

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 11:46:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Kau	Hawaii Department of Agriculture	Oppose	No

Comments:

Available for questions.

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
Thursday, February 25, 2021
12:00 p.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chairperson Luke 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 Waihole 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.

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
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021
12:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 1271
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chairperson Luke 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 and land acquisition, and not in 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 capacity. 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 transfer its land and irrigation water systems to the Department under 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: 2/23/2021 1:45:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurel brier	Kauai Climate Action Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

ADC has failed to fulfill their objectives and obligations. Time to restart and create an organization that can support farmers growing food for the local market and regenerative agriculture that can secure a better future for the islands.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:58:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Luke and members of the House Committee on Finance.

I strongly support abolition of ADC.

As you know, **not just the State Auditor but also the UH Economic Research Organization (UHERO)** has found that ADC is doing little, if anything,

to significantly and cost-effectively diversify Hawaii's agricultural economy,

while also failing to increase Hawaii's food security and over-dependence on artificially cheaper imported food,

which is subsidized in many ways--both directly and indirectly--from production through transport to Hawaii.

Providing more free or low-cost land acquired by ADC to local farmers is one of many possible ways, in my opinion--

including exempting local food producers from GET, just as local ag exports are already GET-exempt--

to level the playing field for local food producers, relative to artificially cheaper imported food,

in order to cost-effectively reduce Hawaii's dangerous over-reliance on imported food

without requiring local consumers and/or local taxpayers to perpetually pay more for local food.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

Aloha,

Thomas Brandt

Foresight and Policy Analysis



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

February 23, 2021

House Bill 1271
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Luke; Vice Chair Cullen and members of the Senate Committee on Finance

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 citizens' 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,
Sandra Herndon, Environmental Caucus Food Security and Agriculture Committee
Jeff McKnight, DPH Environmental Caucus Vice Chair



Kalepa Koalition

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

February 23, 2021

TO: House Committee on Finance
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

**RE: Testimony on HB1271, Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation
Thursday, February 25, Via Videoconference**

Chairperson Luke 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 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.

4. We have had certain difficulties with some tenants not paying their stipulated share of the common element road upkeep (as required by their license). If this bill passes, we recommend language be included (as it is in HB871, section 4.2.b.1.A) to the effect that at the time of transfer of licenses or RPs from ADC to DOA, e.g., "The licensee shall be in full compliance with the existing license" and that "DOA make every effort to enforce the required payments for the common element road maintenance."

Sincerely,

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

Leslie P. Milnes, Vice-President
Kalepa Koalition

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 3:41:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiana Kamen	Farm to Keiki	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha House Committee on Finance,

I am voting to support this bill to Dissolves the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). I reside on Kaua'i, but I work statewide to support farm to early care and education - increasing agriculture education, locally-grown foods and gardens in early care sites. 1/3 of our children entering kindergarden are obese or overweight in large part because of our overdependence on processed foods and underdevelopment of edible local-agriculture systems.

I have boots on the ground in our schools and can assure you that our state lands are not providing the role model example our children need to see for what bountiful, sustainable and resilient agriculture looks like. I teach the children about aina momona - the fat of the land. Where is aina momona on our state lands? I live by a old sugar plantation - the land has been fallow for 30 years - there's no richness there.

Our state lands could provide so much more.

Unfortunately, the ADC has not shown as much benefit the health of our community, both people and environment as we hope for, and rather has proved to be more of a detriment to both. There are many reasons for this, so rather than point fingers, it may be most important to realize that we need new systems and renewed energy and leadership in place, or we will never see any change.

A portion of my paycheck goes to the state, and what happens on statelands is my, and all of our community's kuleana. Producing healthy foods while supporting the health of the ecosystem is a big job and really should be done by a larger, more diverse task force or stakeholder group. We need to work with all of the state's experts to funnel funds into a planning process that can create and enact a better plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

Our state lands can represent 'aina momona' to our children and communities once again. Putting the right leadership and regulations in place is the first step. I believe we must prioritize on regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands rather than continue environmentally degrading practices that have historically and continue to be supported by the ADC.

Mahalo for your time and considering to support this bill to dissolve the ADC.

Tiana Kamen,

Farm to Keiki, Founder and Author

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 4:23:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

I think ADC has had enough time to both lease at least 50% of the lands that were purchased by the State for farming and to make a report to the Legislature about what they have done, and how things are going.

They did not do this, after all those years. There is no reason to think they would change now. The Legislature could place this program in another State Agency, but I see that HDOA is opposed. HDOA might reconsider if there were funds attached to the bill for creating a strategic plan around the State's vision for agriculture in the future. Another possibility would be to remove all the Staff & Board of ADC and start over. I have a feeling there is going to be a lot to clean up. The future of our food system depends on the wise use of our agricultural lands, and transparency about the strategy to develop them.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 4:48:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully support this HB1271 to abolish the ADC:

- 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.**
- Hawaii needs to be food sustainable:
- 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.**
- 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.
- **DO NOT FUND AND WASTE TAX-PAYER DOLLARS:**
 - 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 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

Mahalo,

Sylvia Dolena

Pele Lani Farm LLC

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:15:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Una Greenaway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen;

As a farmer, I must ask you to please support this bill that abolishes the ADC. As you know the state is hurting financially, and now is not the time to fund frivolous, wasteful programs. You are well aware that the state auditor has outlined all the problems with the ADC, and the inability to properly do their duty. The state Dept of Agriculture could use those funds to help we Kona coffee farmers who are in danger of losing our heirloom crop to Coffee Leaf Rust. We must all tighten our belts and remove this dinosaur from our government coffers. Please do what is pono.

Mahalo

Una Greenaway

Kuaiwi Farm

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

HB1271, Relating to Agribusiness Development Corporation
House FIN Hearing
Thursday, February 25, 2021 – 12:00pm
Videoconference

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Oppose

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House FIN 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: 2/23/2021 7:08:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly Support HB1271 - Abolish the ADC

www.WeAreOne.cc



Food+ Policy Internship 2021

food@purplemaia.org

February 23, 2021

To: House Finance 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,
Erwin Quinanola & the Food+ Interns

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

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

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 10:45:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hanalei Fergerstrom	Na Kupuna Moku O Keawe	Support	No

Comments:

The legislator should harness this moment to greatly expand the direction of the State and focus on self sustainability. But this has to be accomplished by the State providing, developing, and funding community projects that offer the combination of education, and greater uses of natural farming techniques. Thank you

Please let us know if we can be of service. Aloha Hanalei



PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

February 23, 2021

**SUPPORT HB 1271 February 25, 2021 12noon
Relating to the Agrobusiness Development Corporation (ADC)**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Finance Committee Members,

Hawai`i SEED strongly supports HB 1271 to dissolve and abolish 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

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 1271**, and want the Agribusiness Development Corporation to be dissolved. Mahalo for your time.



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February 25, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1271
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Conference Room 308
12:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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 provide 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.



Testimony Before the House Committee on Finance

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

Thursday, February 25, 2021; 12:00 noon
Conference Room #308

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

To the Honorable Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair, Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, 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.



House Committee on Finance (FIN)

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

Thursday, February 25th, 2021 12:00 pm

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen 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 and water systems.

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 controls some of the most fertile agricultural lands on Kauai, 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. In 2019, on the west side of Kaua‘i the State’s Public Land Trust Information lists a lease with Syngenta for 2,369 acres, with BASF for 977 acres, another with BASF for 10 acres, and one with Pioneer for 1,462 acres. These have transferred to Hartung Brothers, Becks, and Corteva, respectively.^[1]

The lands leased to agrochemical tenants have been associated with heavy pesticide usage and toxic drift into adjacent communities ^[2]. The 2016 Joint Fact Finding Group report Pesticide Use by Large Agribusinesses on Kaua‘i^[3] 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.” ^[4]

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.^[5] 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.”^[6]

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.^[5, 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^[7]. 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.^[8, 9]

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). ^[10]

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. ^[10]

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." ^[6, 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 ^[11] 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 Hawaii'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. ^[12, 13]

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.^[13]

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) qPublic.net - Kauai County TMK Mapping
<https://qpublic.schneidercorp.com/Application.aspx?AppID=986&LayerID=20101&PageTypeID=1&PageID=8741&Q=356838976&KeyValue=120020010000>
- 2) 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/>
- 3) 2016 Joint Fact Finding Group Report on Crops and Pesticides on Kaua'i
<https://www.accord3.com/crops-and-pesticides-on-kauai/>
- 4) State Audit of the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Report No. 21-01 Jan 14th 2021 <https://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2021/21-01.pdf>
- 5) 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/>
- 6) 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>
- 7) 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
- 8) 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/>
- 9) 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/>
- 10) ADC Annual Report 2019 <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/DOA-ADC-Annual-Report-2018.pdf>

- 11) Legislative Reference Bureau: *Agribusiness Development Corporation Revisited* Report No 3, 2007
- 12) Regeneration International: *Why Regenerative Agriculture?*
<https://regenerationinternational.org/why-regenerative-agriculture/>
- 13) 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=fjps>
[20](#)

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 11:35:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters statewide, I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1271 to abolish the ADC.

Mahalo for your kind attention

Dave Mulinix

Hawaii State Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Opposition of HB1271
Relating to The Agribusiness Development Corporation

House Committee on Finance

Date: Thursday, February 25, 2021

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Place: Via Video Conference
Conference Room 308

Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, 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

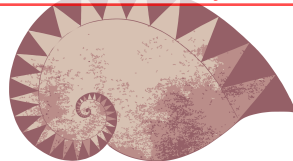
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition of HB1271. If you have any questions, please contact me at your convenience.

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.



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

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

Thursday, February 25, 2021

HB1271 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: 2/23/2021 1:07:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

It is time that we hold places accountable which are responsible for our lands.

Here are some reasons which I learned to support this bill.

- 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: 2/23/2021 1:11:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

It is time to stop Hawaii aina being used as testing grounds by agrochemical companies. We need to eliminate GMOs and support Hawaii sustainability through local farming. I would also support the planting of hemp to help rebuild sugarcane soil.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:13:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Selah levine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I reside on hawaii Island. I support the abolition of the ADC 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.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:16:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill and dissolve the Agribusiness Development Corporation. It has shown no interest in developing sustainable, healthy farming in Hawaii. Rather it has used its lands to allow chemical companies to pollute our lands, poison our people and develop genetically modified plants contrary to healthful food.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:23:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I never understood why, especially Kauai, let's their land and waters be ruined by big Agriculture! Why did they not stop it! Now I know, because of this useless ADC. Yes, get rid of them ASAP!!!

Take care of our land and grow organic and healthy foods on our ainal!

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

Marlies Lee

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:26:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I live on Kauai and wish to express my strong support for HB1271.

This bill will help support small farmers and encourage new farming practices to move our state in a more sustainable direction.

This is an important bill because of 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best, Jessica Haskin

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:27:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl J. Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production. They are poisoning our land and waters. Lawsuits have been brought against them for their polluting.

I strongly support HB1271 to abolish ADC

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:27:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Adam Pellegrin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 1271 to abolish the ADC. The ADC has not fulfilled any of it's duties to the public outside of acquiring land. We need a vision on behalf of the public that includes food security, organic farming, and planning for our future generations to have means to stay in Hawaii nei. So far it looks like the ADC is creating a land portfolio for use by who knows?! The ADC does not function with accountability to the public.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:29:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Abolish the ADC, it is serving interests that are detrimental to the health and wellbeing of Hawaii and has not fulfilled its mission statement.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:32:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Harvest Edmonds	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of dissolving the ADC. Over the years it has proven (recently) that it is not functioning to actually help the people of Hawai'i.

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.

Mahalo,

Harvest Edmonds

Kilauea, Kaua'i

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:38:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm writing in support of HB1271 because of 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.

Please support and pass HB1271 for the future of Hawai'i.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:38:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pauline Piliialoha Yap	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our agricultural lands must be used by local farmers to grow foods to provide food security in sustainable ways. Using our ag lands for experimentation by big ag companies is not efficient use nor does it benefit our local communities.

Agribusiness, unfortunately focused on the business part of the name and not so much on good and beneficial agricultural practices.

Please disband the Agribusiness Development Corporation and support local farmers and growers in sustainable practices.

Pauline Yap, DVM

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:40:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

- I strongly support this bill 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.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:43:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, & Members of the House Finance Committee:

I am writing in support of HB 1217.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) has not accomplished its mission to transform former plantation lands to economically viable farms. Thus far, ADC has extended preferential treatment to large corporate interests that do not increase local food production, with some releasing damaging chemicals into our environment.

The mission of ADC would be better accomplished by dedicating its current resources to the Department of Agriculture, where it would be subject to more regular and exacting oversight by the Legislature. As such, the ADC should be abolished.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:46:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ana Kahoopii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB1271 asking that the ADC be dissolved. The results of the audit show what we have suspected for a long time 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.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:47:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1271 to abolish the Agricultural Development Corporation. This entity has been unaccountable as revealed by the State Auditor, and has not provided value to the agricultural community in proportion to the time and tax payor money they've consumed.

As a loan facilitator, I work with many small ag producers who use practices that regenerate ag lands and provide food directly to our community. Obtaining long leases on affordable land to farm is an ever present challenge for them. Our lawmakers and community need to support them. Proper management of ag lands by a competent accountable entity that prioritizes food production for local consumption is a necessary first step and ADC has proven over its 27 years that it is not the entity to do this.

Respectfully,

Mary Spadaro

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:49:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laura Ramirez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We don't want ADC lands to be leased to agroCHEMICAL companies for dangerous experimentation and GE seed crops for export.

Protect the 'aina!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:49:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dmitry Boldyrev	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The ADC has done a terrible job making Hawaii more sustainable. All lands ended up being leased to toxic GMO experimentation companies that have no place on sacred Hawaiian lands. The run offs from the GMO fields poison ecosystem which attracts tourism to Hawaii. Now more than ever with the global pandemic and food shortages seen on mainland we need to rely on locally produced food!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:57:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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. Please pass this important legislation.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:59:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB1271 for all the same reasons presented by the Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA). I fully concur with their testimony in SUPPORT of HB1271. Mahalo.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 1:59:36 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need accountability in government. Please abolish the ADC, the audit has revealed that they are a useless (and possibly corrupt) financial drain. They are a cancer on the body on government that needs to be cut out. Our small farmers and ranchers who can produce food for our islands and help us be sustainable need to be given preference for leases, not discriminated against.

Denise Woods

Kauai

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 2:04:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee members - Please support HB1271. ADC was never set up to succeed and the entire, important enterprise of supporting viable diversified agriculture in Hawai'i needs to be rethought. 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.

Yrs,

Bianca Isaki

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 2:13:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eliel Starbright	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. Eliel Starbright, Kapaa, Kauai

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 2:14:34 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiana Laranio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha I, this message may be repetitive but important points none the less. Mahalo for your time and consideration!

• 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: 2/23/2021 2:25:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Amos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support dissolving the ADC. It has failed over the last 25 years to truly diversify Hawai'i agriculture and meet the needs of this moment in history, where sustainable agriculture is so important to countering climate change and developing Hawai'i's resiliency.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 2:25:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This agency has been a waste of taxpayer money and a disgrace to Hawaii's government!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 2:26:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill. 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. •

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

Meanwhile, the majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production. The people of Kauai were harmed by the chemical poisons they liberally sprayed on their crops, even close to school children!

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. Cannot be bothered to even file an annual report? Come on!

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. This is sustainable, the direction we need to go in.

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. Local food is what we want. It's healthier, better tasting, and more important, we need to not be dependent on food being shipped here!

We need more accountability! ADI had 27 years and look what transpired!

Mahalo!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 2:32:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John & Rita Shockley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

Let's see...27 years without following any organized business plan to return plantation lands to local small truck farmers to lower the cost of fresh vegetables and fruit for Hawaii's people. How long can an agency do the wrong thing?

It's time for the ADC to fold up it's tent and leave the scene making way for initiatives that actually will turn former plantation land into productive farming for Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 2:33:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this measure. The ADC has failed in it's mission and has not preformed it's basic mission and so should be dissolved. We need to use our AG land in accordance to conservation practices and regenerative operations.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 2:58:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle K.	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: 2/23/2021 3:02:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jane Au	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Jane Au and I am a Native Hawaiian from Waialua and I support HB 1271 to dissolve the ADC. The ADC has had almost 30 years to show what it can do and it has achieved nothing. They do not work with the community well and represent a form of colonial ag that is of the past.

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: 2/23/2021 3:02:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karin medigovich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our agricultural land must be open to growing organic food for our people and for sale there are acres of underutilized lands that need to be planted with food. The mismanagement of these lands must stop. The agribusiness development corporation needs to be removed and the monies they've received returned. This island should be fertile with fruit trees not barren fields pesticide and grass.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 3:07:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittney (Kulanui Naliipoaimoku) Perez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the dissolution of the ADC as A state Audit recently revealed that throughout its entirety of it's 27 year existance, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from aquring large acres of land.

The special powers and exemptions granted to the ADC has led to an unfair leasing process which denies small ranchers and farmers with no justifications.

Rather than fulfilling their duty of promoting more local food production which would give us food security in the islands the ADC has instead chosen to lease lands to large foreign agrochemical companies for experimentation and seed crops for export.

mismanagement of ADC lands and a lack of accountability has led to lawsuits, clean water act violations, poisoning of our people including a higher than national average in birth defects, and other illegal activities on AADC land that create a liability for the government.

The audit reports that the corporations are incapable and simply do not care to carry out basic statutory responsibilities and functions. It also shows they are unwilling to fulfill reccomendations contained in the auditors report, therefore the ADC should be dissolved.

lawmakers need to prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize th esoil and water conservation practices. these practices provide additional enviromental benefit such as improved soil health, preventing run off, coral health, water health for both the rivers and ocean shore water.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 3:10:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Greetings Legislators,

I am writing to support HB1271. Please pass this bill.

The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production. We need more fruit trees to be planted, which has been scientifically shown to use some of the least amount of water, is climate-friendly food, and is locally grown for local consumption, unlike these GMO crops.

Thank you for your consideration,

David M. Johnston

PO Box 388

Puunene, HI 96784

hawaiidhr@yahoo.com

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 3:14:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Francine Roby	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. I am writing to in strong support of HB1271 to disband the ADC.

I live in the Hamakua district of Hawaii Island and have friends and neighbors who are small farmers. They have shared with me their frustrations with getting adequate support from ADC. I was at first glad to hear such an entity existed, but it sure seems its methods have been ineffective, and worse, for far too long. From what I've read, there is a lack of built-in (or enforced) transparency, so it's hard to know what exactly is going wrong, and how decisions are made for who gets leases, for example. I was shocked to read of a recent state audit that 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. How could this have been allowed to go on this long without required results?

We need EFFECTIVE support for local food production if we are to become a sustainable state, which we must become. There are also urgencies related to soil and water conservation, increasingly exacerbated by the climate crisis, which are not being addressed by the current ADC set up, and we risk ignoring those at the peril of our future.

I also have read that there have been many lawsuits. This wastes taxpayers' and public servants' time and money. A better process for problem resolution or mediation only goes so far, when the underlying problem-generator, the ADC, goes unimproved for so long.

I believe audits of public systems are good things, and if the results of the audit show that this 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, then it should be dissolved.

Please prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices, which will provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and prevention of run-off. It seems to me that 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 for your attention to this critical matter and prompt passage of HB1271.

Francine Roby

Ahualoa HI 96727

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 3:15:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The ADC has clearly failed in its mission and demonstrated a severe lack of transparency that reeks of corruption. It needs to be dissolved and replaced.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 3:22:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha:

I'm writing in 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.

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: 2/23/2021 3:49:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
magdi latif	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to 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. Create economic independence for the state and for our community, we need to move to small farms coops

Respectfully sbumited by

Magdi Latif, Kilauea, HI 96754

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 4:03:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

It's come to my attention that the ADC is a failed government agency. 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 ADC needs to be abolished and 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: 2/23/2021 4:31:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Llanes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern:

Please support House Bill 1271 to abolish the Agribusiness Development Corporation (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.
- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production. **We need all farmland to be used for local food production first.**
- 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 for your service and for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

MeleLani Llanes

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 4:38:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Tanya Aynessazian and I am from Pahoia on Hawaii Island. I write now to support HB1271 regarding the dissolution of the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

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. 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.

Even worse, 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.

Overwhelmingly, the results of the audit show that the 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 and therefore should be dissolved.

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. In addition, lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming practices on state ag lands that utilize soil and water conservation practices.

Why do we have a state auditor if we do not heed the advice of clear data and information? An audit can show us precisely how we can better utilize our resources and how we have failed to meet our objectives. However, reading the state audit regarding the ADC shows that over decades, this agency has failed to meet its own mission time and again, and worse, how they have literally gone out of their way, and ignored their own processes and procedures to hurt our small farms and ranchers.

After reading others' testimony, I see that while there are some key projects that ADC oversees, a task force should be created to ensure a smooth transition for these communities to a local, community-directed solution. The ADC has had plenty of time to

make good on it's promise to manage state land with accountable business and conservation practices. Dissolve the ADC and stop the unnecessary funding of this pillaging agency.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 4:39:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Jen Mather and I support the dissolution of the ADC. As a volunteer on a small farm leased from Bishop Estates that could have actually benefitted from the ADC if it had been doing the right thing the entire time, I find the ADCs inaction and ineptitude in need of rectifying. Although I agree with the ADC being dissolved I hope the Department of Ag will also be audited because it, too, needs to be more progressive.

Please vote to pass HB 1271 and assist Hawai'i agriculture toward a more sustainable and soil healthy future.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Jen Mather

(808) 298-5596

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 4:56:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Alohamai To Those Concerned, My Is R.Momi Ventura Currently Reside In Kihei, Maui. I've Recently Discussed The Issues Of A Casino Trying To Get Passed By DHHL!!?? Why Isn't That Agriculture Is Not The Number One Export Leaving Hawai'i Neii Instead Of Souvenirs!?! So Far It's But A Dream Of The Kanaka Maoli And Other Concerned Community Memebers, That Are Wishing And Hoping Someone Would Have The Insight To Plan And Execute The Necessary Change From Tourism To Self-Sufficiency. Thriving Crops And Machinery Moving Produce And Goods For A Living And Not Only For Profits!!! We Need Independence From The ADC. Mahalomai For Your Time And Sincere Consideration Of This Very Matter.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:07:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB1271. Majority of the ADC lands are being leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation and GE seed crops for export. This 'Āina should be used for local food production. We should be taking care of our local farmers! Government agencies should be held accountable. It's time to abolish the ADC. Mahalo for your time on this matter.

Malia Marquez (Maunaloa resident)

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:08:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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: 2/23/2021 5:08:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashleigh Loa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB1271

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:08:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Colleen Rost-Banik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write requesting you to please support HB1271. The ADC primarily supported big ag and agrochemical companies rather than Hawaii's farmers. The ADC needs to be dissolved. Rather than allowing large agrochemical companies to lease land in Hawaii, we need to support small and medium-size farmers to produce food for Hawaii's residents. Local production of food will help Hawaii's economy and its residents.

Respectfully,
Colleen Rost-Banik
Resident of Honolulu

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:25:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mina viritua jr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My `ohana has been in Hawaii since the times of Kamehameha and we have always been a good self-sufficient island nation. We need to continue to do so now and into the future. Our law makes should require the corporation to annually lease at least 50% of its land to businesses primarily focused on local food production and not to multi national corporation. Please help let the people of Hawaii farm the lands of Hawaii for the people's of Hawaii. Mahalo piha! Mina

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 5:53:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Nihipali	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.
- In 27 years the ADC has done almost nothing to promote regenerative farming and getting any land into food production. They are not responsive to the people of Hawaii but support and enable agrochemical companies.

It is time for the ADC to be abolished. Hawaii deserves farming that will feed the people of Hawaii healthy local food.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 6:15:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Desiree Hoover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, long time resident of Kauai, urge you to support HB1271. The ADC has failed to do what is needed. Local agriculture/farming businesses is who this land should be for. We have alot invested in this land- our livelyhood, families and future. ADC has failed this. Another task force or organization is needed. Now. Please support HB1271. Mahalo.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 6:19:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heidi Schemp	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I read the entire audit of the ADC and strongly feel that this government agency is not serving the people of Hawaii. It was charged with the mission to help agriculture on Hawaii and instead it has hindered it! This year we are lacking funds. Let's just say it's a sign that the ADC needs to go. We can look into ways that will actually help farmers! We want small farmers! We want local food production. ADC has proven unable to do its job.

thank you!

Heidi Schemp

Kilauea, HI

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 6:47:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The ADC has been a boondoggle for many years. UH and the State Auditor confirmed it.

Abolish now! Support HB 1271.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 6:52:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorilani Keohokalole	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing today in SUPPORT of HB1271.

Please find a way to look at Hawaii's future. The ADC has shown over two decades, that they are NOT the agency to grow Hawaii and it's people FOOD. As the current executive testified, he doesn't even KNOW what is in the current inventory as a large landholder.

Give this responsibility to the Department of Agriculture WITH an oversight or advisory committee. The ADC hasn't met their own Mission, they have not kept adequate records or hold accountable actions. There time is over. We need a better plan.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 7:06:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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.

Thank you for your time.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 7:21:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Honorable members of the legislature:

I fully support the abolition of the AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, aka. ADC. They have done nothing they were tasked to do.

- 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.

In the time of a global pandemic, we cannot justify financing any organization that takes more than it gives.

Get rid of the ADC. Give Hawai'i back its land and the aina's purpose to be of service for a community which respects it, and sustains it.

Respectfully,

Dezireen Austin

Educator, Voter, Native Hawaiian, Maui Island

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 7:46:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Kanealii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dissolve the Agribusiness Development Corporation (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.
- 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 for allowing me to testify on this issue

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 8:27:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Representatives,

I urge you to pass HB 1271 which would abolish the ADC. You've heard the good reasons why this agency should be abolished and its functions give to the Dept of Agriculture. It's now up to you to save the State further embarrassment, and do the right thing. Abolish the ADC.

Thank you,

Ramona Hussey

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 8:43:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 9:11:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily Olson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Emily and I am a business owner on Kaua'i supporting local farmers, using their produce to make plant-based coconut ice cream.

I support dissolving the ADC because to date their practices have not led to supporting local agriculture. The practices to date have led to unfair leasing process and largely have supported agrochemical companies. Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative growing practices on state lands.

Thank you for listening,
- Emily

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/23/2021 9:55:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shantee brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My personal background is a former resort worker and descendant of plantation workers. I would love to own or lease a small parcel of land to grow gandules to make miso and to build a certified kitchen to make other value added products. I want to make 100% local products using ingredients that grow well here. I'm currently blessed to work with other farmers on their land but it leaves my future in others hands. The energy and funds the ADC has used over the years could have built a stronger framework to diversify our economy. There is so much energy for growth in the younger generations. Please abolish the ADC and allow us to get our hands dirty. We're ready to work.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 12:02:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I supt hb1271

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 4:49:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair and committee,

Please support this bill to better serve our agriculture systems.

Mahalo,

Diane Ware 99-7815 Kapoha, Volcano 96785

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 6:59:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kanani Puou	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I would like to see this bill abolished and this entity dissolved from any and all Hawai'i. The ignorance of blatantly not upholding what technically shouldn't have gone to them in the first place is why Hawai'i is still under the control of foreigners. Give the lands back to Kuleana land heirs first and then you can give it to or lease to non-natives.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 7:05:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenifer Higginbotham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 1271

We must abolish the ADC as soon as possible.

We need a new system to help small farmers lease land. We need far more accountability and better management.

Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations on state lands. Hawaii desperately needs more sustainable food sources.

I live on the island of Kauai where most of the lease land has gone to huge agribusiness corporations with no benefit to Hawaii residents and taxpayers. These corporate agribusinesses have used and polluted streams and the ocean with toxic runoff. We need this land to grow FOOD!

Thank you,

Jenifer H. Higginbotham

Taxpayer

Princeville, Kauai

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 7:18:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha I'm a mother of 2 & my family of 4 reside in Haiku.

I support HB1271 because the ADC is failing. The audit done by the state has proved they have done little of the mission statement except gaining lots of land in the 27 years of existence!

They have special exemptions and unfair leasing powers. I support local and small farmers and prefer to go to the farmers markets. My family thrives on these products so more interest should be put into supporting local organic small farms and ranchers. The state should give them these leases to grow food and raise local animals for the local / on island families (and visitors), instead of depending on imports. We can't rely on importing most of our foods because in an emergency things slow, in a storm they do as well. We shouldn't have to worry where to get our food because we have means to grow sustainably and produce locally on all the islands. The majority of ADC lands currently supports agrochemical companies and GE seed crops for export! I am appalled that this is allowed in such a small island in Maui. How does this support the island and people? It does not and instead of providing local foods it is just poisoning the land, waters, local people and workers on the land, absolutely unacceptable.

ADC also has not been held accountable for its clean water act violations and other illegal activities. They should be held accountable and not allowed to further destroy the water. We also need fresh clean drinking water and a clean ocean for our ohanas.

Lawmakers should work for the people who elected them and prioritize regenerative farming ops on state ag lands and hold a high standard for all the products produced on those lands.

The audit has proved the ADC needs to go and be replaced with a task force that can create a plan for how Hawaii's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, organic local food. The islands can produce food for all its people and then some of it can be done correctly and sustainably.

Thank you,

Celle Galarza

Haiku

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:27:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee,

Science tells us that organic sustainable farming is the only way to go. The majority of ADC's lands are leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production. While this may make money for ADC, it's not the way to create food sustainability for Hawaii's people. The future is uncertain, COVID-19 has shown us how quickly everything can change. Hawaii's people need food security over being a laboratory for multinational companies that only want to exploit our natural resources.

As you are likely aware, results of a recent 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.

Please vote to pass HB 1271.

Respectfully,

Carol Philips

Haleiwa, Hi

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:58:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Al-Qawi Lebarre	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for bringing this bill forward and looking out for the agricultural and tax interest of the people of Hawaii. I have been following the developments of the Agribusiness Development Corporation and see that it needs to be dissolved. It's audit clearly indicates that it is not living up to it's mandate and is a waste of taxpayer money and state resources. The land acquired by the ADC could be redistributed to entities like GoFarm Hawaii who are actively pursuing food self-reliance for Hawaii and it's people. These islands have so much to offer and the ADC is hampering agriculture instead of facilitating it.

Thank you to every Senator and Representative who vote in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Al-Qawi Majidah Lebarre

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 9:26:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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, die 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.

Regards,

Ashley Gutierrez

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 9:30:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hope Kallai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

ADC must be dissolved now, ASAP, and the clean up of the toxic mess they have made of the waters of Kauai.

A federal Supreme Court ruled in July, 2019 that ADC was violating the federal Clean Water Act on west Kauai by discharging millions of gallons of waters contaminated with pesticides, sediment and heavy metals each day from the ADC Mana ditch which dumps poisoned water into the nearshore recreational Pacific Ocean waters, without the required National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Their permit to poison expired in 2015.

In December, 2019, ADC was given 6 months to obtain a new NPDES permit, setting allowable limits of pollution with cancer-causing chemicals. As of February, 2021, there is no NPDES permit.

Every day, ADC transports water over a 40 mile ditch system, collecting all the pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers from their tenants, then discharges this water contain carcinogenic chemicals, sediment and sand from the drainage ditch system, including:

1. amniomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA), a degrade of glyphosate
2. dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE),
3. a degradate of dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT)
4. glyphosate
5. ametryn
6. atrazine
7. bentazon
8. chlorpyrifos
9. cispropiconazole
10. diuron
11. fipronil
12. hexazinone
13. MCPA
14. metolachlor
15. prometryn
16. propoxur

- 17. simazine
- 18. trans-propiconazole

These waters and sediments also contain:

phosphorus,

metals (arsenic, barium, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, silver, zinc),

sulfide

phenols

antimony

beryllium

selenium

thallium

bis-phthalate

ADC needs to cease and desist polluting the waters of Kauai and the Pacific Ocean and stop causing cancer in our community members. There is no allowable take for our children. No NPDES permit should condone and enable allowable cancer levels because of ADC poison waters.

ADC needs to be dissolved, just for their actions on Kauai. This travesty occurs over and over on ADC managed lands on every island, but I only am familiar with the impacts to our local community dependent upon our ocean's fishery. ADC has been out of control, rogue, destroying our environment for way too long. ADC must be stopped now. It is a failure as a quasi-state agency. There has to be a better way to promote real agriculture in Hawaii. ADC has been a waste of time and money.

ADC is not the only entity able to manage ditches. Department of Agriculture is being considered for management of a 22 mile ditch system on Kauai. Kekaha and Koke'e systems could potentially be acquired by DOA. Ditches will not dissolve when ADC dissolves. Maybe they just won't be poison and full of heavy metals.

Mahalo for sharing my concerns about the future of our community,

Hope Kallai

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 9:36:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Koa 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.

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: 2/24/2021 9:44:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to urge you to support HB1271.

- The majority of ADC's lands are currently leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation, and GE seed crops for export, not local food production. This is a gross misuse of this farmable land especially since we are far from food security in the islands.
- 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. This must stop now. Who is in charge here?
- 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. Who allowed this to continue all these years? Is no one accountable for oversight?
- 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 future is here. Regenerative agriculture helps to reduce agricultures impact on climate change. We must get off petroleum based fertilizers and dangerous pesticides.
- 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. I'd like to see all our lawmakers support this 100%.

Please support this important Bill for the future of protecting this agricultural land for local food production.

Mahalo,

Malia K. Chun

POB 680

Kekaha, Hi. 96752

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 it's 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 it's 27 years of existence is the following:

- * Produce an audit that actually accomplishes it's mission or fulfills the recommendations stated in the auditor's 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: 2/24/2021 10:02:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerald Riverstone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to request that you support this bill to abolish the ADC. Especially at this time when tax revenues are limited we need to trim the fat on programs that are not meeting their mandate.

- 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,

Jerry Riverstone

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:03:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Anuenue Holland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Please support HB 1271 and a fresh slate for the management of our public agricultural lands.

As you are aware 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.

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.

Mahalo!

Fern A Holland BSc, Kaua'i

Environmental Scientist, Food Sustainability Advocate & Community Organizer

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:27:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorna Larsen-Jeyte	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe many residents of our Hawaiian Islands see the need for Hawai'i grown edible crops to help with self sufficiency. ADC supports land acquisition and GMO crops with no increase in home grown edibles for our population. I suggest our Hawai'i State Ag department get its act together to become a model of an efficient government run department. No more politics, please. We are distrustful and weary of Hawai'i politics. Young idealists are hoping to get a healthy start in growing food. Let's kokua with them! Lorna Larsen Jeyte Volcano, Hawai'i

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:40:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kristen Alice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB1271.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:40:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We live in Wailua Homestead and frequent farmers' markets in Kapaa and Lihue, however we would like to find locally farmed food readily available in the grocery store as well as farmer markets. That can't happen without government partnering with farmers who need affordable land offered to them and assistance in marketing the product. We support Bill 1271 as a start fresh measure to accomplish that goal.

February 24, 2021

HB 1271

RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION(ADC)

Aloha,

My name is Cindy Freitas and I'm a Native Hawaiian descended of the native inhabitants of Hawai'i prior to 1778 and born and raised in Hawai'i.

I am also a practitioner who still practice the cultural traditional customary practices that was instill in me by my grandparents at a young age from mauka (MOUNTAIN TO SEA) to makai in many areas.

I Support but reserve my right also for the following reasons;

1 That the State agriculture lands should hire an independent entity that the people of Hawaii can vote on that has interest in the agriculture to produce home grown food and live stocks to sustain people of Hawaii its time to HULI (overturn) this.

2 The land is also at issue,

2001 Establishment of a Public Land Trust Information System,

The report provides a very comprehensive approach to the inventory of the past and current status of lands ceded to the state upon admission to the union. The suggested approach and information that is expected to be inventoried would provide OHA and all Hawaii with an understanding of all lands previously owned or controlled by the crown and government and their subsequent disposition and transfer to the present.

The Auditor identifies the need for the land "abstractor" to do a complete chain of title search beginning at the time of the Mahele. This is a critical piece of analysis that is fully supportable by the OHA Board of Trustees. Your report states:

"...the significance of this issue [search chain of title beginning with the Mahele] cannot be overstated Far-reaching fiscal and legal impacts beyond the scope of this report hinge upon what lands are determined to be ceded or non-ceded".

The significance of the work to be done is such that the outcome will provide OHA with a complete and accurate inventory and accounting of all ceded lands for the first time. The four-year process outlined, though rather lengthy, appears appropriate considering the breadth and depth of the plan.

3 State of Hawaii holds public land as a public trust for Native Hawaiians and the general public and the State of Hawaii are ONLY the LESSOR, we the Native Hawaiian are the rightful holders of the land.

4 At all cost to avoid DESECRATION (Hawaii Revise Statues 711-1107).

5 Honor Article 12 Section 7 of Hawaii State Constitution which including sacred sight, burial, ahu, shines, ect that family with genealogical ties to the lands.

6 The State of Hawaii should be doing a consensus with the people of Hawaii for the betterment of the AGRICULTURE LANDS

7 I have no trust in the State of Hawaii for they have a long history of protecting their vested interest in the LANDS in Hawaii which belongs to the rightful holders which is the PEOPLE.

Mahalo

Cindy Freitas

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:48:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Dvorak	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.

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.

As an educator and social worker in East Hawaii, I look forward to seeing what can happen when these powers and funds are properly managed and applied to their proper task.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:59:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tina Taniguchi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the abolishment of the Agribusiness Development Corporation. I feel like this will allow small farmers an opportunity and encourage island sustainability.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 11:18:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

My name is Pua Rossi-Fukino. I am a Kanaka Maoli, born and raised in Wailua on the island of Kaua'i. I am writing in **SUPPORT** of HB1271, the purpose of which is to dissolve the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

The ADC has failed to uphold its mission and has not "facilitated the transition of agricultural infrastructure from plantation operations into other agricultural enterprises." It is glaringly obvious that our small farmers and ranchers have not been supported by the ADC, and in this current COVID-era, it is imperative that we take care of our sources of local food production. We are not in a situation where we can support outside food sources, nor should we support large corporations whose mission is to export seed crops.

The ADC has not been held accountable for its inactions. We need a better method to plan for how our agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food. We need a better plan that won't lead to lawsuits, to clean water act violations, and engagement in other illegal activities that create liabilities for our home.

Again, I support HB1271 and look forward to a better future for Hawai'i's 'Āina.

Me ka mahalo,

Pua Rossi-Fukino

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 11:28:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Pursuant to the audit that is clear and precise as to the many shortfalls of this agency, it should be dissolved due to the mismanagement of these lands. The failure to acknowledge that there were problems, or even understand what the function of the ADC is shows that attempting to rehabilitate this agency would be another failure.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 11:30:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aria Juliet Castillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Abolish the ADC.

I agree with Rep Perruso.

“ADC has not become the entity the Legislature envisioned — one that would develop the agriculture industry to stand as a pillar of the state economy, alongside tourism and the military,” the audit stated. “After nearly 30 years, the economic void created when plantations ceased production remains mostly unfilled.”

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 11:31:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee,

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 (HDOA).

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." With less than 1% of the state's budget dedicated to the HDOA, it's no wonder we haven't gained greater food production self-sufficiency. Shifting resources from the failed ADC public-private partnership to HDOA would refocus and revitalize our food producing capabilities in substantive ways.

The 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.

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 of this 27-year "attachment to the DOA" has been lacking, if not altogether non-existent.

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."

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."

Again, in 2007, a report titled Agribusiness Development Corporation: Revisited, was presented to the legislature. "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."

My point in listing the past failed efforts to reign in the ADC highlights a sentiment held by many constituents-the ADC should be eliminated and transferred to the underfunded DOA to be closely managed.

Mahalo for your fiscal consolidation efforts by passing HB 1271.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 11:38:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
melissa snyder	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, As a small farmer, beekeeper and lover of the land, I strongly support the dissolution of the ADC. I believe land needs to be allocated so other small farmers can have access to land and move toward a more sustainable future for our islands.

Mahalo.

Melissa Nash

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 11:44:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Alani Bagcal and I am writing today in strong support for HB 1271. It is vital to enact a task force/stakeholder engagement and planning process so Hawai'i's agricultural lands can be utilized for sustainable, local food.

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

Alani Bagcal

96815

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 11:54:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support. The audits speak for themselves. Abolish the ADC. Mahalo- Raelyn Reyno Yeomans

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 11:58:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members

please accept my testimony in strong support of this measure to dissolve ADC, long overdue.

the failure of this initiative to truly address critical food security and promotion of community based Afro development and promoting of associated opportunities has wasted years of precious time and sociology-economic preparedness for the state.

my support for this measure, however, comes with a caveat: placement of management for water purveyor/system responsibilities now housed under ADC deserves more careful consideration that may warrant an amendment to this measure. While the Department of Agriculture clearly has a keen interest in such systems, so do other State agencies and others. A " stakeholders" approach to formulation of a future management scheme might best address both competing interests and collaborative opportunities that can ensure that we collectively address environmental, agricultural (both traditional/cultural and larger scale forms) as well as energy production and water resource protection in a time of increasing climate changes. To this end we may need to consider establishing management of such systems under an agency such as DLBR or DBEDT to ensure a such concerns are broadly addressed.

Mahalo, John L Reppun, lifetime Windward Oahu resident and Waiahole farmer.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 11:59:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of HB1271.

Too much time, money and most importantly, critical opportunities has been wasted in the disgraceful operation by ADC. People must be held accountable.

SO instead of just being cut loose, there must be a forensic audit performed to attempt to harness at least SOME return on investment in alignment with PLANS that Hawai'i needs.

Please use any good or potentially programs/projects in our future (PER some Testimony here).

We need these new creative developments but we do not need a stagnant, black hole, money pit ADC any more.

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 - which increasingly SHOULD be in conjunction with energy developers using ag lands for solar farming.

Mahalo & malama pono,
James McCay

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 12:05:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peleke Flores	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

My name is Peleke Flores from Waimea, Kaua'i.

I believe the current staff for the ADC should be filtered through aswell. So history doesnt repeat itself. Almost 30 years of miscunduct is crazy. It was more then just a one man job. Got to check the higher ups who allowed this to go on too.

Please allow opprotunities to connect with the High Schools to support with existing Ag Programs along with giving small farmers actual support and a chance to make a living growing food we can actually feed our community with and resources we can use.

Mahalo nui loa

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 12:49:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The recent state audit has shown that the ADC has failed to accomplish much of it's mission.

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

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 prevention of run-off.

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

Sincerely,

Marion McHenry

Princeville

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 2:15:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please, we only want locally grown organic food. Is that too much to ask?

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 5:20:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherri Thal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB1271, the dissolution of the ADC. The ADC has been ineffective and has failed its mission with the exception of acquiring large swaths of land that local farmers could have put to much better use. The ADC lands have fed foreign and chemical company interests rather than feeding the Kama'aina of Hawaii. Our state is in desperate need of food independence and sustainability practices, and the ADC has not been in line with either of these practices and, in fact, has grabbed large acreage while the small, local farmer's leases have been denied.

The Pandemic has shown the world what is important and crucial, and two of these things are feeding our people and managing the land safely and cleanly. Please make the Pono choice and vote in support of HB1271.

Mahalo,

Sherri Thal, Kea'au, HI 96749

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 6:57:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lanny Sinkin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The incredible scandal created by the Agribusiness Development Corporation being allowed to operate for so many years without fulfilling its mandate, keeping decent records, and otherwise performing its assigned tasks should be brought to a close. Abolition of the ADC is essentially good governance.

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 8:03:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

There are many reasons why this bill should be supported. In fact, any of our legislators who doesn't support it makes me wonder if this is a blue state or if our "democratic" reps really are democrats and not corporate protectors.

I've been in the agricultural industry in Kona for 25 years. That's why I understand and support this bill.

And you should because:

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 released 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 which would provide more transparency and fairness in how agricultural lands are used and abused.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:40:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Ward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Deborah Ward, and I retired from the University of Hawaii in 2005 as an agricultural extension agent with CTAHR. I have been farming since I left Extension, and I can attest to the difficult challenges facing farmers in Hawaii. Even fifteen years ago it was clear that ADC was clearly not supporting agriculture, and it remains true today. It is not at all clear why the legislature chose to fund this corporation that has always been incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions.

For agriculture to thrive in this state, we need to stop invasive insects and diseases through thorough inspections. We need the statistical expertise to help us plan and price our crops. We need refrigeration services to hold crops for shipping, and we need marketing to show the supermarket chains that we have produce that is fresher than two-week-old lettuce shipped from Chile. Instead of being used for local food production, the majority of ADC funds have been used to purchase lands that are currently being leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation and GE seed crops for export. The ADC has not helped Hawaii become food secure, nor has its mismanagement helped us become sustainable. Please, fund the department of agriculture, so we can Keep the next fire ant, longhorn beetle, avocado lace bug, coffee borer, banana bunchy top, papaya ringspot virus, Miconia, brown tree snake.... from invading our fields and ruining our crops!

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.

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 is an embarrassment to the state, it has failed to meet its charge, and it should be DISSOLVED!

Thank you!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/24/2021 10:45:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Polli Oliver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This Bill is long overdue, as this deadwood corporation should have been abolished long ago. It is embarrassing that it has been in existence and as dysfunctional as it has been for so long. I STRONGLY support the passage of this bill!

HB-1271

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 6:30:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2021 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1271

Mark Koppel

Umauma, HI

Aloha Legislators:

🌱 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.

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