriculture Association, an agricultural cooperative, to operate and maintain common infrastructure. ADC also issued long-term land leases to several tenants.” <sup>[1,page 9, footnote 5]</sup>

This lack of clarity raises concerns about what degree of oversight the agency actually has over its West Kaua’i landholdings.

## Incentivize Regenerative Farming Practices on Public Lands

Public lands can and should serve as a resource for small scale regenerative agriculture solutions that can feed our communities and manage Hawai'i's agricultural lands for future abundance. However, the failures of the ADC have hindered Hawai'i's potential for a diversified and sustainable food economy.

Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative agroecology farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices and climate friendly approaches. Regenerative farming practices provide an array of environmental benefits: preventing run-off into nearshore fisheries and coral reefs, sequestering carbon in the soil while rebuilding soil health and capturing carbon through agroforestry approaches.<sup>[13, 14]</sup>

Additionally, lawmakers should further support the revitalization of native Hawaiian food systems. There are a plethora of successful grassroots efforts to restore Hawai'i's food security rooted in ancestral wisdom of how to feed our communities sustainably while managing natural resources for future abundance. Many of these projects are succeeding despite the lack of access to affordable leases and water and resources of the ADC.

COVID-19 has revealed the socio-ecological fragility of our current industrial-globalized food systems on a world wide scale and here in Hawai'i. The effects of the pandemic on farming and food supply chains raises concerns about widespread food shortages and price spikes. A transition to more socially just, ecologically resilient, localized food systems is therefore urgently needed and drastically increasing small scale food production agriculture is the solution.<sup>[14]</sup>

## Work with Farmers and Food Systems Experts to Create a Plan

Several farmers and food systems experts we spoke to believe that an inclusive, stakeholder driven process is desperately needed to create a plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and water systems. The ADC was tasked with creating a strategic plan 27 years ago. Today a well developed plan is still vitally needed to advance a comprehensive and sustainable approach for managing Hawaii's agricultural lands for future abundance.

Should the committee consider mandating such a process or task force please consider including regenerative/organic farmers, representatives from some of the many local organizations engaged in 'āina-based projects that incorporate restoration of native Hawaiian food systems, food production, community education and environmental stewardship.

One of the failings of the ADC is its narrow focus on supporting corporate agribusiness for export. Any future planning process, study or task force should incorporate a comprehensive food system wide analysis to identify opportunities along the food chain for local institutional procurement, regional aggregation and other efforts to make small scale regenerative farming solutions more viable.

The committee should also consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and a regenerative/organic farmer to the board of the ADC. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.

HAPA strongly supports SB 335 and believes mandating at least 50% local food production on our agricultural lands is an important first step towards a more regenerative agricultural system for Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Anne Frederick  
Executive Director

- 
- 1) State Audit of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Report No. 21-01 Jan 14th 2021 <https://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2021/21-01.pdf>
  - 2) Civil Beat: *Auditor: State Agriculture Agency Is Failing To Fulfill Mission* Jan 14th 2021 <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/01/auditor-state-agriculture-agency-is-failing-to-fulfill-mission/>
  - 3) Civil Beat: *Economists: Agribusiness Development Corp. Is A 'Fiasco'* Jan 22nd 2021 <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/01/economist-agribusiness-development-corp-is-a-fiasco/>
  - 4) qPublic.net - Kauai County TMK Mapping <https://qpublic.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=986&LayerID=20101&PageTypeID=1&PageID=8741&Q=356838976&KeyValue=120020010000>
  - 5) Grist: *GMO companies are dousing Hawaiian islands with pesticides* June 16, 2014 <https://grist.org/business-technology/gmo-companies-are-dousing-hawaiian-island-with-toxic-pesticides/>
  - 6) 2016 Joint Fact Finding Group Report on Crops and Pesticides on Kaua'i <https://www.accord3.com/crops-and-pesticides-on-kauai/>
  - 7) Civil Beat: *Surprise Eviction Notices Have This Old Plantation Community Up In Arms* October 19th 2018 <https://www.civilbeat.org/2018/10/surprise-eviction-notices-have-this-old-plantation-community-up-in-arms/>
  - 8) Earthjustice: *Flows Restored to Waimea and Grand Canyon of the Pacific* April 18th 2017 <https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2017/flows-restored-to-waimea-river-and-grand-canyon-of-the-pacific>
  - 9) United States District Court CIVIL NO. 18-00005 DKW-RLP [https://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/files/Order\\_Summary-Judgment-and-Dismissal\\_2019-07-09.pdf](https://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/files/Order_Summary-Judgment-and-Dismissal_2019-07-09.pdf)



- 10) Jury orders Monsanto to pay 2 billion in roundup weed killer cancer case  
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/05/13/weed-killer-cancer-case-jury-orders-monsanto-pay-2-billion/1194572001/>
- 11) KHON: State guilty of violating Clean Water Act on Kauai with cancer-linked Glyphosate, other pesticides July 15, 2019  
<https://www.khon2.com/news/state-guilty-of-violating-clean-water-act-on-kauai-with-cancer-linked-glyphosate-other-pesticides/>
- 12) ADC Annual Report 2019  
<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/DOA-ADC-Annual-Report-2018.pdf>
- 13) Regeneration International: *Why Regenerative Agriculture?*  
<https://regenerationinternational.org/why-regenerative-agriculture/>
- 14) The Journal of Peasant Studies: Agroecology and the reconstruction of a post-COVID-19 agriculture June 2nd 2020  
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03066150.2020.1782891?journalCode=fjps20>

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:29:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support **SB335 SD2** for expansion or local food production.

- Aside from acquiring large acres of land, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission within its 27-year existence. Lawmakers should seriously consider whether dissolving the agency is a better option
- It's crucial that we address our overdependence on food imports with tangible solutions. Moving forward with SB335 is a step towards this
- SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off
- The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission
- A plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system is desperately needed. This should involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island

People Before Profit

[www.WeAreOne.cc](http://www.WeAreOne.cc)

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:48:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bonnie Marsh	UpCountry Doctor	Support	No

Comments:

Please support the ADC to require to lease land for local food production. In these days of COVID shut down it is critical for Hawaii to become self sufficient.

Mahalo for your support, Dr. Bonnie Marsh

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:51:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters statewide, we stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB335.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture leasing at least 50% of agricultural land for the production of food for our local markets is essential for supporting local farmers and moving our island state to becoming sustainable. Currently about 90% of our food is shipped in from the continent, which is unsustainable, because this creates a huge carbon footprint for Hawaii and seriously undermines cutting our carbon emissions to reach our Climate Change goals.

Please support and vote for SB335.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dave Mulinix

Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii



PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756  
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

March 17, 2021

**House Committee on Agriculture (AGR) and Finance (FIN)**

**In Support of SB335;** Hawai`i SEED Supports SB335 requiring the Hawai`i Department of Agriculture and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to lease at least 50% of land leased or up for renewal of leases, annually, to operations whose primary business is local food production, and that DOA and ADC to submit reports to the legislature on leasing activities.

Aloha Chair Hasem, Chair Luke, Vice Chair Perusso, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Jeri Di Pietro, President of Hawai`i SEED. I live in Koloa on Kaua`i. I have been doing agriculturally related work for a longtime. We support SB335.

The ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission within its 27-year existence. Our elected officials should seriously consider whether dissolving the agency is a better option for accomplishing this food security mission, providing jobs and agriculture to benefit the Islands in place of colonial, monocrop, synthetic chemical farming. The state audit recently revealed that throughout the entirety of its 27-year existence, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land.

The recent State audit shows the ADC's management has failed miserably over the past nearly 30 years. Our finite ag land and water needs to be tightly controlled and the mandate to lease these state agricultural lands to farmers and ranchers who actually grow food for local consumption must be enforced and adhered to with impeccable integrity, without conflict of interest, favoritism, nepotism, personal financial gain or greed.

While the ADC manages over 22,000 acres of state-owned agricultural land, the large fields of corn you see are mostly “seed corn” grown by agro/chemical companies, intended for export, and used to produce ethanol, cattle feed, and high fructose corn syrup. No one locally actually eats this seed corn. We believe that the Legislature should also put great consideration into deciding on if dissolving the agency altogether is a better option.

It is time that we seriously address our over dependence on imported food with tangible solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production. This measure will help create opportunities for jobs in agriculture. SB 335 will allow more small-scale farmers to gain access to these agricultural lands, bringing us a step closer to a diversified food production economy.

Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off. Requiring that 50% of Hawai‘i’s agricultural lands are utilized for local food production will help reduce our dependence on imported food. Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals.

The resiliency of families and some businesses exhibited over the last 11 months has proven pivotal to our ability to ride out the pandemic, With the ADC producing next to nothing and adding to our dependence on imported food, there inaction, our underutilized state controlled agricultural land is in part to blame for far too many industrious people barely scraping by, living in a constant state of uncertainty and anxiety. Not only is this not sustainable, but it also isn’t necessary; legislators can and should do everything within their power to help those who are hurting right now. SB335 could make substantial progress towards doing just that.

Following the intended mandate will build resilience in the food supply chain, protect the health and the land security for food and farm workers to invest in, and redirect surplus commodities to food banks and food hubs. I am encouraged and sincerely optimistic that our community, agricultural hui, restaurants and

entrepreneurs have significant expertise at the ready, to move towards the development of another vision towards an additive economic component to broaden our diversification of the new world to counter challenged and changes for the better.

It's crucial that we address our overdependence on food imports with tangible solutions. Moving forward with SB335 is a step towards this. SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy. There is an entire workforce on the West Side of Kaua'i and the South Shore. On Kaua'i, this important potential job creation would help community members have a healthy, satisfying, outdoor job or processing or administrative position that would eliminate the necessity for the to commute to Lihue for e

Given the state of our broken food system, a planning process involving small farmers and local food producers is desperately needed. Lawmakers should consider how prime ADC lands can instead be used to feed our communities and local economy.

In 1994, the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) was created to help transition Hawai'i's former plantation lands into economically viable farms. Yet throughout the entirety of its 27-year existence, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of their mission aside from acquiring large acres of land, land management that they have been sued for mismanaging multiple times, at a cost to the Finance coffers.

In conclusion, lawmakers should consider how prime ADC lands can serve as a resource for small scale regenerative agriculture solutions that can feed our communities and manage Hawaii's agricultural lands for future abundance.

Mahalo,  
Jeri Di Pietro, President  
Hawai'i SEED

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:29:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Climate Protectors Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Mark Hashem, Chair, The Honorable Amy Perruso, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

From: Climate Protectors Hawaii (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **SB335 SD2– RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Hearing: Thursday, March 18, 2021, 10:00 a.m., by videoconference

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

The Climate Protectors Coalition is a group focused on reversing the climate crisis. The Climate Protectors Hawaii **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB335 SD2!**

As a tropical island State, Hawaii will be among the first places harmed by the global climate crisis, with more intense storms, loss of protective coral reefs, food insecurity, and rising sea levels destroying our shorelines. We must do all we can to reduce our carbon footprint and become carbon negative as soon as possible.

One way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as employ local farmers and provide fresher food for Hawaii, is to grow more of our food locally. Despite the statutory mandate, the Agribusiness Development Corporation has not achieved its goal for local food growth.

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to annually lease at least fifty percent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production. This bill will help stimulate more local food production. To the extent feasible, the companies leasing the land should be local companies. This bill would help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve soil health, increase local farm jobs, and provide for fresher local food, with greater food security.

Please pass this bill! Mahalo!







# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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Thursday, March 18, 2021

Senate Bill 335 SD2  
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Hashem; Vice Chair Perruso; and Members of the House Committees  
Agriculture:

The Agriculture Committee of the State of Hawaii Democratic Party Environmental Caucus thanks the Agriculture Committee of the State House of Representatives for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB335 SD2. There will be no lack of consensus that the intent of this bill is desirable. All available energies should be devoted to the goal of food security and self-reliance for these islands. This bill is designed in support of that goal.

However, the following observations suggest caution in pursuit of that goal as pertains to this proposal. The heart of the bill is in amendment to HRS Section 163D-15.6 (c). This amendment requires the Department of Agriculture to annually lease or license at least 50% of lands eligible for lease or license to persons or entities engaged in food production, of which at least 50% will be for local consumption in these islands.

The intent would be that farmers and ranchers would find access to available land opportunities. The concern reflected in this testimony is that due to the challenges facing the Agribusiness Development Corporation in affording and distributing these leases over a designated time frame (50% of the eligible lands must be leased within the first year) the outcome of this process will be heavily weighted toward assignment of these leasehold lands almost exclusively to ranching and grazing operators with little service to the intent of promoting diversified agriculture and support of the small or family or commercial farmer. Fifty percent of the available lands, which are currently 15,000 acres of suitable lands controlled by the ADC, would amount to the necessity of leasing at least 7,000 acres in the initial year following enactment. The ADC, the leasing entity, currently with 5 employees, would be confronted with the challenge of lands subdivision, assessment of credibility and lease assignment to applicants, management responsibilities, and creation of infrastructure appropriate to the new leaseholders. The scenario which would likely emerge is that several, (let's imagine seven) applications for lands for ranching would be submitted, and hundreds (lets imagine seven hundred) applications for lands for small or family farms would be submitted. The cattlemen's request is for a thousand acres and the farmer's request is for ten acres (perhaps the commercial farmers would request 50 acres). In spite of the ADC's desire to support diversified agriculture, it is highly likely that the outcome of this will assign almost all of these lands to ranching operations, diverging from the intent of this bill. One positive outcome might be that whereas currently most of Hawaii's cattle are sent to the mainland for 'finishing', the stipulations in this bill of 50% local consumption of production would demand local finishing of a greater proportion of

Hawaii's cattle. However, if all of Hawaii's current cattle production were finished here there would be more than enough beef produced such that imports would not be necessary. Hence, my concern is that this likely distribution of these lands to the ranchers is taking away the opportunity from the farmers and plant-based agriculture which is what Hawaii's food sovereignty demands.

Even if the operations of the ADC are subsumed by the Department of Agriculture in carrying out the subdivision and lease assignments and creation of infrastructure it is highly likely that the initial year's requirements and time constraints will obligate most of these lands to ranching. Hawaii has plenty of ranch lands now. What Hawaii lacks is farmers doing commercial plant-based farming.

A second concern regarding distributing these lands for ranching was voiced in a presentation to the Hawaii County Council by Climate Scientist Charles Fletcher PhD from UH SOEST describing the immense challenges we will soon be facing due to climate change. He presented the following facts: 1) Agriculture is responsible for 31% of all Greenhouse Gas emissions. 2) Producing beef generates 100x more GHG emissions than plant-based agriculture. 3) Over 80% of farmland is used for livestock but it produces just 18% of food calories and 37% of protein. 4) Cattle + grain they eat use one-third of available land surface on this planet. 5) 16% of all available fresh water. 6) 1/3 of worldwide grain production. 7) We are deforesting the planet at a rate of 30 football fields per minute, largely to raise cattle and the grain to feed them.

Consequently, a mechanism needs to be designed and inserted into this bill which will withhold the large proportion of these lands which may be coming available for lease from the ADC and Department of Agriculture, for the development of small & family farming and plant-based commercial agriculture as food production for these islands. This may necessitate removing the requirement of leasing 50% of these eligible lands in the first year in addition to prioritizing the dedication to plant-based agriculture. The demand for infrastructure to accomplish this may require major investment and organization among the farming stakeholders. But the realization of those requirements must be designed before this bill would be adopted.

This bill reflects the consensus intent of government and legislature and the people of Hawaii to develop agricultural self-sufficiency. However, we are in danger of throwing away the opportunity provided by these lands designated in this bill if our design is not considered very carefully from the outset.

Tawn Keeney MD

Food Security and Agriculture Committee

Jeff McKnight

Chair, Food Security and Agriculture Committee  
Vice Chair., Environmental Caucus



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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Friday, March 19, 2021, 10:00 pm

House Committee on Agriculture

SENATE BILL 335 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE: DoA and ADC to lease 50% of lands for local food production

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Mark Hashem, Vice-Chair Amy Perruso, and Members of the Agriculture Committee:

The Energy and Climate Action Committee of the Environmental Caucus supports this bill as a means to prepare our house for climate change.

The most recent (6th) UN/IPCC Synthesis Report (February 26, 2021) leading into November's international talks in Glasgow indicate that despite fine words and pledges, the Paris Agreement has accomplished virtually nothing to date. It raises a double warning: 1) climate change is happening sooner than we anticipated and is accelerating due to feedback loops kicking in; and 2) the pledges that nations have made in the Paris Agreements are not being followed.

The Committee recognizes the multiple problems that need to be overcome in raising the capacity for feeding ourselves as catastrophic change descends upon much of the world and its business-as-usual. We also share some of the criticism of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. But we also cannot help but applaud ADC for securing formerly private lands and irrigation systems for the State priority of maintaining the capacity to use excellent farming lands and valuable water conveyance systems in place of Hawaiian lands now used for residential and commercial use and even for military activities. Having these productive lands at our disposal allows us to work on the other barriers to successful food production for local tables.

Senate Bill 335 sets a relatively high bar for use of these lands for local food production, but its challenge provides a proper focus for a number of solutions that must be tried. We suspect that the challenge will illuminate other problems that our current system of governance has not yet learned to face.

A critical element of our support lies in the understanding that proper land stewardship involves regenerative soil practices that significantly reverse greenhouse gas emissions with sequestration. Old-fashioned "green revolution" cultivation practices using chemical fertilizers and pesticides actually deplete the soil, kill its restorative microfauna and flora, and cause greenhouse gas emissions from open fields, increasing siltation and contamination downstream. Food agriculture using regenerative practices builds soil quality, and reinforces the proliferation of positive microfauna and flora, absorbing greenhouse gases. While there are regenerative pasturage practices, they are not as productive as complex food agriculture.

One of the issues facing us in recovering from the pandemic is rethinking how we can produce food locally for local tables, and therefore this legislation provides an important laboratory for finding our way home.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address these issues.

/s/ Charley Ice, Co-Chair, Energy and Climate Action Committee, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Lena Mochimaru - Secretary  
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Thursday, March 18, 2021

SB335 SD2 Relating to Agriculture  
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports and requests amendments SB335 SD2, Relating to Agriculture. This measure requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to annually lease 50% of land to local food production by January 2022. Requires the ADC to submit reports to the legislature on its leasing activities as well as making them subject to the State's sunshine laws.**

**The recent scathing audit of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) clearly demonstrates the need to specifically mandate that they lease 50% or more of the State agricultural lands specifically for local food production.**

**Providing of long term, affordable leases to local farmers and ranchers who produce food for local consumption - must be made a mandate.**

**Please include the in SB335 SD2:**

1. Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.
2. Adding a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.
3. Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawaii's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island

For these reasons, PHI urges the Committee to **support and amend SB335 SD2.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gary Hooser  
Executive Director

## Pono Hawai'i Initiative



# Food+ Policy Internship 2021

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

March 18, 2021

To: The House Agriculture Committee

Subject: Support for SB335 + the need for new vision for Hawai'i agriculture

Aloha,

We support SB335 because it includes the requirement that the ADC lease 50% of its land eligible for lease to agricultural operations whose primary business is growing food or crops for local consumption.

However, I have deep reservations about how this bill preserves the ADC and its current leadership. The recent audit and the report by UHERO have both shown the ADC to be mismanaged and ineffective at achieving its mission. In addition to the reporting requirements given to the ADC by this bill, I wish that there was also a requirement that the ADC undergo a financial audit.

This bill *does* make a huge stride in requiring that more land be used to grow food for local consumption. In his testimony on HB1271 James Nakatani, Executive Director of the ADC, states that the ADC under his leadership has leased 2,000 acres of former plantation lands to growers producing food for local consumption. And, in his previous testimony on this bill (SB335) Nakatani cites the ~1,700 acre license of the Galbraith Estate lands as evidence of the ADC's commitment to leasing lands to local growers for local consumption. It's unclear, but I'm assuming that this 2,000 acre figure is inclusive of the ~1,700 acre Galbraith lands.

The ADC controls 22,887 acres of land statewide. The ADC's lease of the Galbraith lands undoubtedly supports the local agriculture efforts of the Whitmore Project. While this is a step taken by the ADC in supporting a plan in one community for development around local agriculture--it is only ~7% of its lands and represents one action in a 25+ year history of managing public lands and shaping Hawai'i agriculture. The ADC has leased far more land to GMO seed companies.



## Food+ Policy Internship 2021

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

SB335's mandate that 50% of ADC acreage be put to producing food for local consumption would open up access to people who want to farm; it could benefit other communities in the state that may also want to pursue economic development around sustainable agriculture while achieving greater access to fresh, healthy food under normal conditions as well as during emergencies.

**This vast improvement in making more land available for local production for local consumption needs to be accompanied by a fundamental shift in the vision for post-plantation agriculture in Hawai'i.** It is worrying to me that in the ADC's previous testimony on SB335, all hopes are put on the local, small/family farmers that can "achieve the economy of scale." Nakatani also worries that the 50% mandate will make the ADC inflexible to shifting markets and demand over time.

This industrial approach to local agriculture, which emphasizes farming as primarily a business endeavor, is out of step with the needs of our historic moment, as we face immense challenges like climate change, ecosystem deterioration, economic inequality, health disparities, and increasing severe weather and natural disaster. While undoubtedly business and market considerations are important to the success of local farmers today (and small/local farmers do undoubtedly deserve our support and incentives) agriculture can no longer be looked at as purely a business proposition because how and what we grow has profound implications on the health of ecosystems, waterways & aquifers, and human communities.

We are also witnessing exciting opportunities that should not be ignored, namely the growth and increasing currency of Hawaiian cultural values, practices, and political ethics of aloha 'āina and mālama 'āina. People want to live in accordance with their culture, and they want to grow food. We see this at the grassroots and in the success of innovative social impact organizations in the agriculture and food space—MA'O Farms being the most celebrated but not the only example—that are not only producing food but becoming more sophisticated operations and scaling their efforts. What MA'O and others are doing is putting to work Hawai'i's intellectual capital, backed by science, about how organic, regenerative, natural, and Hawaiian traditional farming practices (as well as Hawaiian land/ocean management practices) can improve soil and ecosystem health, thereby sequestering carbon out of the atmosphere and into the soil, and also





## Food+ Policy Internship 2021

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

ensuring watershed health--all while providing culturally coherent and dignified livelihoods and lifestyles.

We need an open and inclusive planning process for Hawai'i agriculture that takes into account the perspectives and needs of those leading this new vision of a biocultural agrifood system as well as all stakeholders--including Native Hawaiian farmers; communities near agricultural lands; organic, regenerative, and natural farmers; small farmers; farm workers; food insecure communities; as well as local food systems and policy experts.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Aloha nō,  
Kelsey Amos  
& the Food+ Interns

**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2021, the pilot cohort of interns are juniors, seniors, and recent graduates of the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.



# Food+ Policy Internship 2021

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

March 17, 2021

To: House AGR Committee

Subject: Testimony of Support for SB335

Aloha,

My name is Erwin Quinanola, and I am writing on behalf of the UH West Oahu Food + Policy Internship to express our collective and unequivocal support for the legislation of SB335. Given the current status of Hawaii's 5-7 days stockpile of food surplus in reflection to the COVID-19 crisis, it is now more important than ever that we put the proper mechanisms in place that allows us to become independent from outside food sources. We can never allow our vulnerable populations to suffer from food shortages and malnutrition like what we have seen in recent weeks. A humanitarian crisis is unimaginable, and we all experienced how limited the federal response was - and still is today.

Requiring the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to annually lease at least fifty per cent of land leased/up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production is a vital first step. The stipulation requiring the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to submit reports to the legislature on leasing activities will help ensure that land is made available for local small farmers, because having more local small farmers involved in local food production adds resiliency from seasonal fluctuations in food production which helps guarantee stability and reliable outputs. With reliable outputs, we will be able to plan agricultural productivity goals and achieve food security. Never having to worry about where our next supply of food is going to come from, regardless of the situation, is a solution that can be afforded by increased local agricultural production. Signing SB335 into law is a crucial step toward this goal.

**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

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# Food+ Policy Internship 2021

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

Mahalo,  
Erwin Quinanola & the Food+ Interns

**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2021, the pilot cohort of interns are juniors, seniors, and recent graduates of the University of Hawai'i West O'ahu's Sustainable Community Food Systems program. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, and Hawaiian culture.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lucas Murillo	Life and Land Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

\* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.

\* Adding a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.

\* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 3:08:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John & Rita Shockley	FREE ACCESS COALITION	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii's Agricultural land needs to be open to all kinds of local farming ventures. We support this Bill.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:42:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

Please support SB335 SD2, which would require the government to annually lease at least 50 percent of state ag land to operations whose primary business is, or supports, local food production.

One of the main hurdles farmers often cite in producing food crops for the people of Hawai'i is a lack of access to affordable land. This measure will help expand access to affordable land in Hawai'i for local farmers, which will help reduce our dependence on imported food and support the growth of our agricultural and local food economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2021 4:57:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:35:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support sb335 sd2



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:47:41 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill is a step in the right direction to make Hawaii food self sufficient before a crisis renders us without sufficient food. I strongly support it. Mahalo.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:49:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB335 with amendments.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:52:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

We need a plan..and this is a good start.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:00:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ashley Gutierrez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

It has come to my attention that through an audit of the ADC, that they have not accomplished their mission and is not what the legislature envisioned. This is from their own website:

"The Agribusiness Development Corporation was formed in 1994 to facilitate and provide direction for the transition of Hawaii's agriculture industry from a dominance of sugar and pineapple to one composed of a diversity of different crops.

The mission of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) is to provide leadership and advocacy for the conversion of agribusiness into a dynamic growth industry through the use of financial and other tools enabled by the founding legislation for the pursuit of specific projects to achieve the legislative objectives.

It's main objectives are:

- To facilitate in the orderly transition of existing agribusiness resources of land, water and infrastructure as they become available;
- To focus on specific marketing analysis for ADC identified projects and to utilize complementary marketing resources of related agencies
- To provide the leadership for the development, financing, improvement, or enhancement of agribusiness enterprises;
- To participate in county, state, and federal legislative initiatives to fulfill the purposes of the ADC."

If the ADC did half of those things they promised we would have a spike in agriculture business and would not need to rely on tourism. But we don't, due to lack in the ADC's role. In their own statements they have failed the people.

Instead they received special treatment and exemptions while acquiring large parcels of land that they lease to chemical companies, not the people. They never even gave

the citizens a chance to say what we preferred. Mismanagement and violations has lead to lawsuits due to negligence happening on their lands spreading to other areas.

You should highly consider re reading the auditors report, and create a task force so Hawaii's agricultural lands can be used for sustainability for the people. Abolish the ADC as it does not serve the people or Hawaii.

Mahalo

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:10:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patricia Lawrence	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For Kaua'i to become as self sustaining as possible for food, is of paramount importance. I had no idea all the ADC's land was laying idle. Turning it into farm land to produce ORGANIC produce gets my vote. My concern is that down the road, this farm land is not sold to a developer for building! I would like some clause included in the documentation that prohibits these farm lands to be sold for developing any kind of real estate, whether for homes or commercial use.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:13:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carl J. Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a scientist studying ocean pollution, ADC is the prime example of pesticide and nutrient mis-management. How many lawsuits against ADC will it take before the legislature sees ADC has failed and needs to be reorganized with an emphasis on food sufficiency in Hawaii.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:14:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

March 17, 2021

Members of the Committee:

**I come from a long line of family farmers and I support SB 335 -- Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) Food Production Reform.**

This bill would require the Agribusiness Development Corporation and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to annually lease at least 50% of its land to local food production businesses. Additionally, it would also require these two agencies to submit leasing activity reports to the legislature.

I support this bill because it will:

- decrease our overdependence on food imports
- help small-scale farmers gain access to agricultural lands
- diversify our food production economy
- reduce our carbon footprint associated with importing food
- prioritize regenerative farming operations

Sincerely,

Nathan Leo Braulick

2333 Kapiolani Blvd. #1604

Honolulu, HI 96826





**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:34:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Malia Marquez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kā• kou,

Aside from acquiring large acres of land, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission within its 27-year existence. Lawmakers should seriously consider whether dissolving the agency is a better option. It's crucial that we address our over-dependence on food imports with tangible solutions. Moving forward with SB335 is a step towards this. SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy. Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits. Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off. The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission. A plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system is desperately needed. This should involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island. Please support SB 335 for the betterment of our Hawai'i. Mahalo for your time on this urgent matter.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:35:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Obviously Hawaii Nei must become more food independant.. The ADC has the land but has not done a good job of farming it. Many farmers and potential farmers need access to good fertile land. This bill is a start .

Mahalo, JN

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:48:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair, Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

It is clear that the ADC has failed to accomplish much of their mission aside from acquiring large acres of land — land they've been sued for mismanaging multiple times.

A planning process involving small farmers and local food producers is desperately needed. Lawmakers should consider how prime ADC lands can best be used to feed our communities.

We don't need more big ag and chemical corporations, we need to reduce dependence on imported food, and allow more small-scale farmers to gain access to these ag lands. Please allow for more Hemp farming.

Thank you,

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN

Kailua

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:02:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jeffrey Henderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We must promote more local farming for local consumption.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:05:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Judith A Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please help Hawaii farmers keep Hawaii fed and safe by passing SB 335. These people are our hope for the future. Mahalo for your consideration. Aloha, Judy Mick, Kailua

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:16:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Whispering Wind	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of SB335.



Aside from acquiring large acres of land, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission within its 27-year existence. Lawmakers should seriously consider whether dissolving the agency is a better option.



It's crucial that we address our over-dependence on food imports with tangible solutions. Moving forward with SB335 is a step towards this.



SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy.



Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits.



Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.



The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.



A plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system is desperately needed. This should involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island.

Mahalo,

Mary Whispering Wind



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:17:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I am testifying in **SUPPORT** of SB335.



Aside from acquiring large acres of land, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission within its 27-year existence. Lawmakers should seriously consider whether dissolving the agency is a better option.



It's crucial that we address our over-dependence on food imports with tangible solutions. Moving forward with SB335 is a step towards this.



SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy.



Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits.



Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.



The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.



A plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system is desperately needed. This should involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island.

Mahalo,

Brian Murphy

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:38:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roberts Leinau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need accountability and full disclosure of what is happening with our agricultural lands.

Help ADC do a better job or end the program. Mahalo, Bob

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:48:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Hubbard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a citizen in passionate support of food sustainability in our islands, this bill seems like a step in the right direction. I've volunteered hundreds of hours harvesting breadfruit and delivering it to our community on Kaua`i. With more acreage in the hands of local growers, especially with opportunity for longer term fruit crops, we can see foods like breadfruit make a huge impact! Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:50:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rosemary Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a resident of Maui, I am concerned with our over dependency of off islands food supplies. This is a matter of great importance as we look to a future that is likely to be more unstable as climate change continues. We also need local jobs that meet the basic needs of our population and that are not centered around tourism.

We are counting on our government representatives to be smart and proactive in addressing the basic needs of the islands. We need a plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. It needs to be diverse, and should involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island.

SB 335 is a step in the right direction because it will provide opportunity for small farmers to have access to ag lands.

Further, we need to expand our local food production to help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits.

We are counting on our lawmakers to prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off. And we all know we need to rid our environment of toxic chemicals, especially those applied to our food.

The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.

Please act in a way that protects the people and the 'aina of Hawai'i by passing SB335.

With warm regards,

Rosemary Robinson

Ha'iku, HI

808-868-6479

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:54:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

#ABOLISHtheADC!!!!!! HB1271

Tired of this scam. The ADC needs to die & the Ag Dept. needs to take over & really support real Hawai'i farmers on these lands with SB335!

The jig is up at the ADC. Abolish!

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 11:05:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello and good day,

I go by Tanner, all my friends at the farm know me as a southern gentleman. Since moving from the south 4 years ago and becoming a resident of Kauai I have been able to live out one of my dreams of cultivating crops from seed to stem, then harvest some incredible foods. All Hawaiian islands grows food on farms which services the community. Our farmers, myself included, shall thrive off the land made readily available which will make possible restaurant contracts, farm to table experiences for tourists, and healthy communities. This bill must be passed to allow for future farms and farmers to build a better food distribution system for its residents and communities feed the populous and boost the local economy. If passed populous will result in better food security, increased job growth, and support general community wellness. Your decision to pass this bill will provide opportunity for farmers to allocate resources that will directly support its people and the economy. Combined, agriculture and the food services accounts for 24.6% of the employed population on island. Make farmers and future farmers have the opportunity to apply for grants, raise families, acquire restaurant contracts, sell at markets, and give back with the resources and land provided. I hope you local representing consider offering your support, thanks for taking time reading this!

respectfully,

Tanner Kamisky

7083 alamihi rd

Wainiha



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:02:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Momi Ventura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Alohamai My Name Is R. Momi Ventura, I Am Currently Homeless And Have No Home As Yet Although I Have Grown Food At Friends Homes. Vegetables And Herbs Like Oregano, And Thyme, My Favorites. It's Very Important That Small Farmers Have This Chance At Self-Sufficiency And Pride. The Agribusiness Development Corporation Should Absolutely Not Have Control Of Any Of Hawai'i's Lands Unless Already Abandoned Or Reused. There Are A Multitude Of Abandoned Buildings Lands Ect. Please Support The Bill SB335. Thank You Mahalomai For Your Time And Consideration.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:18:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stuart Coleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

I am a non-profit leaders and environmental advocate, and I'm writing in support of SB335 SD2. I believe It's crucial that we address our overdependence on food imports with tangible solutions. SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy.

It's clear that expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits. I hope lawmakers will prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off, which are issues that our non-profit WAI is helping to find solutions for as well.

Mahalo for you support and consideration of this bill.

Aloha, Stuart Coleman, 2927 Hibiscus Pl., Hon., HI 96815

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:18:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:28:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jasmine Slovak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e,

My name is Jasmine Slovak, I support SB335 with amendments.

I believe that we shouldn't throw the baby out with the bathwater, rather learn from our mistakes. The point of this policy is to ensure that agricultural land is used for it's intended purpose: to contribute to the food security, health, and cultural resilience of our community.

Mahalo for your service.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:36:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Alohilani Hue Sing	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Aside from acquiring large acres of land, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission within its 27-year existence. Lawmakers should seriously consider whether dissolving the agency is a better option
- It's crucial that we address our overdependence on food imports with tangible solutions. Moving forward with SB335 is a step towards this
- SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off
- The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission
- A plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system is desperately needed. This should involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects
- Please help to Secure food Sovereignty so that we All May be Healthy with Access to good food.

sincerely K. Alohilani Hue Sing

Date: March 17, 2021  
To: House Committee on Agriculture  
From: Rayleen Egami

Re: SUPPORT for SB335 (with amendments)

Aloha members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

First of all, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB335, generally. The failures of the ADC have become a pervasive matter in the state and now more than ever, we need systemic change to address these issues. The recent COVID pandemic have exacerbated a fragile food system in Hawaii, and this started off with the hoarding of toilet paper, rice, and canned foods. While grocery store workers have been considered “essential” in their duties, I know of farmers in the state that were not. SB335 is a good way to begin to address the shortcomings of agricultural land mismanagement, with an emphasis on utilizing 50% to those farms/businesses whose primary goal is local food production. Although some argument exists in the fertility of some land parcels, there were many ways that the ancestors of Hawaii were able to grow kalo in lava fields (*kipuka*). This is the type of innovation that occurs as a result of necessity, without externalities. Furthermore, there are ways to improve soil fertility in ecologically sound ways that do not require lots of capital, just *mana* 'o and opportunity. I do agree, however, that the ADC must be monitored more closely as a result of its failures. A bi-annual board review should be implemented *with* relative information on land/parcel activity and any/all accompanying economic figures. I would like to call for the resignation of the current executive board member as a punitive response to the accompanying negligence of the ADC audit findings. After all, in a real emergency, we cannot sustain life by eating money or electricity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lifelong Hawaii Resident,

Rayleen M L Egami

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:47:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Fred Dente	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill ASAP. We can't continue to import most of our food, when we have the land and the best conditions to grow our own food. The current situation must change, for our economy, our health, our sustainable future.

- SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:55:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dawn Morais Webster Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and committee members,

I believe that the audit and the UHERO report point to the wisdom of dissolving the Agribusiness Development Corporation. This bill does not do that--but it does represent a step in the right direction--that of ensuring that public lands are used for the public good. Our food system is clearly broken when we are so dangerously dependent on imports. Small farmers need more support growing food to feed the people of Hawaii. We need to prioritize regenerative farming practices. We need to make sure that the voices of small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals engaged in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects are heard as we try to repair our broken food system. The ADC board should include a representative of an environmental organization and an organic/natural farmer. This bill, with amendments, could result in greater accountability than was evident from the audit and UHERO report on ADC's performance over two decades. Please move this bill forward, with amendments. Thank you.



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:04:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bronson Azama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a former Future Farmers of America State President of Hawai'i from 2019-2020 I am appalled by the recent findings of the Agriculture Development Corporation. Although I would prefer to stand with Representative Perruso's efforts to abolish the ADC, I will support this measure as a right step forward should it be decided that the ADC is not to be abolished.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:19:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Walter Ritte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB335. This is one of the many steps needed for Hawaii to become food independent and secure.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:44:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm from Papakāleia, O'ahu now residing in Māhili in my ancestral homelands. I'm writing in support of SB335 for the following reasons:

- Aside from acquiring large acres of land, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission within its 27-year existence. Lawmakers should seriously consider whether dissolving the agency is a better option.
- It's crucial that we address our over-dependence on food imports with tangible solutions. Moving forward with SB335 is a step towards this.
- SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy.
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.

Support SB335.

me ke aloha 'Āina,

Nanea Lo

Ōia e, A plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system is desperately needed. This should involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 1:47:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this Bill. Use the available Ag lands for food production after soil testing and remediation from the gmo seed industries chemical pesticides and fertilizers.

This is an important and vital start to secure food stability in the islands.

We must to be able to feed ourselves while protecting the soil, water and pollinators.

Mahalo for voting yes!

Tutu Barbara Barry

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:00:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support sb335 for the simple reason that our public lands should be used for the public good, and the public good needs land dedicated to growing sustainable food for our people.

Mahalo for your attention.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:00:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Johanna Stone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because:

- Aside from acquiring large acres of land, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission within its 27-year existence. Lawmakers should seriously consider whether dissolving the agency is a better option
- It's crucial that we address our overdependence on food imports with tangible solutions. Moving forward with SB335 is a step towards this
- SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off
- The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission
- A plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system is desperately needed. This should involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:05:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill to ensure that Hawaii's agricultural lands will be used to grow food for Hawaii! (The horrible record that this agency has over the past decades clearly require that it have strict oversight!)

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:17:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

I am writing in support of SB335 with its amendments. We in Hawaii desperately need an overhaul on our extreme dependence on food imports.

A move to fund and to prioritize local farmers and expanding local food production is crucial considering the climate crisis looming ahead of us. This bill will help provide more adequate access to agricultural lands, small-scale and local farmers, which not only helps Hawaii's resiliency but also will help mitigate climate change. In this light, it is imperative that the bill includes provisos to promote conservation practices such as composting for improved health of the soil and reducing runoff. Those with expertise in traditional Hawaiian agricultural practices, organic and natural farming in Hawaii, especially with staple crops such as sweet potatoes, taro, bananas and avocados should be consulted as advisors to help planning for the long-term future in a sustainable manner, one for each island who has local knowledge of the aina they serve.

Mahalo for your attention to this matter.



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:29:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support SB335.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:34:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynne Caraway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Small farmers are the lifeline of the Hawaiian people and should be treated as such. We have recently witnessed the affects of a food source shortage which should never again be allowed to occur. Our islands need to be self sustainable.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 3:45:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Olivia Ling	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

We have been denied agricultural use of our lands for too long. We need an entity that can support ko hawaii pae aina becoming self supporting, now. I do not mean through cattle, which have way too much land that displaces more important crops and agro forestry projects. Cattle should be classified seperately as ranching and only for small families' personal use, not shipped to the mainland to spend their lives in feed lots and fed GMO grains and antibiotics. We need clean healthy food grown by our Hawaiian community, organic if can, we need to revitalize our tired soils that have been misused by monocrops. Practicing soil clean up with hemp, mushrooms and using Korean farming techniques can support self sustainabilty. We need to remove companies that poison our environment and the companies that do it, they are guided by greed. Get rid of the crooks and start supporting wise paractices that will work for health and generations to come.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:29:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Hayley K Giorgio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

My name is Hayley K. Giorgio. I live and come from Wainiha/Ha'ena on Kaua'i. I'm writing to support this bill [SB335] because I believe it's crucial that we address our overdependence on food imports with tangible solutions.

A plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system is desperately needed.

Moving forward with SB335 is a step towards this.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, aloha nui.

Hayley K. Giorgio

808-482-0289, hayleygiorgio@gmail.com

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 4:58:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wendy Raebeck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 335 in order to have more food production here in the Islands, and also more organic food grown here.

I would only advise that great care be taken to ensure those working on and living on the leased land are indeed actively farming every day (and not farming marijuana). There needs to be oversight because finding cheap or free land, or just someplace cheap to live, is a major preoccupation here. These need to be wholesome, working farms, where everyone living on the land is a legitimate farm worker. And preference should be given to the most impressive farmers.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 5:42:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let us build back green! We can create a lot of new jobs by doing green retro fitting of existing buildings.  
Mahalo, Laura Gray R.N.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:03:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Aside from acquiring large acres of land, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission within its 27-year existence. Lawmakers should seriously consider whether dissolving the agency is a better option
- It's crucial that we address our overdependence on food imports with tangible solutions. Moving forward with SB335 is a step towards this
- SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off
- The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission
- A plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system is desperately needed. This should involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island

Please pass SB 335.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 6:11:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
alicia morrier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is an excellent bill to support.



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:51:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission within its 27-year existence, aside from acquiring large acres of land. Lawmakers should seriously consider whether dissolving the agency is a better option.

It's crucial that we address our over-dependence on food imports with tangible solutions. SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy.

Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with more healthy options.

Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.

The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.

A plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system is desperately needed. This should involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island.

Mahalo!

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:50:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kristin Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to encourage you to support this measure. Public lands should be used for public good. Our current food system is broken. Prime ADC lands can be used to FEED our communités. Consider ways to strengthen this measure because food independence and not relying on imports is so important today.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 9:59:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill.

- SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off
- The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:20:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
denise woods	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. Please support SB335- It is VITAL that Hawaii take steps to become more self sufficient. This is a CRITICAL step- to makes sure that that leasing of public lands goes to farmers who are producing food for Hawaii. This is common sense for the future survival of our people. Covid-19 has shown us how quickly the world can change, the next cricis we face (whatever that is) could easily cut off our imports and our ability to grow our own food on these islands will make the difference between survival and watching your family starve. Of course we all hope that will never happen, and it might not, but there is no disadvantage to being prepared. Not only will it help ensure we don't starve in an emergency, but it also has many other bennifits, it will help reduce things that contribute to global warming, it will help reduce or eliminate the obvious corruption or ineptness that the ADC has been guilty of, and it will help the small farmers of these islands. Please support SB335.

Thank You,

Denise Woods, RN

Kauai

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:31:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Banner Fanene	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Strongly oppose this BILL because ADC is involved.

Agribusiness Development Corporation must be Repealed!

Mahalo.

Banner

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:48:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 6:47:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB335. It is way past time to make it possible for Hawaii to be more self sufficient by growing its own food! The Agriculture Development Corporation and the Department of Agriculture have failed miserably at this task. Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits.

A plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system is desperately needed. This should involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island

Please support SB335.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:24:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lisa Galloway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The current crisis gives us all cause to imagine possible future crises. We've been reminded that pandemics put Hawaii at risk, and that other catastrophes can as well due to our food insecurity. I urge you to see this bill is one of several puzzle pieces that need to be put together to protect Hawaii. I cite the statements by HAPA as further evidence that this is a good bill to support (see below). Mahalo for your consideration and service to us all.

Additional comments by HAPA:

- Aside from acquiring large acres of land, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission within its 27-year existence. Lawmakers should seriously consider whether dissolving the agency is a better option
- It's crucial that we address our overdependence on food imports with tangible solutions. Moving forward with SB335 is a step towards this
- SB335 will provide more small-scale farmers with access to agricultural lands, bringing us closer to a diversified food production economy
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide locals with health benefits
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits, such as improved soil health and preventing run-off
- The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission
- A plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system is desperately needed. This should involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:32:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill with amendments:

\* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.

\* Add a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.

\* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:37:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Judith Perino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge passage of this bill and fully support its intentions.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:44:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please.

We need more Hawaii grown food.

Open at least 50% of ADC land, our taxpayer-funded land for farming.

Give young farmers a chance to farm!

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:49:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lorn Hoku Douglas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

When Capt Cook (supposedly) 'discovered' Hawaii there were more residents then now and were 100% sustainable. Now we import 90% of our food despite favorable conditions to grow food all year round..... Please support!

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 7:59:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Patrick Switzer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need bold action to move towards food security in Hawaii. The pandemic has shown us how fragile the supply chains are. Eventually an event will come along to break those chains, for long enough that it will make us sitting (starving) ducks out here in the ocean.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:01:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Heidi Schemp	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I would like urge you to support SB 335. After reading the audit earlier this year I believed that the ADC should be completely rebuilt. But I think this bill is a good compromise. Leasing 50% is a first step. I'd love to see the number higher and I love to see something that addresses helping small farmers and in future years I think 50% is too low. But for now I'm happy that we can start somewhere! We need local food production now.

Thank you,

Heidi Schemp

Kilauea

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:03:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Roy Brennen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In times of environmental change and growing insecurity, the need for local food security and small business opportunities must be ensured. The Agribusiness Development Corporation and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture have been woefully inadequate in supporting these endeavours. I support SB 335 to better help our local small businesses as well as to promote environmentally appropriate food security.

If a small nation such as the Netherlands can become the 2nd largest food exporter in the world, Hawaii could learn much from them and maximize its agricultural footprint, for our own interest as well as the nations.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:09:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bradford Baang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB335 which will assist in meeting the goals of the State's position on improving our food self sufficiency. We unnecessarily are prisoners of importing too much of our food. We need more local (not corporate) small farmers to help meet that need for food availability-security and much needed fresh food quality for a more healthy Hawaii. Please pass SB335.



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:14:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kate Paine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Folks - we've done farming support wrong since haole came to HI. Can we now make couragous moves to lend legislation supporting good use of funds for farming! Support planetary health!

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:30:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Colleen Rost-Banik, and I am a resident of Honolulu. Please support SB335. We need to do more to ensure that local and Native Hawaiian land and water conservation practices are used for food production. This bill is one way to support such practices.

Thank you for attending to this important issue.

Respectfully,  
Colleen Rost-Banik, PhD

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:38:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this proposal to require the Department of Agriculture to have 50% or more of the ag land be designated as local food production by local farmers.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:44:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill with amendments.

Thank you,

Melissa Barker

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:45:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lorna Larsen-Jeyte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I live on Hawai'i Island. Every time I drive through Lower Puna or along Hamakua Highway, I am struck by the lack of sensible farming practices. We could grow SO MUCH MORE for our people. More for schools. Growing up in East side of our island, we always had local food for lunch at school. Maybe even the brown rice came from Pololu Valley. I wonder if that's one of the reasons our local Japanese population often lives to be centenarians. Good healthy food and hard work.

There are young people interested in farming. But regulations and lack of available land discourage them for pursuing a co-op type venture. Please do a better job of oversight on ADC and add an organic/natural practicing farmer, a farmer familiar with native growing practice and an environmentalist. Please. Better oversight and publication of RESULTS.

Mahalo Lorna Larsen-Jeyte

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:50:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Mahalo.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:53:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Janik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Everyone states we need to be more self productive in our farming

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:54:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pua Rossi-Fukino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Pua Rossi-Fukino. I am a Kanaka Maoli, born and raised in Wailua on the island of Kaua'i. I am writing in **SUPPORT** of SB335.

Due to COVID-19, I have seen our community relying heavily on our farmers to support our food needs. I have also seen our community return to farming as a way to provide for their families. Now is the time, more than ever, when we need good bills such as these to take care of our local farmers and support our local food production.

A major obstacle that our farmers face is a lack of access to affordable land. This bill will help in providing more opportunity for farmers. It will also help to support the growth of our own agricultural and local food economy. We are not in a situation where we can support outside food sources; we need to take care of our local community.

Again, I support SB335 and look forward to a better future for Hawai'i's 'Āina.

Me ka mahalo,

Pua Rossi-Fukino



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:56:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill.

Your consideration is appreciated.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:09:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marjorie Bonar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The future of sustainability in our state can only be assured by the small farmers who cannot acquire land at present. Please make the changes necessary to effect this change.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:16:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Although I prefer to abolish the ADC because they have failed to achieve their mission statement and the last audit showed how poorly this agency has run. I support this bill with friendly ammendments:

\* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.

\* Adding a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.

\* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island

Mahalo,

Fitz

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:17:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
minda goodman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support food security and SB335.

"Malama the Aina"

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:37:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a resident of O'ahu's predominantly agricultural North Shore, I am submitting testimony in support of SB 335 SD 2, with amendments.

In addition to my previous testimony in support of SB 335 SD1, I would like to emphasize that this bill is an important initial attempt to rectify the Agribusiness Developments Corporation's (ADC) mismanagement and lack of oversight of state lands, but because of little to no engagement with the broader agricultural community, among other factors, I feel that disestablishing this "public private" attached agency would best serve the people of Hawai'i.

The urgent need for an "all hands-on deck" inclusive, strategic visioning process of the best uses for ADC lands and the future of Hawai'i's food security has never been more evident than during this global pandemic.

I would also again, recommend prioritizing regenerative farming practices and traditional Hawaiian agricultural methodologies in any upcoming comprehensive planning to support water conservation and soil health, which in turn, would establish and ensure a secure, bountiful future for local food production.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:37:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keiko Gonzalez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Hawai'i needs to be food sustainable. It is unwise to continue to rely so heavily on imported food. I support this legislation with the following amendments:

\* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.

\* Adding a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.

\* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island.

Mahalo,

Keiko

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:44:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alice Terry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill with the following suggested amendments to:

\* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.

\* Adding a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.

\* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:48:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sarah fields	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please allow our farmlands to be used to provide and grow Healthy food by individual farmers

chemical companies have done enough to destroy our farmlands.

we need to make a change and allow new hands to work the soil to provide a chemical free food option for the people. Mahalo



Aloha mai,

My name is Brian “Ioane” Jahn, I live in Wahiawā with my pops and my three keiki, and I am writing to express my support for SB335. This is a difficult testimony to write because I do not have much faith in the ADC, due to records of mismanagement and falling short of simple goals. However, since it does not appear that the ADC will be dismantled at this time, I would like to see at least 50% of ‘āina leased to local farmers with the hope of increasing overall production within our islands.

The increase and stabilization of local food production will create a cascade of positive effects to benefit Hawai‘i, along with the rest of the planet. Reduction of dependence upon outside sources for food will increase food security overall, lower carbon emissions related to shipping on a large scale, reduce ocean pollution related to shipping, eliminate unnecessary packaging that results in excess waste, create safer access to food that does not require chemical treatment for importation, facilitate more local jobs which contribute to local economy enhancement and keep local families in Hawai‘i, and provide greater possibilities for communities to interact and build relationships with their local food system.

Priority should be given to smallholders who utilize conservation-based production methods, such as cover-crop rotations, low-till or no-till soil enhancement/soil conservation practices, responsible water management techniques, and the incorporation of traditional weed and pest mitigation strategies that create symbiotic relationships within ‘āina.

There is a very real issue occurring here that highlights the lack of professional authority on matters that require systematic, long-term management strategies. There should be a panel of subject matter experts appointed to oversee these transactions within the ADC to ensure the biological, cultural, social, and economic needs of Hawai‘i are being considered throughout all land management operations; ‘āina is sacred and should be treated as such. These experts should collectively possess a comprehensive knowledge-set that ranges from understanding Hawai‘i’s specific socio-political needs, conventional farming’s role as a key contributor to anthropogenic climate change, and an awareness of ongoing agricultural interventions and solutions to global climate change being introduced and implemented throughout the world; we are one piece of a larger picture that undoubtedly have significant connections, both seen and unseen.

Mahalo for taking the time to read this testimony. These issues are extremely important to our families and our interests in affording a chance at a clean, healthy, and safe world for the next seven generations.

Me ke aloha,

Ioane

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 9:52:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill, which would encourage local food production and thereby make Hawaii more self-sufficient.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:05:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
glenn oshiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please open the ADC small and aspiring farmers. ADC has been an agribusiness entity since it's founding. It needs to work for people as well as corporate "producers" using its resources in behalf of consumer-citizens. Please support SN335.

Thankyou.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:06:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support requiring the Agribusiness Development Corporation and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to annually lease at least 50% of its land to local food production businesses.

This includes prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices, add a representative of a reputable environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.

The new law should require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawaii's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic/natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restorations projects from each island.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:17:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gary K Ilalaole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a farmer, and its a tough business, but there are many citizens that would do it if they had a chance because it is rewarding. The Agribusiness Development Corporation has accomplished very little to accomplish the objective of agricultural independence set out in 1970s. Its time to let the many interested citizens use the land they have been hording. They had their chance, now let the people solve the problem of agricultural independence. Make sure the land is offered with three things. 1. Land should be leased cheaply. Dont make it unattainable by farmers. Farming does not make much money so it must be cheap. Also essential is that plots be of various sizes and a limit of 5 acres or so per farmer, per area. This will limit large farming ventures.Many farmers is better than jsut a few. 2.Access to cheap and unlimited water is essential. Ag2 water is okay. Ag 1 water should be available at a slightly higher price. 3. Mulch. Let the state supply 6 month old hot composted mulch to all growing areas. Just dump it in the common areas for use by farmers, but not by the general public. Supply should be unlimited. Hawaiian Earth Products has an unlimited supply. 4. Manure: Have the state make another dump of manure for growing things. There are several places to get free manure, and the state should pick up and supply piles of free manure to growing areas. If they cant figure it out come to me and I will steer them to places they can get it. I have an unlimited supply myself. The ADC has been wasting our tax money long enough and has nothing to show for it. Provide the land and raw materials and people will solve the problem of now and into the future. Support the venture and they will come. Thanks, Gary Ilalaole.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 10:32:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this Bill with the following amendments:

\* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.

\* Adding a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.

\* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:03:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JoAnn Bishop Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Though my preference is to abolish the ADC, I am supporting SB335 with amendments to:**

- \* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.
- \* Add a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioner and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.
- \* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island.

Thank you,

JoAnn Bishop Freed

Kailua Kona, HI

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:09:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark Enomoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to walk the talk and support local farming rather than converting ag land into housing and developments. The ADC has been totally negligent in creating a thriving diversified ag economy in the 25 years it has been in existence.

Farmers cannot and do not have the necessary capital to make technological improvements like Larry Ellison is doing on Lanai with Sensei Farms. The State needs to step in and encourage farming methods and practices that will increase yield, reduce water consumption, reduce the use of pesticides that have contaminated our soil as in cane and pineapple lands.

25 years for nothing to happen is a generation of Hawaii. We can reduce our reliance on importing food, but the State needs to walk the talk with help to small farmers and not big ag such as the seed industry and GMO research.



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:10:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Spencer Reemelin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha to all,

Please support SB335 we are in dire need of food security in the islands. It is high time we take action.

Mahalo

Spencer Reemelin

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:14:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Shishido	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe the ADC should be abolished entirely for failing abysmally to meet its intended purpose, however if not abolished I recommend the following amendments to the subject measure:

\* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.

\* Adding a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.

\* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.  
Karen Shishido

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:42:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

My 'ohana and I strongly support SB 335 SD1, however we are concerned that the measure does not go nearly far enough. I am in strong support of the dissolution of the ADC all together to start a clean slate and an agency that is designed from the start with the right goals and accountability.

Requiring at least 50% local food production on Hawaii's agricultural (ADC) lands and annual reporting on ADC leases is an important and vital first step but doesnt go nearly far enough.

This partly privatized entity has been granted way too much control over public agricultural lands. ADC's non-democratic process has seen small farmers and ranchers seeking ADC leases denied with little to no justification.

The lands leased to agrochemical tenants have been associated with heavy pesticide usage and toxic drift into adjacent communities. The ADC has been associated with poor land management, and toxic industrialized agriculture rather than food producing regenerative farming and its costs our communties and environment far too much.

ADC's lack of oversight and mismanagement has led to water hoarding and wasting in Kekaha, leading to a contested case. Proceedings before the Water Commission revealed that the association (KAA) was diverting far more water than was needed for agriculture and, instead, was using this public trust resource to feed an antiquated hydropower system that helped subsidize its operations. And much of the water was simply wasted.

The ADC has facilitated agrochemical companies' exemption from compliance with Clean Water Act standards by extending a decades old sugar plantation permit to discharge toxic chemicals into the water. In 2019 the ADC was ruled to have polluted waters of West Kaua'i without a permit since 2015 by a federal judge, violating a federal Clean Water Act.

Enough is enough. Please dissolve, radically reform and create a functional agency that serves the people, the land and the mission of transforming agriculture to regenerative food production.

Thank you for your consideration and service,

Fern Å€ Holland

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:06:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support food production in the state of Hawaii especially on Kauai

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:31:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tom Tatum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

Tom Tatum

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 12:53:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Becky Gardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The pandemic has made far too real, for far too many Hawaii residents, the growing crisis of food insecurity. It is so unfortunate - how we've become so dependent on macro-economic systems of mass-produced Frankenfoods - poisoning our land and air with pesticides - all to ramp up production and profit for offshore food purveyors that do not nourish, but only further fuels America's obesity epidemic. Re-focusing Hawaii's lands on feeding Hawaii's people is the far healthier choice for everyone involved.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:23:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Daniel Bishop	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Daniel Bishop am in Strong Support of SB##%

MAhalo

Daniel Bishop



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 1:33:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
joan Levy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Local food production would increase jobs, lower the cost of food here and give us far fresher produce. another no brainer!

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:06:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Though the preference is to abolish the ADC, I suggest supporting SB335 with amendments to:

- \* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.
- \* Adding a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.
- \* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:07:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sherrie Orr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this all important bill. As the most remote chain of islands in the world all support should be behind local agriculture and food production and availability of land for farmers seeking to increase our food security. Essential are the cultural practices for raising food as well as restoration and management should be integrated into the endeavor.

Sherrie Orr

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:08:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Emma Broderick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Though my preference would be to abolish the ADC, I support SB 335 with suggestions to include a mandate that prioritizes regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. I also support adding a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board. As well as requiring a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 2:27:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Anything that makes Hawaii more self-sufficient and sustainable on the food front is a good idea. If farmers want to grow fresh foods let's support them. This bill can be amended to:

- \* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.
- \* Add a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.
- \* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system, involving small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals knowledgeable about Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 3:36:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Paul Janes-Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure. Local grown food is an important positive contribution to our nutrition.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 3:38:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tane Datta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill and local agriculture to feed people who live in Hawaii

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 3:48:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sue Cowing	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Include amendments to:

\* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.

\* Adding a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.

\* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 3:57:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gordon Inouye	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

While I support the intent of the bill, I fear the effect will be to impose conditions detrimental to farmers. the decision on which crop to grow centers around what the farmers feel is the most productive given the microclimate, soil conditions and market conditions for vaious crops. Mandating food production on ag parks not suitable for such production will discourage rather than encourage young farmers. Well intended legislation but not very practical in application.

To encourage more food production we should consider developing ways to enhance the profitability of locally grown food to help the farmer survive rather than imposing arbitratry quotas on land use.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:00:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cliff & Mary DeVries	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We want the Hawaii dept of Ag to annually lease at least 50% of its land to local food production business. We want to mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations. We want to add an organic farmer to the ADC board. We want to require a plan for the future of Hawaii's ag lands and overall food system. This must involve small food produces, farmer steeped in organic and natural farming practices and native Hawaiian experts.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:11:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Catherine Clement	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB335. Not that long ago, a 100% sustainable agricultural system for all residents of the islands was a reality in Hawai`i. This needs to become a reality again, as soon as possible.

New Zealand is a shining example of island self-sufficiency. Hawai`i can return to that status, too.

I urge you to represent me and all your constituents by supporting SB335.

Mahalo,

Catherine Clement

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:43:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tony Radmilovich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**Though the preference is to abolish the ADC, we are supporting g SB335 with amendments to:**

\* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.

\* Adding a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.

\* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:56:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB335 because I believe annually leasing at least 50% of ADC and HDP land to local food production businesses is needed to strengthen Hawaii's food security from imported means.

I prefer to abolish the ADC and suggest supporting SB335 with amendments to:

\* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.

\* Adding a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.

\* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island.

Even without amendments, I urge the committee to support SB335. Thank you.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 4:58:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elaine Wender	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support with amendments to:\* Mandate the prioritization of regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices.

\* Adding a representative of an environmental organization, indigenous farming practitioners, and an organic/natural farmer to the ADC board.

\* Require a comprehensive plan for the future of Hawai'i's agricultural lands and overall food system. The planning process must involve small food producers, food systems planners, farmers steeped in organic and natural farming practices, and individuals who partake in Native Hawaiian food systems restoration projects from each island

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:12:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB335.

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:15:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Rodwell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

AS a long time resident and farm volunteer I fully support this Bill.



**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 5:33:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tawn Keeney	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I would like to offer the following amendment:

"Until at least 75% of the cattle raised in Hawaii are 'finished' in Hawaii, rather than being shipped to the mainland for 'finishing', and sold for food production in Hawaii, the lease of all of the lands eligible for lease by the ADC and Department of Agriculture shall be to persons and entities engaged in plant based agriculture for use as food in Hawaii."

Currently about 35,000 out of the annual cattle production of 45,000 head in the State of Hawaii are shipped to the mainland for 'finishing'. It is contrary to the intent of this bill to make further leases of State land for the purpose of cattle grazing until this exit of our food source out of the State is reversed. The overwhelming portion of beef sold in Hawaii is imported from the mainland. If all cattle raised in Hawaii were 'finished' here most of our State's beef requirements would be met. We should not lease more land for cattle grazing until the State's requirements cannot be met by the cattle raised here. This should be the case even if the cost of beef is somewhat higher.

There is currently not enough land devoted to plant based agriculture for production of Hawaii's food. This is what needs to be rectified, not more land devoted to raising cattle.

If the above amendment is not stipulated in this bill, it will certainly be the case that the Agribusiness Development Corporation will lease most all of these lands for cattle ranching. Leasing these lands to a few ranching operations would be far easier and require far less capital for infrastructure creation than leasing to a few hundred family or commercial farming operations.

Tawn Keeney MD

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 12:37:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear AGR Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members,

I am in favor of SB335 SD2 to support farmers in growing more food for local consumption. Please support this bill.

Thank you,

Jan Pappas - Aiea, Hawaii

**SB-335-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/19/2021 6:18:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gordon B. Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support sb335 sd2 for varrious reasons