



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

Wednesday, February 2, 2022
3:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

In consideration of
SB2473
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Misalucha and Nishihara and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports SB2473 which transfers the administrative attachment of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) from the Department of Agriculture to DBEDT.

As the lead agency in the Executive branch in achieving a Hawaii economy that embraces innovation and is globally competitive, dynamic, and productive to provide opportunities for all Hawaii's citizens, we look forward to supporting ADC in its mission of commercial agriculture development.

Although its final audit report and financial audits are not yet complete, DBEDT has learned that properly supporting ADC would require a fiscal accountant position and a procurement officer.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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 COMMITTEES ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM

&
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, February 2, 2022
3:00 p.m.

SENATE BILL NO. 2473
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairpersons Wakai and Gabbard, and Members of the joint Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2473. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) submits comments on this measure, which transfers the ADC from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT).

Transferring the ADC from HDOA to DBEDT could be beneficial to the State because its goals and objectives supports DBEDT's mission, which is to achieve a Hawaii economy that embraces innovation and is globally competitive, dynamic and productive, providing opportunities for all Hawaii citizens. HDOA's priority and primary functions are regulatory and enforcement, which mean non-regulatory functions are secondary. This includes a long-term vision and overall plan for economic development to support operations such as ADC.

While the ADC appreciates the foresight and intent of this measure, we would like to propose an amendment to include the repealing of Ch. 163D-8.5, HRS, "Approval of Projects, Plans and Programs: All agricultural projects, agricultural development plans, and project facility programs developed by the corporation must be approved by the board of agriculture before implementation." By repealing Ch. 163D-8.5, HRS, this will give the ADC complete autonomy from the HDOA.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
&
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, February 2, 2022
3:00 p.m.

SENATE BILL NO. 2473
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairpersons Wakai and Gabbard, and Members of the joint Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2473. This measure transfers the administrative attachment of Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT). HDOA supports the intent of this measure and offers comments.

Innovative strategies are an effective means to achieve the ambitious and important goals of the State. The pandemic driven economic shut down and reset has presented Hawaii with a unique opportunity to rebuild its economy into a vibrant and globally competitive environment to re-imagine government operations and career opportunities for all Hawaii residents. The transfer of ADC from HDOA to DBEDT may support this objective by aligning similar goals of DBEDT's and ADC's respective missions to spur economic development.

Unlike ADC and DBEDT, HDOA's priorities and functions are primarily regulating, managing, and supporting the existing agricultural industry and community. HDOA continues to



support and look out for the best interests of the agricultural community. HDOA is concerned about possible unforeseen impacts that may occur from a dismantling of our operational relationship with ADC. However, we also appreciate the intent of this measure to optimize rapid economic development through a focused restructuring of government.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



Hawai'i Food+ Policy
Testimony in Opposition to SB2473

January 28, 2022

To the honorable members of the Hawai'i State Senate Committees of; Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism; and Agriculture and Environment:

The Hawai'i Food+ Policy expresses our opposition to SB2473. In light of the recent audit, it is clear that resources are better allocated to directly benefit our farmers rather than further bureaucracy and mismanagement from this agency. The ADC has had over 25 years to help revitalize Hawai'i's Agricultural Industry and yet we ask ourselves today, where are the results? We would recommend that the ADC be repealed and resources allocated to directly support our farmers and other existing government programs that have demonstrated their ability to bolster our food systems.

The Honolulu Civil Beat reported on January 14, 2021 that, "In recent years, the Legislature has appropriated more than a quarter of \$1 billion to the ADC, including about \$23.4 million for operations and \$238 million for capital investments. But it has been difficult at times for lawmakers to determine where that money had gone and how well the corporation had been fulfilling its duties." To have a mystery of where a quarter of \$1 billion has gone, is beyond concerning and raises questions of whether such an agency should continue operation. With an ongoing House investigation into the auditor it has opened the door for public speculation into the integrity of our elected officials.

Therefore, there remains a need to take action that will bolster the public's faith in our elected officials. The public needs to see money well spent with tangible results that we can enjoy. Such as alternative means to bolster our food systems to provide locals with affordable healthy foods.

Hard-earned taxpayer dollars should not be used to feed a machine that is clearly broken. It is time for the State to pursue other avenues to revitalize Hawai'i's agricultural industry and take more bottom-up methods to work with and directly serve communities. We must build from the bottom-up rather than filtering resources down, with farmers and those working within the food system industry receiving the pennies of the pot.

Mahalo for taking the time to read this testimony and please vote no on SB2473.

Mahalo,
Bronson Azama



Monday, January 31, 2022

Relating to Economic Development
Testifying in Opposition

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **opposes SB2473 Relating to Economic Development. This measure would transfer the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) from the Dept. of Agriculture to the Dept. of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.**

PHI opposes this transfer because it will further alienate the agency from the needs of farmers and being accountable to Hawaii's local food security needs.

For these reasons, we urge the Committee to **defer indefinitely SB2473.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative



**Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism &
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment**

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Opposes: SB 2473

Wednesday, February 2nd, 2022 at 3:00p.m.

Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Misalucha, Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committees,

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) opposes SB 2473 and the transfer of the administrative attachment of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT).

In January of 2021 the State Auditor released its audit report to the legislature and found that in its nearly 30-year history, the Agribusiness Development Corporation “has done little to support the development of diversified agriculture and fill the economic void created by the demise of sugar and pineapple”.¹

The ADC Should Be Aligned w/ State Mandates to Increase Local Food Production

Since the creation of the ADC, the state has shifted its focus from agricultural production for export towards increasing Hawaii's food production for local consumption and public procurement. The state has enacted policies to increase state procurement of locally grown and raised food, initiated a robust state-wide farm to school program and set benchmarks for the percentages of local food procurement. To successfully meet these state policies for increased procurement of local food, the management of agricultural lands under the state's purview must be aligned to support these mandates. It is not clear how removing the agency from agricultural expertise within the DOA will support those mandates.

The ADC is Lacking in Agricultural Expertise

One reason attributed to the agencies failings is a lack of food production or food systems expertise on the staff or board of the ADC, along with the absence of a strategic planning process (which is mandated by statute) that meaningfully engages a broad array of food producers input. In fact during the audit process the ADC Executive Director admitted that “no one here has deep agricultural experience”². The audit finds that “even if ADC had the correct strategy in place, it does not have the staff to do the work of an industry leader.”³ Food producers and the organizations that represent them are intimately acquainted with the challenges faced on the ground. Moving the ADC out of the Department of Agriculture will

¹ ADC Audit (page 1)

² ADC Audit (page 11)

³ ADC Audit (page 11)

further alienate the agency from the knowledge and expertise needed to inform the ADC on how it can successfully meet state goals for ramping up local food production.

While some business and economic development expertise should certainly guide the effort of increasing local food production enterprises in Hawaii, an agency tasked with catalyzing the transition from pineapple and sugar to diversified agriculture must be well versed in the needs of the agricultural sector. Moving the agency into DBEDT would only further alienate the agency from its key stakeholders. The agency does not need to be housed under DBEDT to access business and economic development acumen.

Farmers Identify Access to Affordable Land as a Major Barrier:

Multiple farmer surveys have been conducted which consistently find access to affordable land as the primary barrier that farmers face.^{4 5} The ADC could be leading the way in ensuring that farmers have access to the ADC inventory of lands, along with a clear and equitable process of applying for ADC leases that are sized to a variety of farmer/food producers needs. However, the audit found that “when we requested documents we believed would be essential to the day-to-day operations of a corporation that manages land and properties – such things as land management policies, land acquisition guidelines, inventories of land holdings, and tenant listings – we were informed that the requested materials did not exist and would need to be assembled.”⁶ It is not clear how moving the agency from DOA to DEBDT will remedy this shortcoming.

ADC Reform Requires a More Comprehensive Approach:

Furthermore, the failings of the agency are various and reform will require a more comprehensive approach. The House Investigatory Committee has developed a set of recommendations based on a careful analysis of the audit findings and recommendations.

We respectfully request that the Senate consider adopting a more comprehensive approach to ADC reform and oppose SB2473. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Anne Frederick
Executive Director

⁴ Malama Kaua'i Farmer Survey

<https://secureservercdn.net/45.40.148.147/i79.5c3.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2017-Kauai-Farmer-Survey-Report.pdf>

⁵ Hawaii Farmers Survey <https://www.hawaiifarmersurvey.com/>

⁶ ADC Audit (page 17)

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 1:29:15 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dave Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 5,000 members and supporters we stand in strong opposition to SB2473 that transfers the administrative attachment of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

This is a bad idea because moving this troubled agency into DBEDT would only further alienate the agency from it's key stakeholders. The agency does not need to be housed under DBEDT to access business and economic development acumen.

The Agricultural Development Corporation has failed at it's mission for 27 years, and moving it under DBDET shows little promise in improving this situation.

Please vote in opposition to SB2473.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix, Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii



LATE

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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2473
RELATING TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Misalucha and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

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 provides opposes SB 2473, which transfers the administrative attachment of the Agribusiness Development Corporation from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) 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.

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.

Both ADC and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) assist farmers and ranchers with land and water issues, regulatory mandates, invasive species, global competition, financing, marketing, and research funding. As the entrepreneurial arm of HDOA, ADC complements the larger agency. Both agencies are small when compared to other State departments, but they have the gargantuan responsibility of supporting Hawaii's agricultural industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our respectful disagreement with this measure.

SB-2473

Submitted on: 1/29/2022 10:39:50 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Regina Gregory	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There is no evidence that this change would be beneficial.

SB-2473

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 2:52:13 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tabatha Aiko Knudson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. We should take a more comprehensive approach to addressing the failings of the agency and enact reforms based on the recommendations of the state audit, rather than just transferring responsibility to an organization that may not be as well-suited.

SB-2473

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 3:19:39 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
April Petersom	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB2473.

Mahalo's,

April Peterson

SB-2473

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 5:19:56 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am in opposition of this transfer to The Dept of Business, Economic Development and Tourism.

SB-2473

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 5:22:04 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
pamela burrell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Honestly this bill makes no sense whatsoever.

Agribusiness needs to stay in the Department of Agriculture. The state audit made a list of reforms needed. Simply follow that.

Regards,

Pamela Burrell

Kalihiwai, Kaua'i

SB-2473

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 5:49:22 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a registered voter in Hakalau HI 96710. Please oppose this bill. Mahalo

SB-2473

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 6:00:49 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I am a registered voter in Hakalau HI 96710. Thank you.

SB-2473

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 7:23:34 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Will Caron	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

While some business and economic development expertise should certainly guide the ADC's effort of increasing local food production enterprises in Hawai'i, an agency tasked with catalyzing the transition from pineapple and sugar to diversified agriculture must be well versed in the needs of the agricultural sector. Moving the agency into DBEDT would only further alienate the agency from its key stakeholders. The agency does not need to be housed under DBEDT to access business and economic development acumen. The legislature should take a more comprehensive approach to addressing the failings of the agency and enact reforms based on the recommendations of the state audit.

SB-2473

Submitted on: 1/31/2022 10:48:52 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition to **SB2473**. The state audit of the ADC raises numerous concerns that cannot be addressed by simply moving oversight of the agency and would only further exacerbate this disconnect this agency has with the needs of farmers and food producers.

Numerous studies have shown that small farmers overwhelmingly identified a lack of access to affordable, right-sized farm leases as a major barrier to farming. If the state is to meet its local food production goals, the ADC should be a part of the solution in prioritizing access for farmers that are committed to sustainably producing food for local consumption.

Our farmers need our support. SB2473 will not provide that and might even make things worse. Please do not pass this ill-advised bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:22:52 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marlies Lee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We don't need more oversight from people that don't understand

how to grow food. Keep agriculture under agriculture educated local specialists.

I oppose

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:10:31 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nicole Hyde	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 2473, because moving administration under a department that is incharge of business and tourism is not a step in the right direction. It will cause conflict and present more opportunity for corruption. The Dept. of Agriculture should be given more support and direct funding to manage the Agribusiness admin side, not have it taken away and given to a department that is only about building over agricultural lands. IF this bill goes through, conflict in interest is inevitable. More unattainable un-"affordable" housing/condos/million dollar properties will be built over land that could of helped drive Hawai'i to self-sustainability.

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 9:20:23 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ashley Lee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) is a government agency that controls and manages large agricultural lands and water projects throughout Hawai‘i. It was originally created in 1994 to help transition Hawai‘i from sugar and pineapple plantations to a more diversified agribusiness industry.

In January of 2021, a [shocking audit](#) conducted by the Hawai‘i State Auditor revealed how leaders of the ADC have failed to accomplish the agency's mission within its nearly 30-year existence.

The state audit raises a multitude of concerns that cannot be addressed by simply moving oversight of the agency. Therefore, we oppose the transfer of the agency and respectfully request that the legislature take a more comprehensive approach to reforming the ADC.

The state audit found that the ADC was lacking in deep agricultural expertise. Moving the agency out of DOA into DEBDT would only further exacerbate this disconnect with the needs of farmers/food producers on the ground. The ADC should seek to increase the agricultural expertise on its board and staff through its strategic planning process.

Additionally, several studies have shown that small farmers overwhelmingly identified a lack of access to affordable, right-sized farm leases as a major barrier to farming. If the state is to meet its local food production goals, the ADC should be a part of the solution in prioritizing access for farmers that are committed to sustainably producing food for local consumption.

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 11:53:30 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

NO! Oppose!

The ADC needs to be repealed completely and absorbed into the Dept. of Ag.

The ADC has failed us, big time. The public sees what's going on & it must stop.

We cannot afford to carry the ADC dead weight any longer. 27 years is long enough to realize they have colossally failed in their mission to put real Hawai'i farmers on our public ag lands & have never had the proper oversight that was needed to keep an eye on what they've been doing.

We've wasted millions of our tax dollars with this FAILED entity.

Repeal the ADC & absorb it into the Ag Dept. where it has belonged all along.

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 12:44:59 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
shantee brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

the ADC needs to be repealed. a quarter of a million dollars have been wasted and land withheld from kama'āina who are ready to farm and provide for our community.

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 1:26:41 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee,

Please oppose the transfer of the ADC administration from the Dept. of Ag to DBEDT and instead enact the reforms that are based upon the recommendations of the 2021 state Audit.

I oppose SB2473 because the state audit raises a multitude of concerns that cannot be addressed by simply moving oversight of the agency. I'm concerned that doing so will alienate key stakeholders.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 1:37:28 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christopher Dean	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm in favor of transferring the Administrative Attachment to the waste basket. Industrial agriculture has no place in Hawaii. We don't want to be the laboratory for big chemical companies who like Hawaii because it's so isolated, that if something terrible happens, it will be confined to Hawaii. It's the same mentality that the military used when they blew up Bikini Atoll. Industrial AG doesn't produce more food, it just produces more chemicals and profits for wealthy capitalists. We don't want it, we would rather have weeds and bugs.

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 1:53:15 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Laliberte	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill because the Agribusiness Development Corporation has failed to reach its stated goal, but has been successful in wasting nearly 250 million in taxpayer funds over 27 years. I am urging the Senators to repeal and disband the ADC immediately. Allocate these precious funds to the Go Farm program, which is making tremendous progress towards developing and diversifying local agriculture.

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 1:57:40 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joseph Kohn MD	Testifying for We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose **SB2473**

www.WeAreOne.cc

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 2:16:31 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I come from Papakōlea, O‘ahu. I'm a Kanaka Maoli born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom. I'm writing in full support of SB2473.

Transfers the administrative attachment of the Agribusiness Development Corporation from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism.

Support SB2473.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 2:18:40 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Koohan Paik	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OPPOSE

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 2:46:16 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Mark Koppel, 31-392 Lepoloa Rd., Ninole HI 96773,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2473.

We must stop catering to Agribusiness. Even the name is an abomination. Agriculture is not a business. It is a necessity to give us food.

No more a'ina-destroying pesticides.

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 4:18:32 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Contamination of our public ag lands must STOP asap. Our lives depend on a healthy environment... toxic compounds endanger us all & usually make their way to our waters too :(

LATE

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:54:11 PM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Barry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB2473 for the following reasons.

Lets clean up the ADC and make it more functional and transparent.

While some business and economic development expertise should certainly guide the ADC's effort of increasing local food production enterprises in Hawai'i, an agency tasked with catalyzing the transition from pineapple and sugar to diversified agriculture must be well versed in the needs of the agricultural sector. Moving the agency into DBEDT would only further alienate the agency from its key stakeholders. The agency does not need to be housed under DBEDT to access business and economic development acumen. The legislature should take a more comprehensive approach to addressing the failings of the agency and enact reforms based on the recommendations of the state audit.

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

LATE

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:36:15 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose SB2473. The transfer of ADC from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism would only further alienate the agency from its key stakeholders. The agency does not need to be housed under DBEDT to access business and economic development acumen. The legislature should take a more comprehensive approach to addressing the failings of the ADC and enact reforms based on the recommendations of the state audit. Moving the agency out of DOA into DEBDT would only further exacerbate this disconnect with the needs of farmers/food producers on the ground. If the state is to meet its local food production goals, the ADC should be a part of the solution in prioritizing access for farmers that are committed to sustainably producing food for local consumption.

LATE

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:10:36 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly oppose and am asking you to repeal this Bill. If I had a company I would not hire someone that has failed for 27 years, blown through a quarter of a Billion dollars in recent years. This is corruption. Biotech and Chemical companies should not be allowed on our PUBLIC AG Lands going against our very State Motto as they spray and pour massive amounts of pesticides and it flowing into our oceans and in our air. Kauai and the children that collapsed to the ground while their chemical company neighbors sprayed is a PERFECT example that our legislative leadership needs to VOTE for a more just and Pono regenerative path ahead. People are watching and enough is enough. When will the residents matter first?

They clean up cost the the County and State will aquire for allowing a mismanaged land will be high. Red Hill is a perfect example and so is Waikoloa with the insane amount of undetanated bombs that litter private and public lands.

27 years of FAILED leadership is enough! Please Vote to Oppose this Bill.

Mahalo

Maki Morinoue

Holualoa

96725

LATE

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:06:16 AM

Testimony for EET on 2/2/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha! Please OPPOSE the transfer of the ADC to DBEDT, better yet, #RepealtheADC! Biotech and Chem-cartels are a threat to Hawaii's self-sustainability and ag future, please stand for what is right for a better tomorrow.

Mahalo,

Phaethon Keeney

Honokaa Hawaii