

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 5:44:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:25:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

This is a very good idea.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:42:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Wong	Friends Of Waimanalo	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha my Name is Scott Wong,

I serve as the Chief Operations Officer for the Friends of Waimanalo.

I am **Opposed to HB1271**.

Our Non-Profit, Friends of Waimanalo has approached Jimmy Nakatani before we read the ADC's Audit Report to seek a partnership with the ADC for available lands and existing facilities to carry out and further our mission as a workforce development program and with a partnership with other like minded Non-Profits and a For-Profit Company.

Our work in the community with the homeless, Men and Women transitioning out of prison, Native Hawaiians and Students in the DOE requires us to have a land base which the ADC has and is seeing merit in our mission for the community. Along with our partnerships with other Non-profit organizations such as WEDG who is based on the ADC property, we can carry out our existing work by utilizing the land and existing facilities in the ADC's inventory to create a pilot program of a Processing Hub in Whitmore Village with plans of replicating this pilot program to other islands.

We could only accomplish this by approaching Jimmy Nakatani with a viable business plan to revitalize the Hawaii Agribusiness Model by bringing in a real business. So we partnered with a company called Root Wise who has been in business for 5 years producing CBD Wellness Products, Hemp Food Products, Hemp Wood and having a Hemp Robotics company that fabricates their own farm equipment to help create solutions for small family farmers.

Our partnerships between Private, Public and Non-Profits are focused on this pilot Program succeeding with the ADC and Jimmy Nakatani because it is what the community and organizations across the State to include you legislators are asking for.

- Education of our people in the building and trades industry
- A push for Digital Technology and STEM Programs
- Education in Agribusiness and a push for more food production
- A new cash crop that can produce hemp foods.

- A Processing Plant to create new Made in Hawaii Products to export world wide.
- Create wood and concrete from Industrial Hemp to build less expensive homes from imported materials and to solve our housing crisis.
- To clean the soil to grow more food crops in companion with Industrial Hemp
- To help the existing Hemp farmers and traditional farmers to have a hub to go to for support and education and to sell their Hemp
- To replicate this processing hub throughout the islands to support all farmers

Our Organizations and our For Profit partners are depending on the current ADC leadership team to assist in finally getting us in on the lands to carrying out what Hawaii desperately needs in the agriculture industry and the uplifting of the communities during these troubling times.

To make this change that this bill is designed for will seriously disrupt or destroy all what our grass roots organizations have been working for with the ADC. We are on the cusp of solving the issues that was addressed in the auditors report. What we brought to the ADC was a VIABLE plan that was needed that combined community organizations, with government entities and a for profit business that can help address the problems we are faced with from the fallout of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Stop this Bill and please support this endeavor. Please see our project as a solution to the Audit report and do not set all of us backwards to start again. Find monies that can help support our project with the ADC to help bring much needed change we all need and have been requesting that we all see and post on Facebook. We are right here to start now.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:25:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support the dissolution of the ADC if it means that local farmers will truly be supported to provide for local communities more meaningfully. Because ADC's 27-year life has been [largely unfruitful](#), and its capacity for course correction is limited (if it still exists), I think it will be best to rework a more effective solution. HB1271 is a strong move in a positive direction for local agriculture and food sovereignty in Hawai'i. Mahalo nui for your time.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:46:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:58:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yulia Muzychenko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

ADC failed big time in its responsibility and needs to be watched over by more responsible people of DOA. Mahalo!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:10:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representatives:

I strongly support this bill to dissolve the troubled agribusiness development corporation and transfer all lands and staff, except for the executive director, to the department of agriculture.

Mahalo,

Joe Wilson

Waiale'e / north shore O'ahu

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:39:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jade Moss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure as-is.

Mahalo,

Jade Moss

Lihue

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:41:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This passage of this bill would mark the genuine shift in Hawaii State government to one that works for Hawaii's people, not for off-island toxic industry, which is what the non-transparent Agribusiness Development Corporation represents.

The time is now to clean house. Let's redirect the wasted funds that have gone into the ADC for decades into an economy that serves and feeds Hawaii's own communities.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:49:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doris McGowan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Doris McGowan. I live in Hanapepe and I love our island. I support this bill to dissolve ADC. Here! Here! for doing away with corporations that are not in our island's best interests. At this point in history, we are having a new starting point to make all things right. We don't need dead weight that is opaque and not in alignment with the preserving and bettering our island. Thank you! And much aloha!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:50:02 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a mother of 2, resident of Haiku. I support bill HB1217.

I shop and buy from small local farmers and believe this should be the main focus. The community needs local organic produce not to buy exported fruits and veggies. We do need the land being used as a testing ground for GE seed crops!

The ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land.

The special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.

The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.

Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.

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

Overall, the ADC has failed and needs to go.

Sincerely, Chelle Galarza

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:50:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill: this has been a big waste of taxpayer money, and not served the local

farmers and ranchers and residents.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:02:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerry Long	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The ADC has proven incompetent and antiquated. And yet, Hawai'i has global notoriety for its grassroots food movement. There are so many progressive efforts in the islands, including awesome land restoration projects that center 'ike Hawai'i.

With its incompetency (and possible corruption) in mind, the agency holds privileges and powers that are incredibly high stakes for multiple stakeholders in Hawai'i, such as the development of agricultural and public lands. It has proven itself unworthy of this power and it has proven itself unqualified to lead Hawai'i into the future.

Please vote yes on this bill. Thank you.

Ilima Long

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:13:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha committee members!

The ADC has been a slow rolling failure. It's time to wring out the misapplied funding, dissolve the administrative apparatus, and move on to more relevant designs in sync with our statewide goals and new realities!

Thank you!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:29:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michal Fentin Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1271. Hawai'i should dissolve the ADC and transfer its resources and staff (except its executive director) to the Department of Agriculture. The ADC has been a fiasco. We don't need it. Thank you.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:37:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.
- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:38:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support disbanding this corporation which has left us without adequate use of these lands as food crops.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:41:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Aitken	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The department of agriculture is the proper place for control of agribusiness decisions and allocations. Please support HB1271. Thank you.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:49:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gordon B. Lindsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1271, for many reasons

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:50:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha ,

I support dis

ADC has failed for 27 yrs.

Transfer it's resources & staff minus the Exc director to the HDA .

JN

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:10:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
john kochiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern; I wholeheartedly support this bill! Thank you for addressing this atrocity! I can only imagine how different our agriculture and food supply would be if this organization had been doing it's job the last 27!! years!! Sold out to big ag, who has been raping and destroying our best farmland for profit, contributing nothing to the people of Hawaii, except perhaps, health problems, as we saw in Kaauui with the sxchool children a few years ago. There are so many smaller scale farmers who would love to have access to some of this prime land, and love and care for it as if it was their own, I am one of them. Farmers who believe in regenerative practices, and who love and respect the land. I hope and pray this bill passes, thank you for reading my comments, Aloha!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:17:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A shameful history. Abolish! Much thanks to the auditor!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:25:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Dinner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This makes sense on so many levels—consolidation, elimination of ineffective bureaucracy and cost saving.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:28:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Nellis	Dole Food Co. Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am Daniel Nellis, General Manager of Dole Hawaii. I oppose HB1271 and its intention to eliminate ADC and move all assets into the Dept. of Ag. ADC has successfully purchased productive ag lands that have been idled by the closing of sugar and pineapple plantations. It is providing long term reasonably priced leases to farmers of diversified crops who would otherwise not be able to secure longterm leases. This is the foundation of creating food security for Hawaii; secure access to long term leases and available ag water. ADC also effectively manages ag water systems that previously served sugar plantations . ADC is achieving what it was chartered to do. The semi-autonomous status that ADC has now makes it possible for asset purchases and public private partnerships that can be achieved in a reasonable time period without the burden of additional layers of state bureaucracy. The continued autonomy of ADC is essential to achieving it's chartered goals of protecting and expanding agricultural in Hawaii. Recognizing that the results of the recent ADC audit were not favorable, I would caution against overreaction and instead identify and fund needed improvements at ADC including sufficiently staffing the organization so that it can be managed optimally.

Thank You.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:32:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Clement	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB1271 for the following reasons:

- A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.
- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

The state of Hawai'i can and needs to raise its own sustainable food, and eliminate dependence upon the mainland for our basic sustenance. The Dept. of Agriculture needs to make this happen.

I urge you to vote yes on HB1271.

Catherine Clement

PO Box 172

Makawao, HI 96768

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:34:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
denise woods	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello, I just want to add my concerns and present others that have been brought forward. The ADC is a parasite on our healthy state function and needs to be removed. We need to prioritize local ag on a community level. Please address the concerns below.

- A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.
- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

Thank You,

Denise Woods, Kauai

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:48:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cindy Evans	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

In Support. Today Hawaii Department of Agriculture is the agency responsible for growing the aquaculture industry, moving Hawaii towards greater food self-sufficiency and viable exports. Moving the responsibilities to HDOA makes sense.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:10:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tanya Aynessazian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Tanya Aynessazian and I live in Pahoia on the Big Island. I send this testimony in support of HB 1271 regarding the Agribusiness Development Corporation, or ADC.

A 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. In addition, the special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.

Against the people's wishes, the majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.

Overall, the mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creates liability for the state. ADC is clearly incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Tanya Aynessazian

16-2143 Pukalani Dr

Pahoia, HI 96778

taynessazian@gmail.com

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:11:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William W. Steiner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support dissolving the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). The recent audit of its activities clearly demonstrate the ADC has failed in its mission. HB 1271 is clear about why it needs to be dissolved. However, I do not believe HB 1271 should be conflated with the filings of other heads of Hawaii State government including the governor; this only detracts from the purpose of dissolving and transferring present holdings of the ADC to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). The additional filings called for should be in a separate bill. If anything, there could be added an audit of the HDOA non-agriculture leasing that has been in place under Section 4 for the past 25 years or so. Transfer of more land to HDOA needs a requirement that HDOA won't follow in the footsteps of ADC. Already there is too much paperwork required to place farmers on the land to grow the food Hawaii needs. Modification of leasehold length should be done in lieu of some of the paperwork; e.g. a five year contingency lease to show the lessee can indeed farm, and then a 30 year renewable lease in ten year increments to assure the lessee can make money growing food for Hawaii. A fixed 65 year lease serves no purpose and prevents young farmers from obtaining land because as the farmer ages, it is likely (s)he will want to do less work that agriculture requires. Hawaii is losing its young farmers and the average age of farmers in Hawaii is not in the sixties. Thank you for your attention to this matter. W. Steiner, former Dean of UHH College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management, Hilo HI (retired).

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:21:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Kau'i Young	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.
- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:22:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
phyllis fong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.
- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

Thank you

Phyllis Fong, a part time farmer

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:23:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Brandt	Foresight/Policy Analysis	Support	No

Comments:

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

I strongly support this bill for the following reasons;

- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation and production of GE seed crops for export, not for local food production.
- Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability, has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state government.
- The results of the recent audit show that ADC is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions, and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report. Therefore ADC should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing chemical run-off and groundwater pollution.
- A stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized sustainably to reduce Hawaii's dangerous over-dependency on imported food, and end the export of billions of dollars annually from Hawaii's economy to pay for it, instead of investing in ourselves..

Mahalo and Aloha!

Thomas Brandt

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:31:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing HB 1271. Once again, an entity --in this case, the ADC--that is supposed to serve the long term needs of Hawaii's people for diversified food production has instead been found to be asleep at the wheel. Even worse, it has put the interests of the world's biggest agrochemical companies before the needs of small farmers who want to grow food to feed the people of Hawaii. It is time to dissolve the ADC and transfer the resources it would otherwise continue to attract to the Dept. of Agriculture. The more than two decades of indifference and lack of transparency to local farmers seeking leases and the failure to use the powers and exemptions granted to it for the public good cannot be allowed to continue. The pandemic has only accentuated the need to stop this gross mismanagement of a critical agency, remove the failed leadership and renew our commitment as a state to regenerative farming practices that honor the needs of the people of Hawaii. Local farmers deserve better than the ADC has delivered to date. Please pass HB 1271. It will end this shameful fiasco and allow us to refocus resources so that we can in real substantive ways support farming practices that serve the people of Hawaii, not big corporate interests.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:28:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Please pass HB1271.

- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:02:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As someone who lives in the Central Oahu area, it is sad to see agricultural lands lay fallow and being used for GMO seed production and NOT for local food production. Instead of land being used to feed our community, I see tall grass and abandoned cars. I learn of pockets of this empty land being used for drug deals and as storage. I see places that my grandparents used to work as plantation workers being used in nefarious ways. The promises that the ADC made when it was first established have gone unfulfilled. We are still reliant on importing our food, and we are not in a better position in terms of food security. As descendants of former plantation workers, I understand the value of agriculture to our island heritage and history. Instead of building on the pride and hard work of our community the ADC has squandered monies and opportunities due to failing leadership and mismanagement.

Instead, viable land that could be used for food production is being used for suburban development and gentleman farms. What has the ADC done for our local community? Instead my Central Oahu community will see suburban growth instead of contributing to a local economy that can help feed future generations. We must turn to regenerative farming techniques that heal land that has been poisoned by monocropping. This is the kind of practice that the ADC should be focusing on.

The audit of the agency screams clear that we must stop this insanity and plan for a future that can benefit Hawaii's people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:08:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.

Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.

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

The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:09:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Noelani Ahia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- I strongly support this bill.
A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.
- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

**LARRY JEFTS FARMS,
LLC PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892**

HB1271, Agribusiness Development Corporation
House AGR Hearing
Friday, February 12, 2021
Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Oppose

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House AGR Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

ADC's founding legislation gave it tools to pursue legislative objectives such as the transition of existing plantation resources of land, water, and infrastructure when available; focus on marketing analysis of identified projects to use complimentary marketing resources from other state agencies; and to participate in county, state, and federal legislative initiatives to fulfill its purposes.

I chaired the ADC Board many years ago and saw its potential to transition former plantation lands to productive diversified agribusiness. Over the years, its capacity to do this diminished. The lack of funding support for sufficient staff and other changes often blocks ADC's quick response action to address agriculture transition needs, such as managing at-risk water systems and losing agricultural land due to competing development needs.

I oppose the proposed transition of ADC to the HDOA. I support enhancing ADC's capacity and realignment as an attached agency to the HDOA. The HDOA's role is primarily a regulatory and compliance one. While it does manage agricultural parks, its purpose does not include the transition of former plantation lands to diversified agriculture. That is ADC's role. It is better to have two separate agencies, with different missions, to support the viability of Hawaii's agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:35:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
scotty Reis-Moniz	friends of Waimanalo	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Board,

My name is Scotty Reis-Moniz, President of the Friends Of Waimanalo which conducts community workforce development academies focused on; Building and Trades, Digital Media and Hawaiian Culture/Agriculture

I am strongly opposed to HB 1271.

The reason is that we have been working with Jimmy Nakatani to utilize the lands under the Jurisdiction of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). We have presented Jimmy with a comprehensive business plan that incorporates 3 pillars of support for the Whitmore/Wahiawa area; Government, Private and Non-Profit.

The Team of Friends of Waimanalo is the non-profit arm that has been in operation for 3 years working with Youthbuild groups in the Waimanalo area. Our Staff also had helped CNHA with their pilot program called Hawaiian Carpentry Academy we trained over 100 Native Hawaiians in OSHA 10, CPR, Forklift and Fall arrest enabling over half the class getting into Unions for gainful employment. We are currently operating in the DOE with the Alternative Learning Course at the Waianae/Nanakuli site and next month with the Campbell/Kapolei Schools. Soon after we will start classes for the Leeward Boys and Girls Club helping the youth in these communities to get needed education and certifications for the workforce after graduation. We in the last year had expanded our education to include the previously mentioned academies of Digital Media and our Hawaiian Culture program with an emphasis on Voyaging and AGRICULTURE.

Our For profit partnerships is with a company called Root Wise who moved full time here from Oregon to conduct their business of Industrial Hemp Farming producing CBD Wellness Products, Hemp Foods, Hemp Wood for their Pre-Fab Homes and more importantly to establish a Processing Plant to extract the by-products from the Hemp Plant. This will allow Root Wise to create a legitimate made in Hawaii Product for distribution creating Farm Jobs, Processing and Manufacturing Jobs to include their

sister companies that are storefronts and Hemp Robotics which designs and Fabricates farm equipment.

Root Wise has already spoken to many existing farmers and Hemp farmers across the islands who are already growing Hemp and they are waiting in anticipation for this project to succeed so they can sell their Hemp to a Processing plant or start growing Hemp as Co-Ops or Coalitions to get into the Agriculture revitalization of Hawaii's Farming Industry. Root Wise will also be the sustainability of the on=profits involved by donating money and time for the community programs we are doing.

Our Partnerships with the ADC, Pineapple Crate and WEDG in Whitmore will allow us to lease land, work with getting Local Farmers in on the land to be educated and trained in the many aspects of agriculture from New Crops like Industrial Hemp to traditional Food Crops that the local community of Whitmore and Wahiawa had expressed interest in growing on ADC land in partnership with us.

Industrial Hemp is a multi million dollar a year business with the potential of making it a billion dollar a year industry by using Hemp for CBD, Hemp Foods, Hemp Wood and Hemp Crete. With this we can reduce our dependence on imported food and building materials and we can reduce the cost of building homes in the State of Hawaii.

This proposed bill will seriously disrupt the months of working with Jimmy Nakatani and the numerous Non-Profits and the For Profit company that is ready to start the first Processing HUB in Hawaii that can contribute a Viable Industrial Hemp Business. With the Non-Profits who are partnering for this Whitmore project with the ADC we can now have a land base for the surrounding communities to create educational opportunities that our non-Profits have been conducting in other areas. Once again, by dissolving the ADC and the leadership of Jimmy Nakatani we will be set back to square one and stall any progress for years to come.

In these times, We need private, non-profit and public partnerships. We need the land to go to the people who have viable plans such as our partners who had already presented to ADC Management and was found having Merit. We need to think outside the box to help educate new farmers, train our youth and communities, have a viable crop that is more then subsistence farming and to build new jobs for the people who lost old jobs.

Re-think this bill and not make it a witch hunt. Be the people who support business and community partnerships creating Made In Hawaii Products, Workforce Development for the people of Hawaii and the first Industrial Hemp Processing Hub that can be duplicated on the rest of the Islands.

P.S. all key partners are on this email. For the Whitmore pilot project. These partners represent the areas of the Hawaii D.O.E. , Community Āina base programs , For profit industrial hemp and various Trades organizations that is seeking a land base to creating an educational Hub for youth to adults working with Jimmy Nakatani ADC & Wedg .

To dissolve the ADC at this time will be a major setback to many of our programs we been working on during this Pandemic which will cause a major LOSS of potential Revenue and programs to the state of Hawaii.

If you have any questions feel free to contact us at FOW.

Sincerely,

Scotty Reis-Moniz

President; Friends of Waimanalo

[808-852-7910](tel:808-852-7910)

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
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Friday, February 12, 2021
10:00 a.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1271. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) writes in strong opposition of House Bill No. 1271, which dissolves the ADC and transfers all lands and staff, except for the Executive Director, to the Department of Agriculture.

The ADC's mission is to acquire and manage, in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups, selected arable lands, water systems and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use, and to direct research into areas that will lead to the development of new crops, markets, and lower production costs.

Under the ADC Board of Directors' and my leadership, the ADC has issued long-term agreements for 2,000 acres of former plantation lands on Kauai and Oahu to growers producing food for local consumption and improved critical agricultural infrastructure to ensure these systems can support agriculture for generations to come.

Some of the crops grown on ADC land for the local consumer market include taro, watermelon, cabbage, tomato, eggplant, papaya, citrus, bell peppers, tokyo negi, sweet potato, ginger, cucumber, mango, avocado, daikon, long bean, okra, cauliflower, and bananas.

The ADC, which is administratively attached to the Department of Agriculture, is comprised of five (5) employees (excluding Waiahole Water System). Our staff manages lands on Kauai and Oahu using operating funds derived from revenues generated from lease rent. We also receive general funds to fund the ADC property manager and pay for technical assistance from the Department of Agriculture.

All of ADC's land licenses and activities received approval by the ADC Board, which is made up of 11 members, including three (3) ex-officio members from the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture.

ADC has been submitting annual reports to the Legislature annually since 2001, except for 2014, 2015, and 2016. In addition to the annual reports, ADC also submits a report the Legislature mandated by Act 100, SLH 1999, which describes in detail the agency's objectives and operational plan. We have produced five (5) agricultural newsletters, which we disseminate to the Legislature, Chamber of Commerce, various Boards and Commissions, and agricultural organizations.

We've also completed an agricultural strategic plan, which is currently online on the ADC website, and an inventory of lands acquired and managed by the ADC, which will be posted on our website to make the information (location, acreage, and availability) more readily available and accessible to the public. ADC's priorities and next steps are

to address the state auditor's recommendations and to put our remaining vacant lands on Oahu into production.

Today, ADC is on the cusp of putting the remaining 1,200+ acres of vacant land in Central Oahu into production. We have not done intensive marketing up until this point because our priority is to put the land into production first. The Department of Agriculture also has a marketing division and we did not want a duplication of efforts. We are working on the development of postharvest facilities, and other value-added and zero waste initiatives that can benefit agriculture and the environment.

In closing, we believe this drastic measure to dissolve and repeal ADC based on the explanations given in this bill is unwarranted. We want to thank the State Office of the Auditor for its thorough and detailed audit of our program. We acknowledge there is much progress to be made in improving the effectiveness and efficiency of our organization and have already taken some of those steps as recommended by the state auditor. We will strive to incorporate as many actions as we reasonably can to ensure that ADC continues to promote and grow agriculture for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:36:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alani Bagcal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perrusso, and esteemed members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

My name is Alani Bagcal and I am writing today in support for HB 1271.

It's time to abolish the ADC, and transfer all lands and staff to the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill.

Alani Bagcal

alani.bagcal@ppvnh.org

96815

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:52:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
April Petersom	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha,

We need local & sustainable food. We cannot depend on food being shipped hundreds of miles away. We saw what happened during the beginning days of the Pandemic which is a wake up call.

- A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.
- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

Sincerely,

April Peterson

Hilo, Hawaii

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:23:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
L. Osterer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Public engagement and planning is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food. A state audit recently revealed that throughout its entire 27-year existence, the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) has failed to accomplish much of its mission except for acquiring large tracts of land.

The special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an unclear and unfair leasing process with small farmers and ranchers left out or denied.

The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to large agrochemical companies with no output to local food production and little or no support of the local economy..

This abuse of ADC lands has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities creating liabilities for the state.

The auditors report shows a lack of ADC carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions for 27 years and therefore should be dissolved.

Instead, regenerative farming operations should be permitted on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices which provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and limits run-off pollution into our streams and ocean.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture should take over this program and resources with the goal of increasing local food production on state agricultural lands.

Thank you for your consideration from a long-time Kauai resident.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:31:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.
- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

Mahalo.

--Shay Chan Hodges

Maui, Hawaii

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:45:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael deYcaza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Let's get the ag lands in the hands of real people instead of transnational chemical companies.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:46:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ivy Iaea-McIntosh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1271. ADC appears to lack integrity and appear to be incompetent.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 1:59:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fletcher Parker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Fletcher Parker. I am a farmer on the island of Kauai and am submitting my testimony in support of this bill to end the unresponsible mismanagement of the "ADC" Agrobuisness development corporation. The lands that are being held by this organization are some of the most fertile and accessible agricultural lands on Kauai. As an actual farmer I can tell you first hand that being able to get on good farming land is one of the hardest parts when it comes to food production for a small scale farmer. One of the most alarming results of this mismanagement is the poisoning of the land and water around the west side of Kauai. When the seed companies arrived I personally saw an almost instant die off of the bee's in the area. As. Surfer and fisherman I would on a regular basis be walking the beaches on the west side and would observe a line of dead and dying bee's along the high tide line where the seed companies had their crops planted in the area. The fact that we have between 85%-90% of our food on the island imported from off island is baffling to me. The land needs to be managed properly and resources need to be used for feeding the people of Kauai and possibly the other islands as well. Please take into consideration the unresponsible ways of the ADC and let these lands and resources go back to the people and families that will do what is right and responsible. Thank you for reviewing and hearing our testimonies.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:07:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Johanna Stone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha nui mai nā kōkou. ‘O wau kāia ‘o Kapā maika’i Stone, eia nā au ke waiho aku nei i ku’u wahi leo kā ko’o no kāia pila nei. No ka mea:

- A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC’s lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.
- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii’s agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:09:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Momi Ventura	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha My Name Is R.Momi Ventura, I Currently Reside In The Kihei Area Of Mau'I. I'd Like To Say The Reason I'm Writing Is To Ask That After 27 Years Of The ADC's Existence, Nothing Of Any Lasting Significance Has Happened.?!? Small Farmers And Growers Have Been Denied Leases Without Justification.!!! Please Let This Be Our Comeback To Having A Sustainable Future And Empower Our Farmers And Growers To Succeed. Mahalomai R.Momi Ventura

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:43:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kevin landers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The audit of ADC revealed clearly that the ADC has never not failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land. The corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and that the ADC is unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report. This bill is just good, intellectually honest governance.

Speak

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:55:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Gibson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TO: Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN

RE: **HB1271 in Support**

Hearing: Friday, February 12, 2021 10:00 A.M.

Conference Room 325/Videocast

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

I believe that ADC has failed in the performance of its duties and I agree with the auditor's assessment that they will not be able to do so in the future. I believe that:

- A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, **not local food production**.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.
- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.

- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

Please help Hawaii get back on track to meet our goals of food sustainability with locally grown foods by passing HB1271.

Mahalo,

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:01:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I feel strongly that now is the time to abolish ADC. The recent state audit revealed that in its 27-year existence, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land.

The special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification and the majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.

Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state. The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.

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

A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:07:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is way past time to get rid of ADC and replace with an entity that respects the culture and needs of Hawaii, not foreign chemical corporations researching unfertile agriculture methods! Please support this bill!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:18:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Lin	Lin's Farms	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mark Hashem, Vice Chair Amy Perruso, and members of the committee,

I am writing on behalf of Lin's Farms to oppose HB 1271 bill, which will dissolve the Agribusiness Development Corporation ("ADC"). We are a small family farm on Kauai focused on fresh produces and fruits and our older farmland often got flooded during rainy days due to river nearby. We were in a desperate situation and needed new farmlands for our produces. Thanks to ADC we were able to lease new farmlands in Kalepa and grow our organic produces and help the community eat healthy. ADC has also provided us with the resources that we need in order to success in our business. In my opinion, ADC has done a good job in taking care of the farmers and the community.

Mahalo,

Jason Lin

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:22:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support. Enough is enough!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:24:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.

The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.

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

A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

Mahalo, Marilyn Mick, Honolulu

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:37:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
donn viviani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A state audit showed that the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land, especially unfair and not transparent leasing. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification. Why have audits if you don't act on the recommendations? Please create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food. My wife Wendy and I live in Kailua. We try to buy as much local food as is available. The more we can grow here the less we are reliant on imports

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:41:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan Young	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I was born and raised on the Big Island, in South Kona. I do not think this bill is being utilized as intended and it gives preference to large agro businesses instead of small local farmers. More than ever we need to create new sources of employment and food sources within our state. These lands leased to large chemical/farming companies do nothing for our food security or employing small local farmers to produce quality produce/food goods. Please abolish/reorganize this bill to help only small farmers and not large corporations.

Thanks, Bryan Young

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:43:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Lydgate	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

While I strongly support major changes at ADC, I do not think abolishing it outright is our best move. We need to try and work on the underlying issues. It is crystal clear that Jimmy Nakatani needs to go ASAP, he is the problem. This is incredibly obvious to both insiders and outsiders, the dude is bad news and running ADC like a mini kingdom. Land leases should be housed within the Dept of ag, ADC should be trying to innovate in agriculture and create new agricultural opportunities. Let's look at the audit and address the issues. Or amend the bill to address the issues not just sweep it under the rug.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:53:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hope Kallai	Malama Moloa`a	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1271. ADC must not be allowed to continue to poison the waters of Kauai and the Pacific Ocean with pesticides, sediment and heavy metals.

ADC has allowed the continual pollution of state lands and waters, inspite of a Clean Water Act Violation stipulation to receive an NPDES permit by June, 2020 and is not compliant with the settlement mandates. ADC should be dissolved.

From Earthjustice July 10, 2019

<https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2019/federal-judge-finds-hawai-i-agribusiness-development-corporation-is-unlawfully-contaminating-kaua-i-s-shores>

“Federal Judge Finds Hawai‘i Agribusiness Development Corporation Is Unlawfully Contaminating Kaua‘i’s Shores

Victory: Citizen groups vindicated in lawsuit to halt illegal pollution of West Kaua‘i ocean waters

HONOLULU, HI — [Hawai‘i’s Agribusiness Development Corporation \(ADC\) has violated the federal Clean Water Act](#) by polluting ocean waters along Kaua‘i’s West Side without a permit, a federal court ruled yesterday. Community groups Na Kia‘i Kai, Surfrider Foundation, and Pesticide Action Network — represented by Earthjustice — sued the state agency for each day discharging millions of gallons of waters contaminated with pesticides, sediment, and heavy metals from the drainage ditch system it operates on the Mā‘nā Plain.

The 40-mile drainage ditch system funnels millions of gallons of polluted drainage waters each day, from the Mā‘nā Plain into the ocean near Kekaha and Waimea on the island of Kaua‘i.

The roughly 40 miles of drainage ditches collect polluted runoff and groundwater from thousands of acres of former sugar plantation lands that the Agribusiness Development Corporation now licenses to large-scale agribusinesses and various industrial operations. The ditches are unlined and eroding and discharge pesticide pollution and murky brown waters along Barking Sands and MacArthur beaches.

These are popular beaches where people fish to feed their families, gather limu [seaweed] for subsistence and ceremonial purposes, surf, and swim. Children regularly play in and around the drainage ditch outfalls. Surfers have noted a distinctive chemical smell near the drainage ditches over the years.

“The ditch system is, for all intents and purposes, an open sewer that dumps untreated waters into the ocean on a daily basis,” said **Earthjustice attorney Kylie Wager Cruz**. “This is a blatant violation of the Clean Water Act and can’t be squared with the law’s purpose to clean up the nation’s waters. We are thrilled that the Court applied the letter and spirit of the law in ordering the agency to obtain a permit that will include critical safeguards to make these waters in West Kaua’i safer for people.”

ADC operates a 40-mile drainage ditch system that each day funnels millions of gallons of polluted drainage waters from the Mānā Plain into the ocean near Kekaha and Waimea.



The Court’s order, issued by federal district court judge Derrick K. Watson, requires ADC to obtain and comply with a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit to monitor and limit pollution levels from the drainage ditches. The agency had a permit for pollution from the drainage ditches until August 2015, when it withdrew its permit renewal application.

“My family has been fishing and gathering along the West Kaua’i shoreline for generations,” said **Na Kia’i Kai member Bren Naka’ahiki**. “After years of the Agribusiness Development Corporation turning its back on our community and avoiding protections designed to keep us safe, we can now breathe easier knowing the law is on our side.”

“The ditches empty directly into the Kinikini surf break,” said **Surfrider Foundation member Gordon LaBedz**. “Test after test shows the ditches contain pollutants that are harmful to people and our precious ocean ecosystem. We hope the Agribusiness Development Corporation will take the Court’s order seriously and immediately begin the process of bringing the ditches into compliance with the Clean Water Act.”

“It’s no surprise that pesticides and other hazardous substances historically and currently used on Mānā Plain make their way into the ditches and waterways,” said **Pesticide Action Network organizer Devika Ghai**. “We applaud the Court’s affirmation that pollution from the Agribusiness Development Corporation’s system of ditches can no longer go unregulated.”

From <https://www.surfrider.org/campaigns/enforcing-the-clean-water-act-on-kauai>

“As a result of the Dec. 17, 2019 settlement, five actions were outlined:

- A six-month deadline for ADC to apply for an NPDES permit to regulate, limit and monitor pollution from the drainage ditches;
- Prompt implementation by ADC of a robust water-quality-monitoring program and best-management practices to reduce contamination;
- Regular disclosure of water-quality data on a public website;
- A prohibition against increasing discharges from the drainage ditches until ADC secures an NPDES permit;

The community groups' ability to go back to court if ADC does not secure a permit within two and a half years.”

ADC has not received a NPDES permit, setting the allowable take of Kauai residents due to cancer and toxic health complications. It has been over a year since they received the settlement actions. ADC needs to Cease and Desist all operations now. ADC must be dissolved.

Thank you for supporting HB1271.

Hope Kallai





HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 4:21:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peggy McArdle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The ADC has failed in it's mission. I strongly support HB1271.



February 10, 2021

RE: HB1271

To Whom it May Concern:

Kekaha Agriculture Association strongly opposes HB1271.

The action requested in this bill is akin to throwing the baby out with the bath water. While the recent audit of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, (ADC) was scathing, it left out an important positive role the ADC has been playing with its' largest asset, the 12,592 acres in Kekaha, Kauai.

With its unique governance structure, the ADC has since 2003, worked closely, by way of a Memorandum of Agreement, with the Kekaha Agriculture Association, to managing the extensive agricultural infrastructure left by the sugar industry. This infrastructure includes:

- 27 mile Kekaha Ditch running out of the rugged Waimea Valley, and extending to Polihale
- 21 mile Kokee Ditch system from the Kokee mountains to the Mana Plain
- 40 miles of agriculture roads
- The drainage system for the approximate 7,000 acre Kekaha-Mana Plain
- Two hydro electric power plants and 29 miles of distribution lines, and,
- Property security

This management is done at no operating cost to the State of Hawaii. The costs of infrastructure operation and maintenance are borne solely by the Kekaha licensees.

Other recent ADC accomplishments at Kekaha include:

ADC performed an important role in the landmark Waimea Watershed Agreement that resulted in a balanced approach in managing the precious waters of the Waimea River between taro farmers, river environment, renewable energy production, and commercial farming.

The ADC also recently successfully negotiated a workable settlement of a Clean Water Act lawsuit regarding managing the water in the Kekaha – Mana Plain to protect ocean resources, productive farm land, the community of Kekaha, and the Pacific Missile Range Facility.

The ADC is currently working with the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) on the development of the largest solar pump storage hydroelectric project in the State of Hawaii. When completed this project is expected meet 25% of electric needs on Kauai, on a renewable basis.

While the agricultural research companies that operate on the Kekaha lands are often criticized by some in the community, it needs to be noted that the results of their work contribute positive impacts on increasing food production globally, as well as providing stable employment of over 600 people, private capital investment of over \$55 million, and annual financial contribution of \$50 million per year. A

Mail
P.O. Box 940
Waimea, HI 96796

(808) 337-9262

Office
8297 Kekaha Road
Kekaha, HI 96752

shrimp farm on the property produces meat shrimp sold state-wide, and a selective shrimp breeding operation that sells brood stock across Southeast Asia.

Over 175 acres of ADC Kekaha land is currently licensed to small farmers, and Kekaha Agriculture Association, working with the ADC, is developing a plan to increase this to 500 acres of managed small farms, together with post-harvest agricultural production facilities and marketing support.

These are successful accomplishments of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

We firmly believe that the ADC is in the best position in the State of Hawaii to develop sustainable agriculture.

Instead of eliminating the ADC, the Kekaha Agriculture respectfully asks that you to deny HB1271 and allow the ADC to concentrate on implementing the auditor's recommendations with organizations like ours.

Thankyou,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Faye". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael A Faye, Manager
Kekaha Agriculture Association
mike@kekahaagriculture.org

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO H. B. NO. 1271

Provided by Lilette A Subedi, President, BOD, Whitmore Economic Development Group
February 10, 2021

On behalf of the Whitmore Economic Development Group (WEDG) located in Whitmore Village, Wahiawa, Oahu, hereunder is my testimony provided in opposition and objection to the passage of HB 1271 Regarding the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC):

Aloha Honorable Committee Members:

WEDG wholeheartedly opposes and objects to the passage of HB1271 which would dissolve the ADC and its Board of Directors, placing its personnel (except the Executive Director), under the direct auspices of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). Our opposition is firm and resolute despite findings articulated in the Audit of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (Report No. 21-01, Jan 2021), because the ADC under its current and third Executive Director has indeed been making strides toward fulfilling the goals and objectives of the entity that has spanned nearly three decades. Creating a “meaningful Hawaii agribusiness plan” toward fulfilling its “statutory purpose and mission” is a daunting task, but one that is more realistic now given the acquisition of former plantation parcels (Galbraith Estate Lands and surrounding areas) that began in 2012. Since 2014, WEDG continues to be involved in and aware of ongoing discussion regarding the Galbraith Lands and other Central Oahu parcels with farmers and agriculturists, legislators, public educational institutions, community members, nonprofit organizations, private businesses, and entrepreneurs. These discussions are important facets that will contribute to the development of a viable Hawaii Agribusiness Plan to reshape post-plantation agriculture, economic development and growth, and Hawaii’s future wherein our state’s citizenry will be able to thrive congruent with food production and food

safety mandates in our Hawaii State Constitution. Dissolution of the ADC will disrupt current and prospective work toward successfully producing the statutorily mandated development of the Hawaii Agribusiness Plan.

Passage of HB1271 will illustrate the legislature's negligence toward ensuring the ongoing momentum that the ADC has been gaining toward achieving its initial statutory mandates.

Our agriculturally focused organization has taken six years to organize its own direction, intentions, and planning congruent with our mission and vision of providing resources for sustainable and diverse agricultural business communities, like Wahiawa and Whitmore Village, where every business thrives. Whitmore Village is a legacy agricultural plantation community founded during the heyday of pineapple production in Hawaii. The demise of pineapple and sugar cane production had a significant impact on the socio-economic status throughout our island archipelago, but most notably, in communities such as Whitmore Village. Retraining farm workers and assessing their vocational skills that could be transferrable to other jobs took years, not months, and changed the rhythm of plantation village life here in Whitmore that impacts our lives even today. There are still land-use issues to be considered toward advancing diverse and sustainable agriculture on the parcels acquired by the ADC—pineapple was a great “drought” crop that, unlike sugar cane, did not have a high (water) transpiration rate and heavy requirement for constant irrigation. Pineapple was literally a great dryland crop, and replacing its production with that of fruits, vegetables, nuts, coffee, cacao, livestock, etc. requires soil remediation, access to water resources for proper irrigation, and infrastructure. These are significant factors to be included in an agribusiness plan, and ADC is well-aware of these things, but has also been heavily involved with trying to ensure the security of fallow “pine and cane” lands that they are

responsible for; working constantly to combat criminal activity and squatting without enough personnel to address these on-site issues.

WEDG is on the cusp of advancing our efforts toward improving the psycho-socio-economic conditions of our community through a partnership with another nonprofit, the Friends of Waimanalo, their for-profit partner Root Wise, and governmental entities—including but not limited to—the ADC, DOE, and DBEDT/CBED. This three-pillared partnership approach toward successful community-based economic development is one of the finest models of what committed individuals and groups with years of hands-on experience and knowledge can accomplish. WEDG continues to work with the ADC, operating the Pineapple Crate—a co-working space for farmers, other agriculturalists, agriculturally-based entrepreneurs, and community members to meet, work, and learn together. WEDG initiative is only the beginning of our vision and plans toward realizing the development of Central Oahu at Whitmore Village becoming Oahu’s Food Processing Hub. The dissolution of the ADC will hamper our partnership coalition that can and will provide diverse and self-sustaining agricultural development, viable industrial and food crop production, vocational training, job placement, and other educational and social support for its eligible participants.

Our opposition to HB1271 is based on our years of involvement with the ADC—numerous discussions, community meetings, and our own partnership agreement illustrated by our lease for office space within the Whitmore Agribusiness and Technology Park where we operate our Pineapple Crate facility featuring access to 21st century technology equipment that supports viable and relevant training for farmers and other agriculturally related individuals and organizations. We strongly support the ADC and advocate for its continued operation and advancement; and, most importantly, urge you to vote “NO!” on HB1271.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 4:38:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Raebeck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support dissolving the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

It is NOT in the best interest of Hawai'i, humanity, or the planet for any persons or agencies to make things easier and cheaper for GMO companies, or to favor them over small local farmers. But apparently that's what's been taking place under this government-sponsored umbrella, though that was not this organization's stated intention at inception.

It's time for Hawai'i to clean house big time. With our food future sketchy, our economic future sketchy, and so many locals looking for additional income streams, now's the time for a serious move toward sustainable, local, CLEAN agriculture. Myself and so many others support all moves away from big (fake) Ag (operated by chemical companies) and toward Hawai'i's improved food future, including rewarding work for locals and healthier food for all.

With aloha,

Wendy Raebeck

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:25:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Walter Ritte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support. Land is limited and precious. We need proven land managers, esp for food security!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:36:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state. Eliel Starbright.5306 Kahala,Hawaii,Kapaa,96746

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. 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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1271. This bill dissolves the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) and transfers all lands and staff, except for the executive director, to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture ("Department"). The Department respectfully opposes this bill and offers the following recommendations.

The Department believes that the ADC continues to have an important role in the growth and development of diversified agriculture in Hawaii. We believe that ADC's strengths lie in development, marketing, and land acquisition and not the long-term management and operation of agricultural assets. The Department's Agricultural Resources Management Division ("ARMD") has the capacity and is better suited to oversee management and operation of such assets on State-owned lands. Development of now fallow plantation era and newly acquired lands into productive diversified agricultural assets can be accomplished more effectively and within a shorter time frame by ADC due to its enhanced development authority and powers. When partnered with the Department to develop new diversified agricultural assets with the



intent to transfer these assets to the Department for management within 5 years of the acquisition, this collaborative arrangement will significantly increase growth and productivity in the State's agriculture industry. ADC's planning and marketing strengths could also contribute to a robust collaborative effort to develop future diversified agricultural opportunities, anticipate trends, and help market the lands transferred to the Department to interested farmers.

ADC could also delegate or transfer its land irrigation water system management responsibilities to the Department to be managed by ARMD which includes dedicated land management and irrigation branches. The transfer and management would immediately create the structure and record keeping necessary to provide consistency to existing and prospective farmers and water users. However, integrating existing ADC assets into the Department's programs for governance and operations poses significant transitional and budgetary challenges. The Department would require additional resources and funding for the increased workload which would include, among other things, the subdivision of parcels and hiring of planning, surveying, and construction contractors. Additional staffing or the transfer of some of ADC's staff would be needed to perform this task effectively.

The Department believes these adjustments to the ADC and the Department could enable the two agencies to operate collaboratively while continuing to allow both to fulfill their respective missions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:48:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.
- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:01:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rexann Dubiel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please.

Millions have been wasted on the ADC.

Too busy to be audited. What was to hide?

We the taxpayers funding the ADC, want accountability and transparency.

This was a boondoggle from the beginning.

Let Dept. of Ag take over.

Let Jimmy Nakatani find a new job.

Abolish the ADC!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 6:20:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Paul	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support small farmers by supporting this bill. Mahalo, Julia Paul

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:27:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ramona Hussey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I urge you to pass HB1271 to abolish the Agribusiness Development Corporation. As detailed in the bill itself as well as the State Auditor Report, the ADC has failed in its mission and has mismanaged the development of former ag lands. Please do not send any more taxpayer money down this particular rat hole. Transfer the funds and the functions to the Department of Agriculture which can actually use the money to help agricultural efforts.

Thank you,

Ramona Hussey

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:54:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Banner Fanene	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HB1271. The ADC must be repealed.

Mahalo.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:56:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Yuen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1271 which abolishes the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) and transfers its responsibility and budget to the Department of Agriculture.

Afrter 27 years the ADC still has not submitted a plan to the legislature. No one in the ADC seems to know its mission, goals, and objectives, according to the State Auditor. How can any agency be allowed to exist without a plan?.

The majority of ADC lands are currently being leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation and GE seed crops for export. This exposes our land and people to harmful chemicals and does nothing to support the Governor's goals to increase agriculture for local consumption. The incompetence is breath-taking.

The accounting at the ADC is so bad that the books are unauditable. Why is this not ground for firing the head of the ADC? Why is the ADC board not holding the director responsible? Gross mismanagement from the very top.

With so little so show after 27 years and almost half a billion dolalrs, the the public has no faith in the ADC. The ADC is a embarassment to the State of Hawaii and shoul db e dissoloved. I strong support HB1271.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:25:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

For over 25 years, the ADC has always been a rat's nest & costly failure. The ADC is a huge joke, but thousands of Hawai'i residents who have been paying attention, are not laughing.

It's past time for the ADC to go the way of its mutant child, the PLDC, and be repealed. The ADC should be absorbed back into the Dept. of Ag. Especially now; we can't afford such foolish waste.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:31:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrew Foy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification. The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production. Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state. The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved. Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off. A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.



PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

February 10, 2021

SUPPORT HB 1271 February 12, 2021 10am
Relating to the Agrobusiness Development Corporation (ADC)

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Committee Members,

Hawai`i SEED strongly supports HB 1271 to dissolve the agribusiness development corporation and the transferring of all land and staff, except for the executive director, to the department of agriculture.

With the foreseeable closing of the sugar and pineapple agricultural industry in Hawai`i more than 25 years ago, elected and appointed leaders created the model to develop a dynamic and proactive agribusiness development program to fill the economic void, although they have not. We can never go back and create the production of healthy, locally grown food, nor reap the benefits of industrial market purchases and the development of the generational leadership and businesses that could have put Hawai`i at the forefront of highly profitable food movement. We missed the opportunity for the development of the next generation of farmers, and food production jobs to round out and diversify our economy.

Maybe worst of all, these opportunities and lengthy mismanagement and squandered pivot, was not lost on a particular day, one year or one decade. These failures were allowed and funded for 27 years with no forward momentum. This is no way to run paradise. Another bumbai moment.

The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production. Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification. The special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process.

The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved. The state auditor's department 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. A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food. Alternatives exist

Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off. A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

See additional coverage in Civil Beat: <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/02/lawmakers-are-responsible-for-fixing-the-agribusiness-development-corp/>

It is our kuleana to embrace indigenous growing practices, bring the wisdom and exceptional engineering of the ahupua`a system and other good practices. With the pressing concerns of climate changes and pandemics, we have no time to waste. Our beautiful tropical climate may be a strong provider of food, seed, and farming practices in a changing time, that can benefit the planet. We have no time to waste. Sound and immediate action is imperative. Impeccable integrity going forward is a must.

Sincerely,

Jeri Di Pietro, President
Hawai`i SEED

Sandra Herndon
4853C Nonou Road, Kapa`a, HI 96746
808-320-3878

Aloha Chair Hashem and Agricultural Committee Members,

This testimony is in full support of HB1271.

I am grateful that this has finally come before the Legislature because the Environmental /Agricultural communities here on Kauai have for decades recognized the ADC's failure to support Hawaii's economy and well-being.

Their approach to "developing business" entailed leasing approximately 16,000 acres of land to multi-national corporations growing GMO seed corn, requiring tons of RUPs (Restricted Use Pesticides) which leaves our soil, unfit for other traditional types of farming. The run-off has poisoned our streams and ground-waters, impacting everything from the land to the reefs in the ocean. Lawsuits are still pending at the cost of the public.

ADC's lack of oversight and/or accountability for these companies resulted in deadly health issues for many of our neighbors on Kauai. Many have had to resort to public healthcare resources, lacking adequate insurance to cover their medical bills. To this day, the people of Kauai's Westside communities have received little or no compensation for the losses incurred. These companies hired some local residents but many more came from the mainland to fill positions.

Needless to say, none of the seed corn grown was for human consumption, therefore not to our benefit as food production. It has been exported along with the profits, which stayed in the pockets of the Multi-National Corporations...NOT in Hawaii. It would be interesting to know what ADC was paid for these land leases. The actual cost, however, has been borne by Kauai citizens.

During the recent audit, revelations confirming ADC 's bad mismanagement, also pointed out that the agency failed to provide a level playing field for leasing these lands to the small farmer/rancher in favor of the corporations. Still after almost thirty years, ADC is no closer to achieving their stated mission than when it was established.

Therefore, I ask that you repeal the Agribusiness Development Corporation and set up a citizen's taskforce to engage stakeholders across the state to develop a planning process, the purpose of which would be to determine and implement ways Hawaii's Ag lands can be utilized, sustainably, to produce local food. An emphasis on regenerative farming practices, using soil and water conservation methods, is essential for our future and now is the time!

Mahalo for hearing this long overdue issue.
Sandra Herndon
Kauai

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:26:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
josh mori	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Josh Mori and one of my many roles in our community on the west side of Kaua'i is as an organic vegetable farmer. I strongly support HB1271 citing many of the findings that were made public post the audit but also from my own personal experience attempting to access the acres controlled by ADC that surround our community. Before reading the audit many local and hawaiian farmers such as myself already knew through personal experience that ADC had little to no interesting in creating an accessible application process for native farmers, first time farmers, those that did not have personal ins to said property. The application process for the above mentioned demographic was often times evidence of this and proved more times than to work as an appropriate deterrent to applying for access to aina. The findings published recently painted a picture using facts that support the passing of HB1271. The ADC with so much power and so much control over all this aina has failed. By their own mission and vision they have failed. They have failed our communities by supporting the companies that have poisoned our waterways and poisoned our air. They have failed our aina in this endeavor and furthermore have failed to support the proper production of food to feed our local community. By this accord the ADC has cost the states millions over their failed multi decade life.They do not deserve a second chance. The top down large ag model has proven around the world to be toxic and not sustainable. Please take steps to dismantle and agency that has worked against our communities for the last 20 plus years and create a task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food. Mahalo for your time

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:28:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1271 which seeks to dissolve the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) and transfer its resources and staff (except the Executive Director) to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture.

I support this measure because in its 27 years of existence the only things the ADC has been able to **ACCOMPLISH** is the following...

- * Acquire vast amounts of land, at ridiculously low costs, polluting and poisoning it, for corporate profits.
- * Rack up ridiculous amounts of lawsuits due to mismanagement of natural resources, most importantly, water, creating a huge liability for Hawai'i.
- * Be a corrupt vehicle to further corporate gain and political self interests.
- * Poison rural communities with industrial chemicals, exposing our most vulnerable populations (keiki and kupuna) to health conditions and terminal illness, like the very community I come from!

What the ADC has **FAILED** to **ACCOMPLISH** in its 27 years of existence is the following:

- * Produce an audit that actually accomplishes its mission or fulfills the recommendations stated in the auditors report.
- * Be responsible stewards of the vast lands they manage or implement conservation practices to protect and remediate soil and water resources.
- * Create a plan that engages local farmers in addressing the urgent need to build sustainable food systems that help to strengthen our local economy and perpetuate food security in our communities.

I urge you to please DO NOT give the ADC another 27 years to squander and poison our most precious resources...Land, Water, Food and Community! Do what is PONO and Pass HB1271.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Malia K. Chun

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:43:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
A Kathleen Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Representatives of The State of Hawai'i,

Besides not living up to its stated mission, the results of the audit show that the ADC corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions. It also shows that they're unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report. Therefore, the ADC should be dissolved. We have the trust of the public to preserve and it has not been done by this entity for the 27 years of its existence. The fact that they are not supporting local food production will only find the fingers shaking at all those who perpetuated it, with its chummy relationship with GM companies. When the cargo lines stop due to some diaster and we are a staring people, the mistake will be more than obvious, it will be painful. We need to get behind the commitment to farmers, who are struggling more now, more that ever! WE VOTE, too!

Me ka pono,

April Lee

PO Box 190705; Hawi, HI 96719

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:46:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Benton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

ADC has failed to accomplish most of it's mission.

Unfair leaseing process for small farmers and ranchers

Instead of local food production, which we sorely need: the ADC lands are being leased to agrochemical companies and GE seed crops out of greed and disregard for the health of the planet.

Mismanagement

lack of accountability

leading to many lawsuits!

Illegal activities on ADC lands

Please promote regenerative farming practices!!!!!!

Aloha,

Wendy A. Benton

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:10:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mahana Dunn	Indigo Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawai`i Legislators,

This testimony is in support of Abolishing the ADC: HB1271

Hawai`i's land is sacred. It must be protected and preserved for the many, not the few. Hawai`i is meant to feed We The People through farming and sustainable agriculture, not only enhance the pockets of a few privileged entities.

A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.

Instead of being used for local food production, the majority of ADC lands are currently being leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation and GE seed crops for export.

Mismanagement of ADC lands and a lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, Clean Water Act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands that create liabilities for the government.

The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions. It also shows that they're unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report. Therefore, the ADC should be dissolved.

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

A task force/stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed so Hawai`i's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

Since Hawai`i imports over 80% of its food and resources from beyond Hawaiian lands, it is not only the logical but also the ethical thing to do.

Please note that We The People care about our home islands and we will continue to always protect what we love: all of Hawai`i nei.

Mahalo nui for doing the right thing to protect our islands for all present and future generations.

Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono: The Life of the Land is Perpetuated in Righteousness.

Most sincerely,

Mahana Dunn, Founder/President

Indigo Foundation

Non-Profit of Hawai`i 501(c)3

aloha@indigokauai.org

www.IndigoKauai.org

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:50:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Huntemer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Members, The recent report on the ADC audit attempt says it all. The ADC is an absolute disgrace. There should be criminal charges for the people responsible. Mahalo.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:17:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Clark	CIArK Elements	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawai`i Legislators,

This testimony is in support of Abolishing the ADC: HB1271

the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land.

The special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an unfair leasing process.

Mismanagement of ADC lands and a lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, Clean Water Act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands that create liabilities for the government.

the ADC should be dissolved.

please protect our islands for all present and future generations.

Mahalo

PC CIArK at CIArK Elements

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:34:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronald S. Fujiyoshi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1271 which dissolves the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

I and my wife are part-time farmers with a small 1-acre macadamia nut farm with other fruits on Hawaii Island. The Agribusiness Development Corporation is a disaster. The only way to help is to start with small and medium-size farms. Help them and build the industry from the bottom up. All the eggs in the tourism nest has been a failure as the Covid-19 pandemic has shown. We need to grow the food to eat here in Hawaii.

Thank you for those who submitted this bill. It needs to be passed.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify in this way!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:39:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorraine Newman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

It is well past time to dissolve the ADC!

The recent audit has put words to what many of us have known for some time.

The ADC has almost entirely failed in its mission.

Up until now, the ADC has broadly leased the land under its care to multinational agrochemical companies (who have been dumping toxic agro-chemicals into our land and water). It should have been placing a high priority on leasing lands to local farmers and ranchers, with the goal of increasing local food production using soil and water conservation methods that are strully sustainable and healthy.

In any case, it has been 27 years since ADC was formed, and times have changed.

It would serve us all well to begin anew with a clear mission for usage of these lands and a new process for achieving these goals.

Mahalo,

Lorraine Newman

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:01:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kalena Charlene Holani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Abolish the Adc small local farmers and ranches are suffering from this and so are we as a society in hawaii. So much more lawsuits have been occurring from lack/mismanagement of the managed lands by Adc.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:16:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marjorie erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill, as there are many good reasons for it. One being that a task force and planning process is needed so Hawai'i's ag lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:05:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha: I very strongly support this measure - for our island farmers' benefit! Mahalo

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:16:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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. Mahalo

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:17:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena	Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB1271 and SB335. ~ NOW!

HB1271 Abolishes the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) and transfers its responsibility and budget to the Department of Agriculture.

This needs to happen now.

Mahalo,

Sylvia Dolena

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 6:34:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
richard liebmann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an organic farmer in North Kohala for over 15 years, i support the repeal of the ADC.

A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.



Instead of being used for local food production, the majority of ADC lands are currently being leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation and GE seed crops for export.



Mismanagement of ADC lands and a lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, Clean Water Act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands that create liabilities for the government.



The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions. It also shows that they're unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report. Therefore, the ADC should be dissolved.



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



A task force/stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed so Hawai'i's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 6:43:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Lawmakers,

I strongly support this important legislation. The Agricultural support to feed Hawaii has been ignored too long. Time for solid management and food security for the Islands. Mahalo,

Barbara Barry

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 6:57:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support Bill HB1271 and suggest it to be voted into effect because of the following reasons.

- The ADC has not followed through with its intended purpose which is to secure agricultural land for local food production.
- small farmers have been unfairly not allowed to grow crops.
- Majority of the land has been leased to chemical companies for seed production which gets exported. This doesn't support food production or substantially support our local economy.
- mismanagement of ADC land has led to lawsuits involving violation of clean water acts, and other illegal activities.
- Especially during these times we have seen a much greater importance on food sustainability and a diversified economic system involving the importance of more local food production for islanders and export. We need to start utilizing more land towards this purpose.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Paul Miller

Kapaa, HI 96746

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:34:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Bruce Leonard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support HB1271 and SB335. We can no longer afford to be dependent on outside sources of food production and multinational conglomerates. Food security in Hawai'i is a core part of the general security here.

Thank you,

David Bruce Leonard for The Earth Medicine Institute

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:37:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kris Bordessa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The ADC manages over 22,000 acres of state-owned agricultural land, most of which is located on Kauai and central Oahu. The vast majority of this land is not used to produce food, certainly not food for local consumption, but rather to agrichemical corporations that are using the land as experimental grounds. How does this serve our state? Money, sure. But it's not feeding our people.

Mismanagement of ADC lands and a lack of accountability creates liabilities for the government.

It's time to abolish the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) and transfer its responsibility and budget to the Department of Agriculture.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:43:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodney Evans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There is no excuse as to why we don't already have hundreds of small farms growing a diverse assortment of goods for local consumption. This agency is a failed example of corruption running our govt.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:44:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James Long	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I fully support the dissolution of the Agribusiness Development Corporation and for the following bulleted reasons:

- A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.
- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

Mahalo,

James
Long
Naalehu

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:48:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jacqueline kippert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

They had their chance and they failed. Abolish the ADC. Their conduct ought to be investigated, it is a public shame.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:55:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please abolish the Agribusiness Development Corporation. The audit results were horrifying.



Testimony Before the House Committee on Agriculture

By David Bissell
President and Chief Executive Officer
Kauai Island Utility Cooperative
4463 Pahee Street, Suite 1, Lihue, Hawaii, 96766-2000

Friday, February 12, 2021; 10:00 am
Conference Room #325

House Bill No. 1271 - Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

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

KIUC opposes this bill.

Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) is a not-for-profit utility providing electrical service to more than 33,000 commercial and residential members. Over the past 10 years, KIUC has made great strides in achieving the state mandate of 100% renewable generation by the year 2045. In 2020, KIUC's energy mix included more than 60% renewable generation, leading the state. Also in 2020, KIUC operated the Kauai electric grid at 100% renewable generation on 280 separate days for a total of 1,497 hours.

With electrical infrastructure that spans the entire island of Kauai, it is critical that KIUC maintain productive relationships with landowners, government entities and other key stakeholders. Creating and maintaining easements over lands not owned by KIUC is one operational need of extremely high priority. KIUC has had a very good working relationship with the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) in this regard, which leads to benefits for both entities and the people we serve.

KIUC has reached 60% renewable, in part, due to strategic partnerships with landowners utilizing non-prime agricultural lands for energy production. In recent years, we have worked closely with ADC on various aspects of the West Kauai Energy Project (WKEP). This project is currently in development and, when complete, will bring Kauai to more than 80% renewable generation. It will also provide irrigation infrastructure to benefit both ADC and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands agricultural lands, delivering water to farmers at multiple points along the system.

A partnership with ADC is essential to successful development of WKEP. To start anew with another agency at this point could prevent KIUC from proceeding with WKEP.

We encourage you to address issues raised in the auditor's report by means other than abolishing the agency.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:09:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
umi martin	Umi's farm	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am a farmer and a tenant of ADC on Kauai and I oppose this bill to abolish ADC. it is my opinion that abolishing ADC will not result in better management of these ag lands and it will definitely not get more farmers on the land quicker. In fact the department of ag is already understaffed, underfunded, and over worked, How will giving control to this agency be a better solution? The task they have to diversify ag on abandoned sugar fields was and is a huge undertaking. I don't think people really understand how undeveloped our ag industry was when the sugar plantations closed down. We had no farmers to take up this land, the only group that had the ability was the seed companies and that is who took over. I think we need more patience, there is momentum building as more farmers are grown and more large groups like Mahi Pono get started. ADC has not been perfect but there are some success stories; I feel I am part of this, as a local Hawaiian farmer that has a long term lease with ADC to grow tropical fruits, they also recently leased 100 acres to 10 farmers on the Eastside of Kauai. They also bought up quite a bit of ag land that will be very important to increasing our food production in the future, so lets not ignore that they have done some good work as well. Abolishing ADC will stop the momentum and we will find ourselves even more frustrated with the lack of progress.

The legislature has the power to dictate the requirements for ADC. The legislature should try to fix not abolish the agency; require more oversight, change the leadership, improve accountability, and increase the transparency of the agency. Abolishing the agency is throwing out the baby with the bathwater, it is cutting off your nose despite you face. We should work to make ADC better, not overburden the department of ag, let's keep things moving forward.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:16:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunny Savage	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In strong support!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:24:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carol Philips	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating liability for the state.
- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:31:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

WRITING IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1271

Aloha Honorable Legislators,

Having done nothing for 25 years, the ADC must be abolished. Its help of mainland agribusiness is actually contrary to helping Hawaiian farmers.

Please pass HB1271 now.

Mahalo

Mark Koppel

Umauma, HI

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:32:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith Perino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:37:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Miranda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **IN SUPPORT** of HB1271.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), as revealed by a recent state audit, has failed to meet substantial components of its purpose and mission.

- The special powers and exemptions have led to opaque and unfair leasing practices, resulting in small farmers being denied leases with no explanation provided.
- Instead of food production, land leased by the ADC is largely used by agrochemical companies for experimentation.
- Mismanagement of ADC land has led to lawsuits and Clean Water Act violations that have become expensive liabilities for the State of Hawaii.
- A new task force or entity should be created to replace the ADC to ensure that land is used to produce food in an environmentally responsible and transparent way.

Respectfully,

Michael Miranda

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:42:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Mudd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Abolish the ADC

A simple search of “Jimmy Nakatani” in the handy Civil Beat article search box shows that he was hired in 2011 after a controversial ousting of the previous director by new board members that were appointed by Abercrombie. After voting behind closed doors, the board had “asked Lee to resign because the corporation needed “catalytic leadership.” Then they posted the position for 9 days on a government website without advertising for the position, and Nakatani was the sole applicant.

After all this time, we can see that Nakatani was clearly installed to uphold the status quo of agribusiness in Hawaii.

This Neil Abercrombie appointment aged well, didn't it? The epic convergence of good-old-boy networking, neoliberal politics, and deep state mentality. Hawaii does this so well at so many levels. All while pretending to be ecologically conscious and socially responsible.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:53:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm a Kanaka Maoli and lifelong resident in my ancestral homelands. I'm writing in full support of HB1271.

A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification. Instead of being used for local food production, the majority of ADC lands are currently being leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation and GE seed crops for export. Mismanagement of ADC lands and a lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, Clean Water Act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands that create liabilities for the government. The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions. It also shows that they're unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report. Therefore, the ADC should be dissolved. Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off. A task force/stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed so Hawai'i's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

Please support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:04:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaikea K. Blakemore	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I'm writing to support dissolving the ADC to better facilitate and uplift local farmers and local food production. Hawaii needs oversight promoting sustainable models for 'aina and supporting greater local food production, storage and security for local residents. Food produced on the island should be shared and stored for local people until food insecurities are addressed and emergency supplies during disasters are readily available for all residents (hurricanes, lava, climate change). We support land-use that is designed to protect the health of our land and ecosystems into perpetuity, and that supports our local community's food and energy security. We support changes in management if these community needs have been neglected in lieu of other priorities under existing management.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony

Kaikea Kaleikini Blakemore

Ecopsychology, M.A.

Kea'au, Hawai'i

- A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production.
- Mismanagement of ADC lands, and lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands creating

liability for the state.

- The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- A task force or other stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed to create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:10:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Fontana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The ADC needs to be abolished as it is not responding to the needs of our community. The lands that it controls need to be used for local production of CLEAN food for people, not poisonous feed for animals and poisonous additives to human food (high fructose corn syrup).

Pesticide Action Network North America is a national & international organization with a mission to end reliance on hazardous pesticides and achieve health, resilience and justice in food and farming. We wish to express **strong support of HB 1271**, which advocates for the dissolving of the ADC and transfer of all the lands and staff (except the Executive Director) to the Department of Agriculture.

- A state audit recently revealed that through the entirety of its 27-year existence, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land. With the special powers and exemptions provided to the ADC, the leasing of lands has been unjust and unfair to farmers and ranchers looking to start and maintain food production.
- The audit also shows that the ADC has not met basic responsibilities and has so many flaws in their systems that they will not be able to fulfill the auditors recommendations and therefore should be dissolved.
- The intensity of Covid 19 during 2020, has shown us how important it is to have viable food production in Hawaii, for our residents and visitors. Instead of being used for local food production, most of the land's ADC leases are going to agrochemical companies for the growing of GE experimental seed crops..
- We need you, the Hawaii Legislative Body, to make this your priority. To come to terms with the mismanagement of this agency and to act accordingly. Trust the auditors findings; dissolve the ADC and reassign the responsibility to the Department of Agriculture .
- Lastly, if the ADC is subsumed into the Department of Agriculture, please consider an advisory committee that ensures that the original intention of increasing local food production is met. Hawai'i has a chance to pivot and make our islands a rich and diverse place that grows foods to feed the growing population here.

There is only one solution here. **We strongly SUPPORT HB 1271**, and want the Agribusiness Development Corporation to be dissolved. Mahalo for your time.

Whitmore Circle Apartments
111 N. Circle Makai St.
Wahiawa, HI 96786

February 12, 2021

We the undersigned residents of the Whitmore Circle Apartments **oppose** H.B. 1271. We would like to express our support for the hard work of ADC and its staff, which is making our neighborhood safer. We know they will continue to help us.

Name:	Signature:	Address:
Laura Daniels	Laura Daniels	111 N Circle Makai St 102 Wahiawa, HI 96786
CORA OLIVAS	Coryon Olivas	B103
Sheila Kaluhewa	Sheila Kaluhewa	Appt A104
Dolores Rowe	Dolores Rowe	111 Circle Makai St Apt A106 HI 96786
Edith Kakuana	Edith Kakuana	apt A101
Teresita Puello	Teresita Puello	105 Circle Makai St + Wahiawa HI 96786
Pacito Puello	Pacito Puello	105 Circle Makai St + Wahiawa HI 96786
CB PETERSON	CB Peterson	102 CIRCLE MAKAI ST. " 111
ABEL FERNANDEZ	abel fernandez	A 205
ELENA STELIAN	Elena Steh	A 311
Justin Stelian	Justin Steh	A 204
Albert Ogata	Albert Ogata	A 212
Beverly Pinkerton	Beverly Pinkerton	A 203
LINDA Nouchi	Linda Nouchi	A-303
Alicia DE ASIS	Alicia de Asis	A.301
Julie Overdorf	Julie Overdorf	A 302 -
Delcyne L Dominguez	Delcyne L Dominguez	A 300 Circle Makai St.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:26:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wally Johnson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have worked with ADC. SINCE IT WAS FORMED AND HAVE FOUND THEM TO BE HELPFUL

AND FORTHRIGHT IN OBTAINING STATE LAND LEASES. IT IS A DIFFICULT MISSION

TO TRANSFER STATE LANDS TO PRIVATE AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISES, THEY HAVE MANY EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS AND I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH DISSOLVING

ADC



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Opposition of HB1271
Relating to The Agribusiness Development Corporation

House Committee on Agriculture

Date: Friday, February 12, 2021

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Via Video Conference
Conference Room 325

Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the committee:

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of HB1271 which dissolves the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) and transfers all lands and staff, except for the executive director, to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

As demonstrated by the recent pandemic, Hawaii's unique geographic location necessitates a robust and diverse agricultural sector. The economic and societal impacts of losing tools to support said sector will have a devastating and long-lasting impact on our State.

As detailed in §163D-1, the downsizing of the sugar and pineapple industries presents an unprecedented opportunity for the conversion of agriculture into a dynamic growth industry. ADC is unique in its ability to make optimal use of agricultural assets for the economic, environmental, and social benefit of the people of Hawaii while administering an aggressive and dynamic agribusiness development program. Losing this ability will significantly impact the State's capacity to assist agricultural enterprises in facilitating the transition of agricultural infrastructure from plantation operations into other agricultural enterprises, to carry on the marketing analysis to direct agricultural industry evolution, and to provide leadership for the development, financing, improvement, and / or enhancement of agricultural enterprises.

Financing and land opportunities are major barriers of entry for aspiring and experienced agriculturalists. The funding and land acquisition mechanisms housed at ADC are often the only option for a sector that is fundamentally important but realistically underserved. These mechanisms create opportunities that tangibly move the needle of reducing the importation of products into the State.

While HCIA supports the Hawaii Department of Agriculture in its efforts to promote local agriculture, it is important to recognize that they have a necessary regulatory function that sometimes goes contrary to ADC's entrepreneurial function and focus. Having ADC focused on increasing Hawaii's agricultural market allows HDOA the bandwidth and independence to carry out their mission with greater success.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition of HB1271. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Emmanuel Zibakalam

Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:30:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Enloe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I agree we should abolish the ADC and transfer it to the Department of Agriculture.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:39:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Rhoden	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1271

To the Honorable Representatives Hashem, Perruso, Lowen, Martin, Matayoshi, Todd, Tokioka, and Matsumoto:

I am writing to express my opposition to HB1271, proposing the dissolution of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) and transfer of lands and staff (minus the ED) to the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

This bill does not help move Hawaii's agriculture sector forward. It simply places a much heavier burden on the already overworked HDOA and as a result will fail to serve Hawaii agriculture.

The ADC was put into place 27 years ago to identify and facilitate new agricultural opportunities converting former plantation lands into successful and profitable enterprises. The ADC has failed in this endeavor thus far, and while a recent audit puts the spotlight on this failure in excruciating detail, it is (sadly) not unexpected news. However disappointing and embarrassing this failure is, the need for the mission of ADC still exists. In fact it is perhaps even more urgent now that we have seen what happens when infrastructure and supply chain needs are ignored for years.

Rather than simply "punish" the organization, and ultimately the state, by dissolving ADC, we should consider revising its mission to include facilitating multiple avenues of successful ag (i.e. not focusing solely on large scale efforts and export), and simultaneously "clean house", replacing the current ADC staff with new and motivated agriculture and business professionals who care about Hawaii, Hawaii agriculture, and who exhibit leadership skills.

The failures exposed by the ADC audit are shameful. I cannot imagine any other job where resistance to basic job duties such as documentation and producing an annual report of deliverables and objectives would not result in dismissal from that position. Yet that is exactly what went on for years, and this behavior has resulted in Hawaii being left behind in building progressive and successful agricultural enterprises on the vast lands available after the exit of the plantations. Unfortunately this behavior was also condoned by the multiple organizations that were tasked with oversight-- to ensure progress was

being made, an agribusiness plan was being produced, and steps were taken to realize the purpose the organization. Moving ADC lands and staff to another department will not change the situation nor the behavior. Dissolving ADC also does not change the situation in the positive; it makes it even harder to move forward. The HDOA is overburdened already. It has oversight over its own agricultural parks, plant protection, quality assurance, ag loans, and marketing departments, just to name a few, and can barely keep up with those.

A better solution would be to consider revising ADC's mission to fit the current and future landscape. Hawaii has many small and medium sized farms that are very successful and more that can become so if given support. Hoping for some large agricultural enterprises to come in and "save" Hawaii's ag is not working; we have yet, in 27 years, to attract any large ag businesses besides the biotech industry. It is time to re-envision the opportunities and resources we do have, and look to other models to create a sustainable and vibrant ag industry.

Finally, there are many talented and hard working individuals working in agriculture, with non profits, successful farm operations, and independently. There is a pool to choose from and the time is right to bring new ideas and motivated professionals in to effect positive change.

I oppose HB1271 and hope that instead of choosing an action that does not move Hawaii agriculture forward, you will consider a long term solution that focuses on progress and success.

Respectfully,

Lisa Rhoden

resident, Hanapepe, Kauai

Food Safety Director, North Shore EVP

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:40:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henri Etta Schmitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our local farmers need this support.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:45:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elliot Dimacali	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Wahiawa and I am in opposition of this bill. The auditor's report contains recommendations that must be corrected, yes, but the solution is not the complete termination of the agency. Reformation is essential and the board should be more active in enforcing policy, laws should be clarified to avoid unnecessary excess of services and it all stems from the executive director and perhaps new leadership is needed. That is where you heal the wound from the source and you give it a second chance to change. In a time where the world is unforgiving, we need to give chances for change. The complete turnover of the agency into the department of agriculture is not the answer. If this group has been around a while, help it to where it needs to go. Help people get better, don't just abandon them. Times are tough, we gotta believe in people. Please committee, reconsider the opposition of this bill.



Kalepa Koalition

4334 Rice Street, Suite 202
Lihue, HI 96766
Phone: 808-634-6189

February 11, 2021

TO: Committee on

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A Perusso, Vice Chair

**RE: Testimony on HB1271, Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation
Friday, February 12, Via Videoconference**

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

We take **no position on HB1271**, but wish to share some comments.

The Kalepa Koalition is a Hawaii agricultural cooperative of 15 farmers and ranchers who hold long-term licenses on 6,500 acres of State land makau of Kalepa Ridge on Kauai and under the administration of the State's Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

1. Our central concern is that should this bill pass there be no disruption in the oversight and management of the 15 long-term licenses or shorter-term revocable permits issued for the Kalepa lands. We are in the midst of important issues dealing with both land and water which require continuity and careful attention on the part of the State agencies.

2. In fairness to ADC, we would suggest that it is a bit early for a bill written on January 27, 2021, to conclude that ADC "will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report" when the auditor's report was released on only 13 days earlier, on January 14.

3. As for the Koalition, we have had a smooth transfer of revocable permits under DLNR to 35 year licenses (in most cases) under ADC beginning in 2014. ADC has been successful in bringing farmers onto the irrigated lands in the areas makai of Maalo Road.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. P. Milnes".

Leslie P. Milnes, Vice-President
Kalepa Koalition



Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Lena Mochimaru - Secretary
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr
Thursday, February 11, 2021

Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation
Testifying in Strong **Support with Amendments**

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports with amendments HB1271, Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). This measure dissolves the ADC and transfers all lands and staff, except for the executive director, to the Department of Agriculture (DOA).**

The recent scathing audit of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) clearly demonstrates the need to abolish the ADC.

Please **amend** this measure to ensure that if the ADC is abolished and its responsibilities assumed by the DOA, that provisions in the law require the DOA to:

1) The DOA and all State agencies and departments who own or manage lands zoned or designated for agriculture must annually lease or license at least fifty per cent of agricultural land eligible for lease or license or lease renewal or license renewal, to agricultural operations whose primary business is food or crop production for local consumption.

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

2) Require the DOA to include within their long-term plans and lease priorities provisions in support of “regenerative agricultural practices”

3) Amend the DOA Board requirements to specify that at least 2 members of the Board of Agriculture shall have experience in regenerative agricultural and organic farming practices.

We cannot allow the Agribusiness Development Corporation to continue to exist when they have proven incapable of doing what statute has tasked them to do. Please **pass HB 1271 with the amendments requested.**

Mahalo for the opportunity,

Gary Hooser
Executive Director

Pono Hawai'i Initiative

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:50:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon Levine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Agribusiness is not looking out for the health and well being of Hawaii.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:55:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
irene kloepfer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The people of Hawaii need to be in control of their food supplies. Covid has shown us all the warts in big ag. We need a sustainable economy that is start to finish here. We need a green economy and food is one place to start, not only creating more jobs here but bringing back health as number one priority. Mahalo for supporting HB1271

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:57:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aaron O'Brien	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hi Aaron Obrien owner of helemano farms. Been a farmer over 30 years.I have had a good relationship with adc in my experience never had any problems with corporation. In my perspective one of the only organizations that cater to small farmers like me with a more than resnable lease. Do not support hb1271 due to an unpredictable future of my business and other small farm businesses. Aloha aaron obrien

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:58:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony in strong SUPPORT of HB 1271, which abolishes the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) and transfers its responsibility and budget to the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

I begin my testimony with the words I have witnessed so often spoken at the conclusion of numerous House and Senate Committees on Agriculture hearings when good bills die a quiet death: "the Department of Agriculture is "WOEFULLY UNDERFUNDED."

I have read REPORT NO. 21-01, AUDIT OF THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, which includes the ADC's response to the audit draft. Regarding ADC's accountability to the Legislature and the people of Hawai'i, it is apparent that critical documentation guidance of this 27-year "attachment to the DOA" has been lacking, if not altogether non-existent. It is also apparent that the ADC has been operating without board oversight and a general plan or strategy.

In 1997, the Legislative Reference Bureau was asked to "study the operations of ADC for the purpose of improving its effectiveness in carrying out the original intent of its establishment. The Bureau did an in-depth formative evaluation of ADC, resulting in seven recommendations, ranging from a complete reorganization of ADC to a clarifying or reduction of the mission of ADC and other administrative in-house reforms."

Again, in 2007, a report titled Agribusiness Development Corporation: Revisited, was presented to the legislature. (See attachment).

"This report was prepared in response to Act 267, Session Laws of Hawaii 2006, that noted that the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) did not prepare a mandated Hawaii agribusiness plan and requested the Legislative Reference Bureau to identify and consult with governmental agencies and stakeholders in the agricultural industry to identify the necessary elements to be included in the Hawaii agribusiness plan and to obtain suggestions to improve ADC.

On page 5, the report states:

Given all these extraordinary powers, this "public agency on steroids" was to deliver the

legislative dream of transforming a declining large plantation based agricultural industry into a diversified dynamic growth industry impacting the local, national, and international scene. However, this uneventful, although extraordinary, genesis led to a rather tumultuous adolescence. **At the age of four, ADC was facing repeal. During the Regular Session of 1998, in its original form, H.B. No. 3625 called for the reorganization of the DOA, including the repeal of ADC and the transfer of the proactive functions of the ADC into the newly reorganized DOA."**

My point of listing the past failed efforts to reign in the ADC highlights an opinion held by many constituents-the ADC should be eliminated and transferred to the underfunded DOA to be closely managed. The current pandemic has magnified the need for a diverse, well balanced economy, which, in the case of agriculture, translates to leasing these state lands for the growing of food crops meant for local consumption.



House Committee on Agriculture (AGR)

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: HB1271

Friday, February 12th, 2021 10:00 am

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

HAPA is in strong support of HB 1271 which would dissolve the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) and transfer all lands and staff, except for the executive director, to the department of agriculture.

HAPA is a Hawaii-wide organization, but grows out of the movement on Kauai 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 Kauai'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, our testimony is largely informed by concerns arising from the ADC's mismanagement of its vast west side landholdings. Public Lands Should Serve the Public Good: Considering that ADC lands represent the largest swath of public (crown) agricultural land, 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 control 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. This is a huge subsidy to already extremely wealthy corporations. Leases include 20-35 year agreements, for rates as low as \$50/acre/year for tillable acres and \$1/acre/year for non-tillable acres. Companies have lobbied for some of the acreage they occupy to be reclassified as "non-tillable"

after having had the land in cultivation. In 2019, on the westside of Kaua'i the State's Public Land Trust Information lists a lease with Syngenta for 2,369 acres (\$267,941/year total), with BASF for 977 acres (\$146,831/year), another with BASF for 10 acres (\$6,200/year), and one with Pioneer for 1,462 acres (\$219,550/year). These have transferred to Hartung Brothers, Becks, and Corteva, respectively.^[9]

The lands leased to agrochemical tenants have been associated with heavy pesticide usage and toxic drift into adjacent communities ^[10]. The 2016 Joint Fact Finding Group report Pesticide Use by Large Agribusinesses on Kaua'i^[11] 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 Hawaii and several other states. The Hawaiian Homes development in Kekaha is approximately 100' from the ADC fields. Chlorpyrifos 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." ^[1]

ADC's non-democratic process was also reflected in its handling of its Central Oahu 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.^[4] 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 Hawai'i Agribusiness Development Corporation 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.”^[12]

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.^[11, pg 46-47] 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 Kauai without a permit since 2015 by a federal judge, violating a federal Clean Water Act^[13]. 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 in 2 billion dollars in lawsuit winnings over the use of popular Glyphosate-based herbicide Roundup.^[14,15]

Discrepancies in Reporting on Kauai ADC Landholdings:

It is worth noting that there are discrepancies in the ADC's reportings on its landholdings on Kauai. 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 Kauai - 28,000 acres of land in Kekaha, and 7,000 acres of former Lihue Plantation land (now referred to as Kalepa). ^[16]

Yet in the ADC's 2019 report to the legislature, the agency reported to manage a total of 19,000 acres on Kauai - 12,000 acres of land in Kekaha, and 7,000 acres of Kalepa lands. ^[16]

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.” ^[1,page 9, footnote 5]

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

The ADC Should Be Dissolved

HB 1271 correctly states that “the results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report and therefore should be dissolved.”

The special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Anecdotally several farmers and ranchers have shared their frustrations with being denied an ADC lease with no justification.

In 2007 a state report ^[7] on the ADC was conducted because the agency had failed to develop its agribusiness plan. It is notable that many of the recommendations from the 2007 LRB report are exactly the same as the ones in the recently released audit. The inaction since 2007 makes the case that the agency is beyond reform.

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 Hawaii'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. ^[5, 6]

Additionally, lawmakers should further support the revitalization of native Hawaiian food systems. There are a plethora of successful grassroots efforts to restore Hawaii'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.^[6]

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 the ADC 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 aina-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 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.

HAPA strongly supports HB 1271 and believes it is part of the solution to growing our local food production and economy and 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) 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/>
- 5) Regeneration International: *Why Regenerative Agriculture?* <https://regenerationinternational.org/why-regenerative-agriculture/>
- 6) 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>
- 7) Legislative Reference Bureau: *Agribusiness Development Corporation Revisited* Report No 3, 2007
- 8) Act 264 Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation 1994
- 9) qPublic.net - Kauai County TMK Mapping <https://qpublic.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=986&LayerID=20101&PageTypeID=1&PageID=8741&Q=356838976&KeyValue=120020010000>
- 10) 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/>
- 11) 2016 Joint Fact Finding Group Report on Crops and Pesticides on Kaua'i <https://www.accord3.com/crops-and-pesticides-on-kauai/>
- 12) 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>

- 13) 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
- 14) 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/>
- 15) 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/>
- 16) ADC Annual Report 2019 <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/DOA-ADC-Annual-Report-2018.pdf>



Food+ Policy Internship 2021

food@purplemaia.org

February 11, 2021

To: House Agriculture Committee

Subject: Support for HB1271

Aloha,

The recent Hawai'i State Audit and a report produced by UHERO have both concluded that the ADC has failed in its responsibilities to local agriculture over the last 25+ years.

We support this bill, which would dissolve the ADC, and give its resources to the Department of Agriculture.

In addition to dissolving the ADC, resources that would have been allocated to the ADC should be allocated towards creating an inclusive stakeholder engagement process to determine how to sustainably meet Hawaii's goal of increasing local food production on state agricultural lands. The strategic plan that the ADC was supposed to create is still very much needed to chart a course forward for a sustainable and diversified agricultural economy.

Mahalo,
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.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:05:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Avi Okin	Individual	Support	No

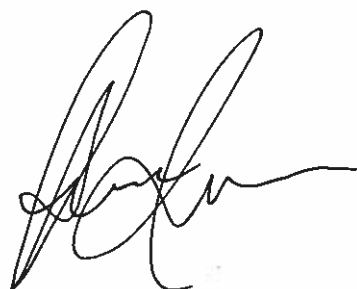
Comments:

I believe it is time to support local farmers and other agriculturists, not big mainland and foreign companies who do not Hawai'i's benefit in their practices which the A-BDC seems to strongly support. Therefore, please support this bill.

I am writing this testimony in opposition to HB 1271. I, George Rapoza appreciate and support ADC's effort in making my stay here on their property (currently leasing) comfortable and well protected. ADC listened and helps me when my family and I had issues with the people that are houseless squatting on the property and also with farmers that are adjacent to my lease land. ADC responded really quickly and got the problem resolved.

I am a man who is currently 86 years old and enjoy raising my horses for my children, my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We are vested into this property for my 4 generation family. This is a place that we can get away from all the negativity in the world and rely on the Aina (land). I can teach my family the value of the land, the freedom, the fresh air, and the grass roots of what family means, not electronics and cell phones.

I ask you whole heartedly to please let ADC continue to run these properties and continue to treat their tenants like family.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Rapoza", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.



Testimony Before the House Committee on Agriculture
State Capitol Room 325
State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street
Friday, February 12, 2021 10:00 AM

RE: OPPOSITION to House Bill No. 1271

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and distinguished Members of the Committee:

The Kauai Chamber of Commerce “Chamber” acknowledges the gravity of the findings stemming from the recent audit of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). We agree that steps should be taken to ensure the ADC meets the full mandate of its mission. However, the Chamber believes abolishing the ADC could have unintended consequences which will negatively impact Kauai, and therefore opposes HB 1271.

First and foremost, this action would result in cancelation of an important renewable energy project on Kauai’s westside, which, when complete, will bring Kauai to more than 80% renewable generation.

Additionally, the ADC oversees a total of 6,000 acres of both tillable and untillable land at Kalepa. These lands are currently leased for the following purposes:

- 1300 acres - eucalyptus for Green Energy
- 400 acres - sweet potato
- 50 acres- ginger
- 60 acres - tropical fruit trees
- 20 acres - produce
- All others with cattle or untillable

The ADC is also responsible for the maintenance of stream crossings, including a \$900,000 project to repair Christian Crossing. This crossing is used for emergency crossing from the Lihue to Wailua in the event the Wailua River bridge is impassible.

Additionally, the Hindu Monastery in Wailua Homesteads leases 192 acres of ADC land. They have 18 acres is in diversified agriculture, mostly their certified organic Noni orchard, plus avocados. They harvest and produce Wailua River Noni Juice that is sold in stores across Hawaii and on eBay & Amazon. They have 30 acres is in pasture for their retired milk cows. 144 acres are set aside for hardwood trees, of which 110 acres are planted and growing well (including the largest recent planting of native Hawaiian Koa trees in the state). The remaining 34 acres are scheduled for planting over the next several years. They have received both federal & state grants for these planting.

Abolishing the ADC will jeopardize this good work on Kauai and could prevent our county from reaching the state’s renewable energy goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:35:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
justin ridgely	Ho Farms	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

as a farmer in hawaii. And having farmed in multiple areas I'd like to submit testimony. We farm on ADC property and have to say it has been the easiest place for us to farm. The organization and the management systems that have been put into place are amazing. I look at the delepadated and over run areas that are managed by department of ag and other private organizations. And in comparison ADC properties are the most utilized and organized. I look forward to driving into our leased farm parcel and not seeing abandoned machinery and buildings. Instead I see fields being farmed and more fields being opened up to farming! Where else on the island of Oahu do we see this?



67-332 Kaiea Pl.
Waiialua, HI 96791-9501
808-383-4481
www.NSEVP.org

February 10, 2021

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON HB 1271 RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(Date/Time of Hearing: 2/12/2021 at 10:00 a.m., Room 325)

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the committee,

The North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership (EVP), like many organizations in the agricultural community found the state auditor Report No. 21-01: Audit of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) extremely disturbing, but not surprising. While the current ADC Executive Director and Board of Directors failed to provide the leadership and oversight necessary to carry out the legislature's vision for ADC, the need for the organization is no less valid today, and perhaps even needed more, than when ADC was initially formed. We ask that you committee consider redirecting ADC under new leadership with an active and involved board of directors.

The North Shore EVP was formed in 2015 as a result of a comprehensive, community-based economic analysis that identified the need for a regional food hub to fill serious gaps in the food supply chain of the region. Our work has expanded statewide to include a GropupGAP (Good Agricultural Practices) food safety training and certification program that lowers the cost and effort of attaining Harmonized GAP certification to farms anywhere in Hawaii. In our most recent CARES Act funded projects we worked with 60 farmers on Kauai and Oahu to provide food safety training. We also provided funds directly to farmers for materials and supplies to improve their food safety and technology infrastructure to better prepare them to enter new markets that require at least some food safety documentation.

Our work needs the collaboration and support of an organization like ADC especially in standing up regional food aggregation facilities that can help small farmers enter new stable markets, especially institutional and larger commercial markets.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

Kevin Kelly, President & CEO

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:32:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christopher Boscole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (ADC) should be abolished . A 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 special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification. Instead of being used for local food production, the majority of ADC lands are currently being leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation and GE seed crops for export. Mismanagement of ADC lands and a lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, Clean Water Act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands that create liabilities for the government. The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions. It also shows that they're unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report Therefore, the ADC should be dissolved.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:50:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Walker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha House Members,

I am writing on behalf of my husband and myself to express our very strong support for HB1271. We live on Kaua'i and have maintained a small farm and apiary for nearly 20 years. Living here has allowed us to see firsthand the gross neglect and mismanagement of the ADC for our prime agricultural lands. State ag lands should be used entirely to support local farmers and agriculture, and to contribute to Hawai'i's food security; the pandemic has made it very clear that the state needs to start now to support the farmers and businesses that are producing food for our residents and visitors.

For 30 years, the ADC has had an unfair leasing process that shuts out small local farmers with no explanation and instead leases to large corporations that do not grow food, ship everything they harvest to the mainland, and use pesticides and herbicides so heavily that our local communities are afflicted with cancer, severe birth defects, and spiraling rates of respiratory diseases. Please pass HB 1271 and consider establishing a task force of local farmers and other stakeholders to guide the Agriculture Department in allocating these lands to benefit our islands with local food production.

We not only have issues of food sovereignty, but also need to address global warming. By requiring state ag lands to be farmed using regenerative agriculture practices, we will contribute to both the increased health of our soils and to carbon drawdown, so please also consider giving priority to those farmers who wish to use these practices to help the people of Hawai'i invest in the future of their soils.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony,

Maria Walker

1728 Hulu Rd.

Kapa'a HI 96746

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:02:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. The recent audit has shown that the ADC has failed to accomplish it's mission other than acquiring large acres of land.

The special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.

Instead of being used for local food production, the majority of ADC lands are currently being leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation and GE seed crops for export.

The results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions. It also shows that they're unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report. Therefore, the ADC should be dissolved.

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

Sincerely,

Marion McHenry

Princeville



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

February 12, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1271
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Conference Room 325
10:00 AM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau respectfully opposes HB 1271, which dissolves the agribusiness development corporation and transfers all lands and staff, except for the executive director, to the department of agriculture. We don't believe this is the solution.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation was initiated by the agricultural industry as sugar and pineapple downsized. It was established to help transition Hawaii's agricultural industry from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations. Transitioning large tracts of monoculture farmland into smaller diversified ag lots and finding and supporting bona fide farmers to work those lands is a long and complex process. Major logistical challenges such as funding and developing necessary infrastructure must also be overcome and that takes time.

Naturally, HFB is very familiar with both ADC and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and sincerely appreciates the efforts of each as they assist farmers and ranchers with land and water issues, regulatory mandates, invasive species, global competition, financing, marketing, and research funding.

Over the past decade, ADC has made significant progress in transitioning Hawaii's ag sector. A critical review of post-plantation history reveals that ADC has been successful where no other entity has been in developing a productive diversified sector out of former sugar and pineapple lands. ADC also plays an important role in Kauai agriculture through the management of state agricultural lands and related water infrastructure. On Oahu, it manages the Waiahole Irrigation System that provides water to farmers on thousands of acres of productive prime agricultural lands. It will provide even more opportunities for farmers with its recent acquisition and management of thousands of acres of land in central Oahu.

There are distinct benefits to retaining ADC. Its structure allows it to concentrate on developing new agricultural enterprises. This is no simple task and it requires a focus that the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) will have difficulty maintaining. The broad and complex scope and responsibilities of HDOA make it impractical for it to assume the additional intense efforts required to assume the duties of ADC.

Furthermore, ADC's comprehensive role and function provides it with the ability to foster entrepreneurial endeavors without the potential conflict that would exist within HDOA. As the entrepreneurial arm of HDOA, ADC complements the larger agency. Both agencies are small, when compared to other State departments, but they have gargantuan responsibilities. Unfortunately, they are also severely challenged by limited resources as they struggle to support the complex agricultural industry in Hawaii.

COVID-19 has rekindled the interest in, and importance of local food production. Governor Ige's goal to double local food production can become a reality if we work together efficiently and amicably. There is renewed momentum for the revitalization of agriculture and we will need all of the resources, knowledge, and support to grow Hawaii's agriculture industry. ADC is designed to be innovative, creative, and aggressive in creating opportunities to provide more land for Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. It can deliver the necessary support functions to ensure success. ADC is an excellent example of a public-private partnership. We hope that it will be allowed to continue to carry out its role.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our respectful disagreement with this measure. And thank you for your continued support of Hawaii's farmers and ranchers.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 1:19:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Mcknight	DPH Environmental Caucus	Support	No

Comments:

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 they've been sued for mismanaging multiple times — throughout Hawai'i. In [a shocking audit](#) conducted by the Hawai'i State Auditor, the ADC was referred to as "an agency that is generally unaware of its unique powers and exemptions, and has done little – if anything – toward achieving its statutory purpose". A recent [UHERO analysis](#) referred to the ADC as a "fiasco".

When the ADC was first created, the legislature granted the ADC broad powers to buy, own, and develop public lands. ADC was granted exemptions from public land trust regulation, Public Utilities Commission regulations, and civil service laws.

These exemptions and special powers have created a lack of transparency around how ADC tenants are selected. Local farmers seeking leases have been denied without any justification. Of the tenants who were selected, many were not given formal leases (required by statute), which has left the state open to liability.

The ADC controls some of the most fertile agricultural lands on Kaua'i, equipped with irrigation and road infrastructure. 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.

HB 1217 asserts that "although the office of the auditor included thirty-three recommendations for the corporation and its board, the results of the audit show that **the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions and will be unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report**"

Indeed, it is hard to imagine how an agency that has failed so epically over the past 27 years could be meaningfully reformed. [HB 1217](#) will dissolve the ADC and transfer its resources and staff (except the Executive Director) to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

In addition to dissolving the ADC, resources that would have been allocated to the ADC should be allocated towards creating an inclusive stakeholder engagement process to determine how to sustainably meet Hawaii's goal of increasing local food production on state agricultural lands. The strategic plan that the ADC was supposed to create is still very much needed to chart a course forward for a sustainable and diversified agricultural economy.

We stand in strong support of HB1271.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 2:36:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Gray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to protect our Ag lands and get moving on becoming food independent from the mainland. We need to pass this bill to make sure that our Ag lands are not being used for other things, and so that there is accountability. Nothing is being done now. Mahalo, Laura Gray R.N.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 2:57:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julio Magalhães	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the Legislature:

I am writing to strongly urge you to support HB1271 which seeks to shutdown the Agribusiness Development Corporation. I was shocked to read the results of the State Auditor's report on the ADC as well as the results of the study of the ADC by the University of Hawaii.

After 25-years of existence, the ADC has essentially nothing to show toward achieving its mission of finding a way to transform agricultural land from earlier plantations to current use to help supply food to Hawaii and make it more sustainable. The failure of key members of the ADC and its board to understand the mission of the ADC and to not follow standard administrative procedures to document activity and demonstrate progress and a plan to achieve its mission is unconscionable and gross negligence.

I urge you to strongly support HB1271 and help Hawaii finally make progress toward achieving a transition of its agricultural lands to benefit the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Julio Magalhães

Kilauea, Kauai

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:09:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT!!! ADC had so long to do its job and didn't. Aole! Abolish it!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:16:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, i know this is less than 24 hrs but just got word on this very important bill. I don't think you should penalize me for being 5 hrs late when the ADC has been late for 27 years to follow its mandate!

ŒA 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.

ŒThe special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC have led to an opaque and unfair leasing process. Small farmers and ranchers have been denied leases with no justification.

ŒInstead of being used for local food production, the majority of ADC lands are currently being leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation and GE seed crops for export.

ŒMismanagement of ADC lands and a lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, Clean Water Act violations, and other illegal activities on ADC lands that create liabilities for the government.

ŒThe results of the audit show that the corporation is incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions. It also shows that they're unable to fulfill the recommendations contained in the auditor's report. Therefore, the ADC should be dissolved.

ŒLawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices and non toxic farming practices.

These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off and protecting our kekies and kapunas from the toxic agricultural practices of GMO farming.

A task force/stakeholder engagement and planning process is needed so Hawai'i's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

i would like to know if my late input was accepted?

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:28:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

It is apparent that in the last quarter century, the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) has failed to meet its most important goals and continues to shirk accountability for their neglect. Mismanagement and irresponsibility by the ADC have resulted in failures that fundamentally and irreversibly impact our most precious resource after kākou naka maoli, and that is 'āina, or that which feeds. Therefore, it would not make sense for the ADC to continue to be entrusted with this immense kuleana over what we know to be sacred, and the only logical next step would be to transfer all responsibilities over to the Department of Agriculture ASAP. Mahalo for taking the time to read this testimony. Aloha 'āina, mau a mau!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:30:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Antya Miller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a strong advocate for agriculture on the North Shore of Oahu, I oppose HB1271 eliminating ADC.

Per the Auditor's Report, ADC has some serious management issues that must be addressed. However, they have not been given the time to address the issues identified.

ADC has made important progress toward a plan to bypass Lake Wilson to provide mountain water to the North Shore Ag lands, the majority of IAL Ag lands on Oahu. The main reason most of the former Waialua Sugar Company lands remain fallow is due to lack of R1 water coming from Lake Wilson. Well water is very expensive due to the electricity needed to pump the water from the ground.

In reviewing the testimony that is in opposition to this bill, it is coming from mostly anti-conventional farming individuals and organizations who only want organic farming. We need all forms of agriculture to put our fallow Ag lands back into production.

Please oppose this bill and allow ADC to address the auditor's recommendations.

Mahalo,

Antya Miller

808-342-8557

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:39:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olivia Ling	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Good morning,

I am kupuna born and raised in Kalia, Waikiki. I now live on Hawaii Island and still have my hands in the earth. I support ADC abolishment bill. Mismanagement. #1. ADC has denied land leases to Hawaiians. Instead #2 majority of their leases go to Agr-chemical companies who engage in pilau practices, which are very, very bad for our environment, future, health and future sustainability of our islands. I would like to add that there are better ways to Malama our Aina, through establishing an educated staff, committee, board or what ever you do. So for this new era, let's do it smart and improve and protect, not allow lousy stewards who abuse and just use our precious islands with no thought for all, or for the destruction they reap. Abolishment lease for ADC and their leases to Agr-chemical companies.

Olivia Ling

P. O. Box 505, Naalehu, HI 96772

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 4:17:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall John Francisco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

While I understand this legislation's intent, it does not take into account the positive outcomes which the ADC has accomplished over the past few decades, especially, on the island of Kauai including West Kauai. Soon-to-be will be other uses including the long-awaited and planned for energy sustainability project as well as others such as small business farmers and others. I appreciate the effort on Oahu's rural area in Central Oahu but, on a much larger scale and statewide view, the benefits far outweigh those of of who are limited in resources on the outer islands and rural communities.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 4:27:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Manawaiakea	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an individual I like looking at mission statements: Mission Statement
The mission of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) is to acquire, and manage in partnership with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups, selected high-value lands, water systems, and infrastructure for commercial agricultural use and to direct research into areas that will lead to the development of new crops, markets, and lower production cost.

not only is the mismanagement clear due to the lack of clean water that is damaging our eco system on the west side of Kauai. Also, the lack of accountability for the damage in our soil... Āina is both land and sea. From mountain to ocean.

heres an what I found from an article done by earth justice-

ADC operates a 40-mile drainage ditch system that each day funnels millions of gallons of polluted drainage waters from the Mānā Plain into the ocean near Kekaha and Waimea. The open ditches weave past thousands of acres of pesticide-intensive genetically engineered seed operations, a landfill, a wastewater treatment plant, and populated areas before emptying into popular recreational sites like Majors Bay, Kinikini Ditch, MacArthur Beach Park, and Kākaʻa Harbor.

Now, clearly as we can see- it's beyond lack of management it's complete genocide. West Kauai has the highest amount of Native Hawaiian people out of the entire Kauai Mokupuni (Waimea Ahupua'a) We the people have a right to life, liberty, and justice. As Po'e Kanaka we have cultural rights to access native practices that the general public might not be aware of. Practices that are part of our culture of which the federal government lacks any type of day in. Not only are we losing access of "public trust lands" CROWN LANDS we are losing our vitality the very thing that gives us life Āina (clean water, ocean to swim in, and food) from hundreds of dead o'opu to hundreds of known pesticides. Even after a lawsuit the ADC along with the County of Kauai are willing to build over land that was previously tested for well over how many pesticides?

California law requires 1/4-mile pesticide buffers for all schools. Why do U.S. schools need 1/4-mile buffers? President Trump's EPA legalizes the spraying in Waimea and around U.S. schools of 72 destructive pesticides, including chlorpyrifos, which are banned or being phased out by the European Union. Pesticide buffers are mostly needed for Corteva and Hartung Bothers. Because they spray approximately 17 times the amount of pesticides as normal farms, reports the Center for Food Safety.

Reference- <https://www.thegardenisland.com/2020/02/22/opinion/hawaii-could-quit-chlorpyrifos-now/>

Please recall prenatal exposure to non-acute, low levels of chlorpyrifos, similar to those measured in Waimea Canyon Middle School (The Garden Island, July 14, 2013), can cause brain defects and low IQ scores, reports PNAS, 2012. The same study from Dr. Rauh from Columbia Medical University reports MRI studies and animal studies also show that non-acute chlorpyrifos prenatal exposure reverses normal structures in the child's brain which "reverses normal sex differences in learning, memory and emotional behaviors."

what is being done to protect our people from the continued pollution (air, ground, ocean, and freshwater)? I oppose this bill because of the above

to add salt to injury for our community because I live in Kalaheo but, visit the home of my kupuna as often as I can. We love Polihale the resting place of our ancestors all the way to Pakala. Why should I worry about the health and well-being of our children. We are not protecting their best interests knowing what is wrong by allowing this to continue I say- own up to the mistakes and make right by planting hemp and making that soil healthy. Don't let no one live there till this is done and no one but the community should profit because the damage is done and shouldn't continue!

Knowing what is right; by doing what is right. That's called PONO

Manawa is a word that often used by our ancestors representing- the past, present, and future. All in one. What are we gonna do to leave a better impact so we can identify ourselves through our cultural practices and leave imprints that will help better future generations.

waimea ahupuaa in our history wa'a the bread and basket of our Mokupuni Kauai now, it is the most polluted! E Ola Kakou Hawaii the vitality of our people, is the life of the land.

Piha Pono Ku stand firm in who you are, by who you come from for the next 21 generations

-Manawaiakea



Testimony from Jeff Case, Senior Director Government Affairs, CropLife America

In opposition to HB 1271 - Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation

Friday, Feb. 12, 10 am

House Committee on Agriculture

Aloha Chair Hashem and members of the committee,

CropLife America (CLA) is the national association representing manufacturers, formulators, and distributors of pesticides products used in agriculture production. We support and promote scientific-based policy in the regulation of pesticide products at both the state and federal level. We oppose HB 1271.

We believe this bill is premature. The auditor's report was just completed and published in January 2021 so the legislature should allow the ADC time to develop a plan to address some of the more pressing concerns raised in the report. And regardless of the findings, the ADC still serves a very important purpose and is the more appropriate entity to support the business of farmers - not the regulation of agriculture.

Thank you very much for your consideration.



Testimony from Gene Harrington, Senior Director Government Affairs, BIO

In opposition to HB 1271 - Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation

Friday, Feb. 12, 10 am

House Committee on Agriculture

Aloha Chair Hashem and members of the committee,

BIO is the world's largest trade association representing biotechnology companies, academic institutions, state biotechnology centers and related organizations across the United States and in more than 30 other nations. Our key areas of focus are health biotechnology, industrial and environmental biotechnology, and food and agriculture biotechnology. We oppose HB 1271.

We believe this bill is premature. The auditor's report was just completed and published in January 2021 so the legislature should allow the ADC time to develop a plan to address some of the more pressing concerns raised in the report. And regardless of the findings, the ADC still serves a very important purpose and is the more appropriate entity to support the business of farmers - not the regulation of agriculture.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 5:02:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our land should grow food for our residents first!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 5:38:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pavel Yushin	OrganicHawaii.org	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawai`i 'Agribusiness Development Corporation' has been a costly failure with no oversight for over 25 years - it's time to shut it down and be absorbed back into the Dept. of Ag.

We Support Hawai`i Regenerative Farmers!!

P.S. Yushin

Founder,

OrganicHawaii.org

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:29:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robbie Melton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Committee Members:

I ask that you consider this bill carefully and ask that you vote against its passing.

I served on the ADC board for a number of years and was very impressed how painstakingly they review all requests. They look at the legalities, the economic ramifications and the impact on the community. Their goal is to help farmers and the agriculture industry. They have many forward thinking ideas to improve the agri industry in Hawaii.

Their organization is hampered by lack of funding for programs and staff. They are woefully understaffed for the amount of work they have to do and there is no funding for new programs. As you all know agriculture is one of the smallest budgets in the state yet it is one of the most important industries for our food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:41:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shin Houy Ho	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1271. We have been a tenant at ADC since 2018. Since relocating to ADC we have only improved through operational efficiency, crop yields and overall peace of mind and security.

As we began farming our first 50 acres, ADC had already cleared and amended the soil for cultivation. For a medium size farm, we didn't have the proper equipment to clear 50 acres of California grass, it would have taken us over 3 months to complete the process.

ADC provides 24 hour security on the farm. We have been able to set up a yard to store equipment, supplies and an employee break area. We leave the farm every night with the peace of mind that we won't come in the next morning to see someone has harvested our crops, cut the locks on our storage containers, siffen the diesel from our equipment or vandalized any of our property.

Initially there were issues with water pressure and availability of water for irrigation. ADC was very quick to resolve those issues as they understood irrigation was tied to yield and farm productivity. ADC has been clear and consistent on communicating policy thru either mail, email or verbal conversations. ADC is upholding farm policy that allows farmers to thrive.

The legislature and state auditor has much to learn about managing today's farmers. Just because an agency has all their paperwork and reports filed does not mean they are properly managing State land. As a second generation farmer, I grew up in the agriculture community. My dad was not awarded a long term lease in the Kahuku ag park. I'm glad we are not there, because it is now just like Kunia Loa Ridge. Farmers are not progressing in agriculture. They have become comfortable as they have built homes, are subletting land and selling their lease for thousands of dollars. The DOA does not have a progressive vision of agriculture. If we are to feed the people of Hawaii and live up to the goal of being food self-sufficient, we cannot transfer ADC to the DOA.

Overall, outside people do not understand the dynamic of the agriculture industry. People are not rushing into full time farming. I became a full time employee of Ho Farms in 2006 and back then my role models Dean Okimoto and Richard Ha....both

have quit. ADC has spent a lot of taxpayer dollars buying up Hawaii's most precious asset, prime agricultural land. If it is not the state who will protect agricultural land, who will?

It may seem that we have not gotten our return on investment, but believe me in the next two decades many new career farmers will emerge and as a state we will be rewarded when those growers can benefit from the land and infrastructure in ADC inventory. Yes, what I am saying is there are not enough experienced farmers and the market price is not yet right for farmers to thrive. As the world goes from globalization, back to focus on localization more career farmers will emerge in Hawaii.

Since I've been full time in agriculture and learned about ADC, I believe the agency has done an excellent job in providing career farmers the essential resource to thrive, such as primeland, long term lease, water and security. For Ho Farm, our transition to ADC land has allowed us to focus on production and long term investment in infrastructure.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 8:30:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wendy Arbeit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of of this measure.

The ADC needs to be abolished immediately. The recent state audit 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. ADC should be transferred to the Dept. of Agriculture with the mandate to lease the state agricultural lands to farmers and ranchers who actually grow food for local consumption – presently the vast majority of this land is not used to produce food, certainly not food for local consumption. The present arrangement is not in the best interests of the people of Hawai'i. ADC needs to be abolished.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo representatives! My 'ohana and I strongly support this bill and a new plan and entirely new structure to accomplish our food production goals on state lands. Thank you for hearing and considering. Please vote yes on HB1271. Mahalo!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 9:36:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John & Rita Shockley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

If a State division has not done it's core mission for decades, it's time to shelve it.

Mahalo!