

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 AND ENVIRONMENT
Friday, February 12, 2021
3:05 p.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCING

SENATE BILL NO. 335
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

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

We share the Legislature's goal and objectives to increase local food production for our State. Food production is ADC's highest priority when issuing land licenses to agricultural operators. All of ADC's new land licenses on Kauai have been issued to farmers and ranchers who produce food. Over a thousand acres of the Galbraith Agricultural Lands and surrounding areas here on Oahu are licensed to small and medium farmers growing food for the local consumer market.

Markets and demand tend to shift over time, and we need the ability to respond and adapt to these shifts. Emerging crops such as hemp, which has a wide range of uses, has significant potential due to its high-yielding, high agronomics, and environmental attributes. We have concerns that this measure, as is, limits ourselves by regulating the size and type of crops that can be grown on ADC lands, which may have inadvertent effects down the road.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

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

**FEBRUARY 12, 2021
3:05 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

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

Chairpersons Gabbard and Wakai and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 335. This bill requires the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to annually lease at least fifty per cent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production beginning 1/1/2022. It also requires the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to submit reports to the legislature on leasing activities. The Department respectfully opposes this bill.

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



farms and hurt other diversified agricultural sectors such as nurseries, crops for export, agroforestry, and energy crop production.

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

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

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

COUNTY COUNCIL

Arryl Kaneshiro, Chair
Mason K. Chock, Vice Chair
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Bill DeCosta
Luke A. Evslin
KipuKai Kualii



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February 11, 2021

**TESTIMONY OF BILL DECOSTA
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
SB 335, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Friday, February 12, 2021
3:05 p.m.
Conference Room 224**

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 335, Relating to Agriculture. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Member of the Kaua'i County Council and Chair of the Council's Public Works & Veterans Services Committee.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of this measure to require the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to lease fifty percent (50%) of Hawai'i's agricultural lands leased or up for lease renewal to be utilized for local food production. SB 335 will help to reduce Hawai'i's dependence on imported foods, therefore enabling Hawai'i to meet the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan goal of increased food security, as well as allow small scale farmers to gain access to agricultural lands and bring Hawai'i one step closer to a diversified economy.

Given the history of ADC's past practices in letting acquired lands sit vacant, it is crucial that the corporation is held accountable as well as transparent in fulfilling their statutory purpose, which is not only land acquisition, but "to facilitate the transition of agricultural infrastructure from plantation operations into other agricultural enterprises." SB 335 will ensure that ADC and DOA are fulfilling their intended purpose by requiring annual reports to be submitted to the Legislature on their leasing activities.

Further, the language in SB 335, as written, focuses on agricultural operations whose primary business is food production for local consumption. However, it seems that Kaua'i County has an abundance of vacant ADC lands, which can be also utilized for regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices (i.e. well-managed grazing practices for livestock in the *mauka* pastoral ridges). Please consider and prioritize regenerative farming

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee
Re: SB 335, Relating to Agriculture
February 11, 2021
Page 2

practices as it provides additional environmental benefits that includes improved soil health and prevents run-off.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 335 as well as additional comments. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

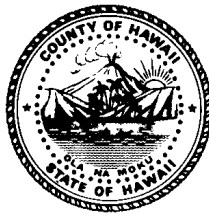
Sincerely,

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

BILL DECOSTA
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:mn

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740*

February 10, 2021

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON SB 335, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Friday, February 12, 2021
3:05 p.m.
Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 335, relating to agriculture. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Climate Resilience and Natural Resources Committee.

The purpose of this measure would require the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to annually lease at least fifty per cent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production beginning 1/1/2022.

Hawaii imports 85-90% of our food supply, it's estimated that we have a 2 week supply of food on island. Any type of inclement weather or shipping strike puts our islands in jeopardy, especially the outer islands.

Hawai'i's growing season lasts all year long, and many fruits and vegetables are available throughout the year. We are in the perfect climate, and this measure would make it possible to help our state and our residents be more sustainable and self-sufficient.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Agriculture and Environment and the Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Rebecca Villegas

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 12:14:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina Gregory	Testifying for EcoTipping Points Project	Support	No

Comments:

Local food production is important and has a lot of potential.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 12:39:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Kioni Dudley	Testifying for The Friends of Makakilo and Save Oahu Farmlands Alliance	Support	No

Comments:

This is a great bill. I strongly support it. But it is useless as long as we have the asshole, self-serving, totally corrupt criminals currently running the ADC in any way involved. This bill must also force are complete, absolutely complete, installment of new personnel at the ADC from top to bottom, bottom to top.

Once that is done, yes, this bill will be a great contribution to our needed argiculture revitalization.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 1:21:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am a farmer and tenant of ADC on Kauai. I am testifying in opposition to this bill. We all want to see an increase in local food production, but the reality is that there are very little qualified farmers to fulfill this objective. I don't think it is feasible to expect ADC to lease out 50% of its' lands, unless the goal is to have the seed companies pick up more land, because in my opinion there isn't a long line of farmers waiting to lease land. Recently on Kauai, ADC leased out 100 acres in 10 acre blocks to 10 Thai farmers relocated from Oahu. It took bringing farmers to Kauai to lease out that land and this is the reality of farming today. I think 50% is an arbitrary number that doesn't reflect our current position. Why not 75% or 30%, or what if they increased the leased land by 50% over the previous year, would that be enough?

I think people don't realize how underdeveloped our diversified ag industry is. We all need to be patient while we grow more farmers, we have programs like GoFarm Hawaii that is sifting through all the wannabe farmers to find the real farmers and it will be these people who will want to lease land, but it can't be forced, and it can't be expected to happen quickly, in fact it may take a generation to accomplish.

I do believe to ADC should have clear transparent objectives to getting farmers on the land, but I don't think we have enough information to say they should be leasing out 50% of their lands. The public focus with ADC should be on transparency and tangible plans and expectations, not forced outcomes.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 7:23:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

ADC has not done its job to make State lands, previously used for sugar cane and pineapple production, available for local food production.

CoVid has again made very clear our need for greater food security and self sufficiency

Supporting regenerative agriculture is key to addressing Climate Chaos and excellent avenue to sequester GHG

Providing for small and medium size farmers with land can stimulate the economy and provide a variety of job opportunities.

SB335 can mean a healthier environment, healthier food sources, and healthier economy.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:06:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support this measure. Requiring that 50% of ADC's agricultural lands are utilized for local food production will help reduce our dependence on imported food, and ensure that the agency does more to respond to inquiries from interested farmers and food producers. The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and food farmers to the board of the ADC. This will ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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Doug Pyle, Secretary	Jan Lubin	Lyn Pyle	

February 8, 2021

TO: Chairs Gabbard & Wakai and members of AEN/EET Committees

RE: SB 335 Relating to Agriculture

Support for hearing on Feb. 12

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1950s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support SB 335 as it would have the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to annually lease at least fifty per cent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production beginning 1/1/2022.

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. This bill would will allow more small-scale farmers to gain access to these agricultural lands, bringing us a step closer to a diversified food production economy. Therefore, it would will help reduce our dependence on imported food. In addition to sustainability benefits, it would reduce our carbon footprint.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,
John Bickel, President





PO Box 1177 Koloa HI 96756
808.652.5286 hawaiiSEED.org

February 10, 2021

SUPPORT for SB 335 on February 12, 2021 at 3pm
Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) Food Production Reform

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Committee Members,

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

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

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

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

The 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.

Following the intended mandate will build resilience in the food supply chain, protect the health and the land security for food and farm workers to invest in, and redirect surplus commodities to food banks and food hubs. I am encouraged and sincerely optimistic that our community, agricultural hui, restaurants and entrepreneurs have significant expertise at the ready, to move towards the development of another vision towards an additive economic component to broaden our diversification of the new world to counter challenged and changes for the better.

The resiliency of families and some businesses exhibited over the last 11 months has proven pivotal to our ability to ride out the pandemic, With the ADC producing next to nothing and adding to our dependence on imported food, there inaction, our underutilized state controlled agricultural land is in part to blame for far

too many industrious people barely scraping by, living in a constant state of uncertainty and anxiety. Not only is this not sustainable, but it also isn't necessary; legislators can and should do everything within their power to help those who are hurting right now. SB335 could make substantial progress towards doing just that.

Individually, these objectives are certainly worthwhile, and collectively they will bring us several steps closer to a stronger future. We applaud the Senate Agriculture Committee for their efforts and urge the rest of the committees to provide Hawai'i with much needed local food systems by passing this bill.

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

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

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

Mahalo,
Jeri Di Pietro, President
Hawai'i SEED

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:19:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB335 which mandates the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) lease out at least 50% of its land to farmers and ranchers whose business is "local food production."

We need self sufficiency especially for our food. Support local farmers.

Sylvia Dolena



HAWAI'I CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY

**Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Hawai'i Center for Food Safety supports: SB335 with amendments**

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Misalucha, and members of the committees:

My name is Sylvia Wu and I am a Senior Attorney with the Hawai'i Center for Food Safety (CFS). CFS is a nationwide public interest, sustainable agriculture nonprofit organization whose missions include the promotion of agricultural production methods that are beneficial to the ecosystem. We have over 950,000 farmer and consumer members across the country, including nearly 14,000 in Hawai'i. On behalf of CFS and our members, I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony today regarding this important bill.

I am writing in strong support of SB335 with amendments. As written, SB335 will require the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to annually lease at least fifty per cent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production beginning 1/1/2022, as well as for the ADC to submit reports to the legislature on leasing activities.

There is an urgent need for this bill, as demonstrated by the ever-greater need for local food production and food security in our changing times, as we have all experienced this past year during the pandemic. The ADC was created in 1994 to help transition Hawai'i's former plantation lands into economically-viable farms. Yet, the recent audit conducted by the Hawai'i State Auditor found that the current ADC "has done little – if anything – toward achieving its statutory purpose". Instead of leasing land to local farmers, a great majority of ADC's land and water holdings have been leased to agrochemical corporations for experimental research and developing herbicide-resistant seed corn for export. This poor management and misuse of Hawai'i's prime agricultural lands has led to contamination and pesticide drift concerns, as well as violations of the Clean Water Act, Best Management Practices, and other environmental laws. Overall, their failures have hindered Hawai'i's potential for a diversified and sustainable food economy.

Change at the ADC is critically needed, and SB335 marks the important first step by requiring that the ADC, over time, lease at least 50% of land holding to local food producers for local food production, but more is needed to make sure that the ADC is managed according to its mission, and be held accountable to the public. Accordingly, to make the most use of Hawai'i's prime agricultural lands, CFS is strongly in favor of adding the following section to SB335 (statutory additions are underlined, while removed texts are stricken):

SECTION ___. Section 163D-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

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centerforfoodsafety.org

§163D-3 Agribusiness development corporation; board of directors; established. (a) There is established the agribusiness development corporation, which shall be a public body corporate and politic and an instrumentality and agency of the State. The corporation shall be headed by a board of directors. The corporation shall be placed within the department of agriculture for administrative purposes, but the corporation may later incorporate as a nonprofit corporation if this proves desirable to further its objectives; provided that such reorganization as a nonprofit corporation shall not adversely affect the federal tax status of the interest on any bonds issued to finance any project or project facility.

(b) The board of directors of the corporation shall consist of eleven voting members, of whom eight shall be appointed by the governor. The terms of these eight members shall be four years; provided that, commencing on July 1, 2005, the governor shall reduce the terms of those initially appointed so as to provide, as nearly as can be, for the expiration of an equal number of terms at intervals of one year. The eight members shall be selected on the basis of their knowledge, experience, and proven expertise in small and large businesses within the agricultural industry, agricultural economics, banking, real estate, finance, promotion, marketing, and management. Of these eight members, one shall be from the city and county of Honolulu, one shall be from the county of Hawaii, one shall be from the county of Maui, one shall be from the county of Kauai, two shall be representatives of local farmers' or ranchers' association, as nominated by the chairs of the House and Senate agricultural committees, and ~~four~~ two shall be appointed at-large. The director of business, economic development, and tourism; the chairperson of the board of agriculture; and the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources, or their designated representatives, shall be ex-officio, voting members of the board. All members shall continue in office until their respective successors have been appointed and qualified. The board shall annually elect its chairperson from among its members; provided that the chairperson shall not be an ex-officio member.

(c) The members of the board shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for actual expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(d) The board shall appoint an executive director, who shall serve at the pleasure of the board and shall be exempt from chapter 76. The salary of the executive director shall be set by the board.

(e) The board, through its executive director, may appoint officers, agents, and employees; prescribe their duties and

qualifications; and fix their salaries, without regard to chapter 76.

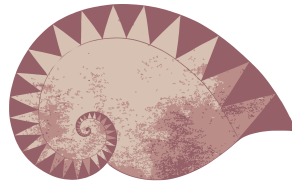
(f) Meetings of the board shall be subject to the requirements and procedures set forth in chapter 92, part I.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important legislation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sylvia Wu" followed by a horizontal line.

Sylvia Wu
Senior Attorney, Hawai'i Center for Food Safety



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

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

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Relating to Agriculture
Testifying in **Strong Support with Amendments**

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports with amendments SB335, Relating to Agriculture. This measure requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to annually lease 50% of land to operations whose primary business is local food production by January 2022. Requires the ADC to submit reports to the legislature on its leasing activities.**

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

I have in the past asked the ADC: "How much of the agricultural land that you (ADC) manage is actually used to produce food for local consumption?" The answer I received at the time was, "I don't know, I'm not sure, probably around 5%."

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

Please include the following four amendments in SB335:

1) The 50% mandate should apply to ALL state owned agricultural lands, not just those managed by the ADC.

2) SECTION 4. Section 163D-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

"(a) The corporation shall prepare the Hawaii agribusiness plan which shall define and establish goals, objectives, policies, and priority guidelines for its agribusiness development strategy. The plan shall include but not be limited to: ADD a provision that requires the plan to prioritize "regenerative agricultural practices"

3) "141- Reporting requirements; leased lands. Currently SB335 only contains reporting requirements for DOA. The ADC should be explicitly required to comply with

the same reporting requirements.

4) 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity,

Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative



Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
and
the Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair

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

Friday, February 12, 2021; 3:05 pm
Conference Room #224

Senate Bill No. 335 - Relating to Agriculture

To the Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees:

KIUC opposes SB335 as written.

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.

The West Kauai Energy Project will be the world's first solar + pumped storage hydro facility. The project involves the rehabilitation of three state owned reservoirs and associated ditch system on land owned by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). When complete, WKEP will bring Kauai to more than 80% renewable generation. It also offers numerous other community benefits, such as insuring compliance with instream flow standards recently established for the Waimea River and its tributaries, providing storage for irrigation water in all three rehabilitated reservoirs, delivering irrigation water to DHHL lands at Puu Opae near Kekaha, and supplying water for farmers on ADC lands on the Mana plain and on the bluffs above Kekaha.

KIUC has reached 60% renewable, in part, due to strategic partnerships with landowners utilizing non-prime agricultural lands for energy production. A critical element of WKEP is a solar+battery system located on a parcel of land owned by ADC adjacent to Mana Reservoir. The solar facility is necessary to pump water from Mana Reservoir to Puu Opae Reservoir during the day. The water stored in Puu Opae will be released overnight to produce hydropower.

The area chosen for the solar field has been fallow for a number of years and was selected by ADC and local farmers because it is not ideal for crop cultivation. Lease discussions with ADC are ongoing. Should SB335 be enacted as currently written, ADC could be prevented from offering these lands, and WKEP could not move forward.

We propose the following amendment to §163D-15.6:

(c) Beginning January 1, 2022, the department of agriculture and corporation shall annually lease or license at least fifty per cent of land eligible for lease or license or lease or license renewal, to agricultural operations whose primary business is food or crop production for local consumption, or for purposes that support food or crop production for local consumption."

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:03:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erwin Quinanola	Testifying for Food + Policy Internship UHWO	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support this bill to increase local food production and decrease our reliance on imports.



Testimony before the Senate Committees on Agriculture and the Environment and Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism.

State Capitol Room 224

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

Friday, February 12, 2021 3:05 PM

RE: Opposition to Senate Bill No. 335

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Misalucha and Members of the Committee:

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

The Kauai Chamber of Commerce (Chamber) opposes Senate Bill No. 335, which requires the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to annually lease at least 50 percent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production beginning 1/1/2022.

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

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

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

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

Requiring 50 percent of leased lands to focus on local food production undermines other efforts that are also in the best interest of the public and could result in additional fallow acreage on Kauai.

Thank you for your consideration.



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN) / Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism (EET)

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

Friday, February 12th, 2021 3:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

Public Lands Should Serve the Public Good

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

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

The ADC controls some of the most fertile agricultural lands on Kaua'i, equipped with irrigation and road infrastructure from sugar days. Rather than being made available to meet State goals of local food production, they have mostly been handed over to the largest agrochemical companies in the world for research facilities. This is a huge subsidy to already extremely wealthy corporations. Leases include 20-35 year agreements, for rates as low as \$50/acre/year for tillable acres and \$1/acre/year for non-tillable acres. Companies have lobbied for some of the acreage they occupy to be reclassified as "non-tillable" after having had the land in cultivation. In 2019, on the westside of Kaua'i the State's Public Land Trust Information lists a lease with Syngenta for 2,369 acres (\$267,941/year total), with BASF for 977 acres (\$146,831/year), another with BASF for 10 acres (\$6,200/year), and one with Pioneer for 1,462 acres (\$219,550/year). These have transferred to Hartung Brothers, Becks, and Corteva, respectively.^[4]

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

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

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

Mismanagement of ADC Lands and Water

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

Beginning in the early 1900s, the Kekaha Sugar Plantation built the Kekaha and Kōke'e ditch systems, which diverted much of the water flowing down the Waimea River and its tributaries to grow sugar. When the plantation went out of business in 2001, the State of

Hawai'i took over the ditch network. The ADC leased the ditch network and lands to the Kekaha Agriculture Association (KAA). But, although the association was cultivating only a fraction of the previous plantation land, and growing much less water-intensive crops, the diversions remained at plantation-era levels, leaving vast stretches of dry stream bed in the Waimea River and headwater streams.

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

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.^[6, 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 Kaua'i without a permit since 2015 by a federal judge, violating a federal Clean Water Act^[9]. The ruling stems from the ADC lacking a permit to drain polluted waters since its permit expired in 2015. The water was found to contain the herbicide Glyphosate, which has been linked to cancer and 2 billion dollars in lawsuit winnings over the use of popular Glyphosate-based herbicide Roundup.^[10,11]

Discrepancies in Reporting on Kaua'i ADC Landholdings

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

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

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

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

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

Incentivize Regenerative Farming Practices on Public Lands

Public lands can and should serve as a resource for small scale regenerative agriculture solutions that can feed our communities and manage Hawaiʻi's agricultural lands for future abundance. However, the failures of the ADC have hindered Hawaiʻi'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.^[13, 14]

Additionally, lawmakers should further support the revitalization of native Hawaiian food systems. There are a plethora of successful grassroots efforts to restore Hawaiʻi'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 Hawaiʻi. 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.^[14]

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 Hawaiʻi's agricultural lands and water systems. The ADC was tasked with creating a strategic plan 27 years ago. Today a well developed plan is still vitally needed to advance a comprehensive and sustainable approach for managing Hawaii's agricultural lands for future abundance.

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

One of the failings of the ADC is its narrow focus on supporting corporate agribusiness for export. Any future planning process, study or task force should incorporate a comprehensive food system wide analysis to identify opportunities along the food chain

for local institutional procurement, regional aggregation and other efforts to make small scale regenerative farming solutions more viable.

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Anne Frederick
Executive Director

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

- 9) United States District Court CIVIL NO. 18-00005 DKW-RLP
https://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/files/Order_Summary-Judgment-and-Dismissal_2019-07-09.pdf
- 10) Jury orders Monsanto to pay 2 billion in roundup weed killer cancer case
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2019/05/13/weed-killer-cancer-case-jury-orders-monsanto-pay-2-billion/1194572001/>
- 11) KHON: State guilty of violating Clean Water Act on Kauai with cancer-linked Glyphosate, other pesticides July 15, 2019 <https://www.khon2.com/news/state-guilty-of-violating-clean-water-act-on-kauai-with-cancer-linked-glyphosate-other-pesticides/>
- 12) ADC Annual Report 2019 <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/DOA-ADC-Annual-Report-2018.pdf>
- 13) Regeneration International: *Why Regenerative Agriculture?*
<https://regenerationinternational.org/why-regenerative-agriculture/>
- 14) The Journal of Peasant Studies: Agroecology and the reconstruction of a post-COVID-19 agriculture June 2nd 2020
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03066150.2020.1782891?journalCode=fjps20>



Eric S. Tanouye
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Fax: 808-959-7780

**THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2021**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Bennette E. Misalucha, Vice Chair

**Friday, February 12, 2021 3:05 p.m.
Conference Room 224**

SB335: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

My name is Eric Tanouye and I am the President of Green Point Nurseries. Green Point Nurseries is a third-generation agribusiness, a business that produces Hawaii's cut flowers and foliage and tropical blooming plants. Our products are distributed and exported locally, nationally, and internationally.

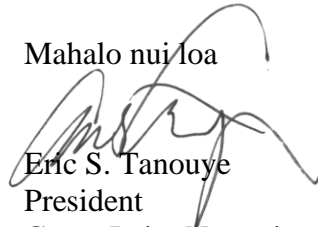
We do not support SB335 as currently written.

We understand the importance of supporting Agriculture and food resilience in Hawaii but we question some of the unforeseen consequences that this bill may have. The ornamental industry is considered non-edible agriculture and we are concerned that this bill could cause established nurseries to lose their leases or renewals due to not being food. This bill would put food and non-food agriculture at odds, instead of strengthening agriculture as a whole.

We also ask that you consider that there are different types of ag lands and not all are suited to growing food. Land does not always have the appropriate soil and environment for food crops and other non-edible agriculture crops could utilize this land. For example, we bring in cinder for our plants and this may not be a feasible option for food crops on rocky non soil lands.

If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext. 2627, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Mahalo nui loa



Eric S. Tanouye
President
Green Point Nurseries, Inc

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 5:43:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pavel Yushin	Testifying for OrganicHawaii.org	Support	No

Comments:

Local food production should be emphasized for local food security and ecological action using regenerative organic methods for optimal benefit for all. Please support SB335.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 1:39:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am support of locally grown products.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 12:25:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is a good idea. I would suggest adding automatic increases every year until it reaches 100% of leased state land is being utilized for local production. Also not just food products but fiber and craft materials(e.g.hemp and bamboo) for the local market should be encouraged. A reduction in lease rent for those engaged in organic agriculture might be added. Incentivize adding carbon to the soil. Lengthen the leases so there is an incentive to build the health of the soil which can take many years or even decades. Break up the big plots that only multinationals can afford. 5 or 10 acres is enough.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 10:12:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support more agricultural land being leased out to local farmers to produce local food. Land banking with no clear pathway on how to use the land to benefit Hawaii's food systems is pointless. I think it is fair to ask at least 50% of the land held should be leased out to farmers.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 11:30:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kahealani Acosta	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Local food production can only be doubled if the appropriate measures are taken. Allocating leased lands to local food production ensures Hawai'i's food production goals, while also building opportunities to diversify local food markets and potential exports. I strongly support this bill and urge the committee to pass SB335.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 1:40:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
noel kent	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB 335 is a most timely bill, coming at a time of unprecedented crisis in our nation's political economy. It has never been more important to have a secure source of food when our links to food suppliers thousands of miles away are more and more vulnerable. Our reserve of food in case of a breakdown of those links is paltry and there would be mass violence and death if a when that occurs. Meanwhile, there are thousands of fertile acres which can be utilized to provide food for our citizens. This should be a state priority. Noel Kent UH Manoa

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 8:47:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please vote for this bill because it leads to accomplishing two important statewide goals: to encourage and support local ag and to diversify our economy. According to recent audits ADC has not been capable of doing its job without strong guidance, so this bill is especially needed to get it to do so. Beginning with obligating it to rent 50% of its landholdings is a good initial target that should be increased year over year.

In addition, not only should the ADC be required to submit a detailed annual report, but its director's job should be dependent on it.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 12:41:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 4:53:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB335.

Dana Keawe

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 1:23:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Alohamai My Name Is R.M Ventura, I Live In Kihei, Maui. We Support This Bill Because Of It's Relationship To Our Growing Foods For Our Communities Is Severely Broken. Hawai'i Nei Was A Mecca For Food Crop's. Kauai Literally Means Villages (Kau) Of Food (Ai). I'm All For The Idea Of "Crop-Sharing" Or The Like. It's Soo Very Important That Hawai'i Stand Successfully On It's Own Food-Wise Subsistent Feet. Mahalomai For Your Time And Consideration.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 5:35:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha!

We must encourage local production of food. The key as I see it is to find a way to supply financially feasible water for the land for small farmers. Perhaps that issue will be addressed in the future.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 6:18:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill. We need to grow our own food. It's not safe or reliable to keep depending on food sources outside of the state. We need to become more self sustaining.

- The state audit recently revealed that throughout the entirety of its 27-year existence, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land.
- Requiring that 50% of Hawai'i's agricultural lands are utilized for local food production will help reduce our dependence on imported food.
- SB 335 will allow more small scale farmers to gain access to these agricultural lands, bringing us a step closer to a diversified food production economy.
- This measure will help create opportunities for jobs in agriculture.
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals.
- It is time that we seriously address our over dependence on imported food with tangible solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and a regenerative/organic farmer to the board of the ADC. This will Ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.
- Given the overwhelming failure of the ADC, lawmakers should seriously consider if dissolving the agency altogether is a better option.

Sincerely,

April Peterson

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 6:29:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB 335 I am a resident of Haiku and a mother of 2. I shop locally for organic fruits and veggies at the farmers markets.

It is time that we seriously address our over dependence on imported food with tangible solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands lease.

SB 335 will allow more small scale farmers to gain access to these agricultural lands, bringing us a step closer to a diversified food production economy.

This measure will help create opportunities for jobs in agriculture.

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

Please support this measure it is more important now then ever to eat and grow foods locally and have less dependence on imported foods when most everything grows in Hawai'i very easily.

Mahalo, Chelle Galarza

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 6:35:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- The state audit recently revealed that throughout the entirety of its 27-year existence, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land.
- Requiring that 50% of Hawai'i's agricultural lands are utilized for local food production will help reduce our dependence on imported food.
- SB 335 will allow more small scale farmers to gain access to these agricultural lands, bringing us a step closer to a diversified food production economy.
- This measure will help create opportunities for jobs in agriculture.
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals.
- It is time that we seriously address our over dependence on imported food with tangible solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and a regenerative/organic farmer to the board of the ADC. This will Ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.
- Given the overwhelming failure of the ADC, lawmakers should seriously consider if dissolving the agency altogether is a better option.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 7:08:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Gabel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a travesty that needs to be corrected. We need to get thinking locally about our resources and capitalize on them responsibly instead of giving away the benefits of the land to others. It shouldn't take a pandemic to get us to realize why we need less dependence on resources shipped in and more sustainability.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:00:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Individual	Comments	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. Let either another State Agency try, or remove all the Staff 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.

From what I saw, for one they were insisting on only leasing on large parcels, young and beginning farmers who want to make a career in agriculture when they are pau incubator need a small piece to start with and then grow over time. They ignored this aspect, among other things.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:31:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please, pass this.

Millions have been wasted. The ADC has been a failure...intentional or unintentional?
Who knows.

More clean food needs to be grown here! We need to become more self-reliant! Period.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:35:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I have seen first hand the management disaster that is the ADC.

Stop allocating lands to non-food crops and GMO crops that depend on extensive use of pesticides that migrate from the fields and into our community.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:40:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Wilcox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support with amendments because it is time that we seriously address our over dependence on imported food with tangible solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:50:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill will go a long way toward our goal of creating food sustainability. Please pass it.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:50:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

To whom it may concern; I support this bill because I am highly concerned about the fragility of Hawaii's food supply and also the continued desecration and contamination of agricultural land, which is being used to grow gmo corn crops, for seed, etc. for export, continuing the destructive, toxic legacy of the sugar cane robber barons, who left toxic waste and dead soil everywhere they planted. Hawaii is far too dependent on imports of food which could be grown here, creating jobs, and at the same time regenerating soil and preventing erosion and runoff. Please help make it affordable for small farmers to flourish here once again, we can have paradise on earth right here in Hawaii. Thank you for reading my comments, Aloha!

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 8:53:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

- I support This bill with amendments.
- The state audit recently revealed that throughout the entirety of its 27-year existence, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land.
- Requiring that 50% of Hawai'i's agricultural lands are utilized for local food production will help reduce our dependence on imported food.
- SB 335 will allow more small scale farmers to gain access to these agricultural lands, bringing us a step closer to a diversified food production economy.
- This measure will help create opportunities for jobs in agriculture.
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals.
- It is time that we seriously address our over dependence on imported food with tangible solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and a regenerative/organic farmer to the board of the ADC. This will Ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.
- Given the overwhelming failure of the ADC, lawmakers should seriously consider if dissolving the agency altogether is a better option.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 9:56:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill strongly and hope that you will pass it. The ADC has failed to achieve its mission apart from acquiring large acres of land. Now, we urgently need to address this issue as we work toward food sustainability. By ensuring that 50 per cent of agricultural lands are used for local food production will be an important step toward ending our dependence of imported food, which is unsustainable. Small scale farmers need access to these agricultural lands sd er mobve toward a more diversified agricultural economy with more jobs in agriculture. This will also have real health benefits for the local population. In addition, I hope that you will consider consider dissolving the ADC in favor of a more appropriate option.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 10:16:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanna Maile Pokipala Resurrection	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

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

Mahalo

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 10:29:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Monika Mira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have been advocating for growing our own food here in Hawaii for many many years, always wondering why we have grown sugar, coffee, and corn to be exported, while we import processed food and chemicals to spray on our crops. We have relied on tourism way too heavily and now we are seeing the result as we continue to import 90% of our food and supplies. Hawaii was once self-sufficient, but we are no longer.

Our people have no jobs, and our land is losing its soil.

The state audit recently revealed that throughout the entirety of its 27-year existence, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land.

Requiring that 50% of Hawai'i's agricultural lands are utilized for local food production will help reduce our dependence on imported food.

SB 335 will allow more small scale farmers to gain access to these agricultural lands, bringing us a step closer to a diversified food production economy.

Regenerative agriculture is not just about producing food, it is about so much more! It is about regenerating the soil, it is about sequestering carbon in the soil, it is about reviving the microbiome of the soil, the microbiome that delivers nutrients to our food and to our people. That microbiome is what keeps peoples immune systems healthy, and getting hands dirty in the field gives people purpose! Growing food locally means less reliance on petrochemicals, fewer carbon emissions, and less PLASTIC packaging, plastic that clogs our oceans & reefs (and our landfill) and enters the food chain. Let's

get back to very basics. we need to grow healthy food, and feed people who live and work in Hawaii. We need to take care of ourselves!

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

It is time that we seriously address our over dependence on imported food with tangible solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production. We need food security!

We don't have time to wait another 27 years, we need jobs and locally grown food in Hawaii now! It is our Kuleana to make things right and regenerative agriculture makes more than one thing right! Basics human rights! Clean, healthy, LOCAL, food, air and water. Please support local regenerative farming!

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 10:42:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

My 'ohana and I strongly support this bill. Mahalo Senators!

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 1:21:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:11:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roger Harris	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support and vote for this bill.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:48:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

- The state audit recently revealed that throughout the entirety of its 27-year existence, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land.
- Requiring that 50% of Hawai'i's agricultural lands are utilized for local food production will help reduce our dependence on imported food.
- SB 335 will allow more small scale farmers to gain access to these agricultural lands, bringing us a step closer to a diversified food production economy.
- This measure will help create opportunities for jobs in agriculture.
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals.
- It is time that we seriously address our over dependence on imported food with tangible solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and a regenerative/organic farmer to the board of the ADC. This will Ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.
- Given the overwhelming failure of the ADC, lawmakers should seriously consider if dissolving the agency altogether is a better option.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:00:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and committee members,

- The state audit recently revealed that throughout the entirety of its 27-year existence, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land.
- Requiring that 50% of Hawai'i's agricultural lands are utilized for local food production will help reduce our dependence on imported food.
- SB 335 will allow more small scale farmers to gain access to these agricultural lands, bringing us a step closer to a diversified food production economy.
- This measure will help create opportunities for jobs in agriculture.
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals.
- It is time that we seriously address our over dependence on imported food with tangible solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and a regenerative/organic farmer to the board of the ADC. This will Ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.

Sincerely,

Diane Ware

99-7815 Kapoha Place Volcano HI 96785

SB-335

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

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Date: February 9, 2021

To: Members of the AEN / EET Committees

From: Nathan Leo Braulick / 96826

Re: Support for SB 335

I support SB 335 because it will require the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to annually lease **at least 50%** of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose **primary business is local food production**. It will also require the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to submit **reports to the legislature on leasing activities**.

- The **ADC has failed** to accomplish much of its mission
- **Hawaii needs to reduce our dependence on imported food**
- More **small scale farmers need access** to agricultural lands
- SB 335 will help create opportunities for **jobs in agriculture**
- Expanding our local food production will help **reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals**
- Lawmakers should **prioritize regenerative farming operations** that utilize soil and water conservation practices
- Adding a representative of an environmental organization and a regenerative/organic farmer to the board of the ADC will **ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission**.
- **Given the overwhelming failure of the ADC, lawmakers should seriously consider if dissolving the agency altogether is a better option.**

Sincerely,

Nathan Leo Braulick

2333 Kapiolani Blvd., #1604

Honolulu, HI 96826

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:14:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Carol Hart and I currently live in Lawai, Kaua'i, and previously lived in Kekaha Kaua'i for over 27 years. I strongly support SB335 to provide former ADC lands to small farmers in order to grow food for our island and potentially for export. We have been overly reliant on imported food for for way too long, and the ADC has done a very poor job of stewarding the lands on the Westside and elsewhere to support local agriculture. Instead, they have worked hand in hand with the GMO corn companies to do toxic research and grow seed corn, not for consumption, and leaving the lands in need of remediation. Please do the right thing and pass this bill, with amendments, so that Kaua'i can advance into food self sufficiency and sovereignty. Mahalo

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:14:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm Kanaka Maoli. I'm a lifelong resident in my ancestral homelands. I'm writing in full support of this bill SB335.

What the state audit recently 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. This is unacceptable. This bill requires that 50% of Hawai'i's agricultural lands are utilized for local food production will help reduce our dependence on imported food. This is important now then ever given the hard times the pandemic has given us here on the islands and the importance of internal agricultural production and food security we need here to support the current population of people that call Hawai'i home.

SB 335 will allow more small scale farmers to gain access to these agricultural lands, bringing us a step closer to a diversified food production economy. This measure will help create opportunities for jobs in agriculture and industry that has been missing from Hawai'i for many generations. Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals. It is time that we seriously address our over dependence on imported food with tangible solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production.

Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off. Hence, this committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and a regenerative/organic farmer to the board of the ADC. This will Ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission. Given the overwhelming failure of the ADC, lawmakers should seriously consider if dissolving the agency altogether is a better option.

Please support this bill.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:19:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I fully support this measure requiring a minimum of 50% of this land to be farmed by local farmers. Food sustainability is of primary importance and long over due.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:05:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support SB 335 - Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) Food Production Reform.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 10:25:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I've wondered why the old sugarcane land on Kauai hasn't been used for farms to feed Kauai, and when I read the Auditor's report about ADC, I understood why. More corruption, as usual! This has to be stopped! Through ADC's 27-year management of old sugarcane/pineapple land, they have failed to fulfill their purpose, other than acquiring large acres of land, and leasing them to mega-corporations to grow experimental corn that can withstand herbicides and pesticides, poisoning our aina and our school children on the west side of Kauai.

SB335 requiring that 50% of Hawaii's ag lands are used for LOCAL food production will help reduce dependence on imported food, and allow more small scale farmers to gain access to these ag lands, and help create opportunities for jobs in agriculture.

Kauai's last election was all about food security, growing more food, for the people who live here. It makes sense! More fresh, local, sustainably grown food, will create a healthier population. We don't want to be dependent on planes and barges brining us food, when we have a climate where we can grow food all year around! People want this, and ADC has done nothing but pander to big ag and chemical corporations!

Priority should be given to regenerative farming operations that use water and soil conservation, which reduce runoff and improve quality and fertility of the soil.

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

Even better, in light of the recent Audit, and ADC's failure to fulfill its purpose, for 27 years, and no accounting for millions of dollars, perhaps the ADC should be dissolved and replaced with an organization and leadership who sincerely want to use these lands for the good of the Hawaiian people, and not for corporate interests and profit.

It's time for all governments, local, state, and federal, to change. Government is supposed to be for the PEOPLE, not the corporations. We the people are waking up, watching, and we will hold you accountable.

Mahalo for hearing my voice.

Sherry Pollock, Anahola

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:00:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:03:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

With the need for Kauai to become self-sustaining, it is imperative that Hawaii use these leased agricultural lands for products meant for local consumption. Please support!

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:29:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, It is now more imporrant than ever in Hawaii's history that our governmnet suppot local farmers and their overpowering effect on the future. Hawaii must set aside large tracts of land for agriculture. We must protect those land areas from unwanted developement. It does not matter how many new homes we build if we can not provide food to sustian the people that will live in them. Please support this bill for all Hawaii. Mahalo for your consideration.

Judith Mick, Kailua

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 12:34:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
randy wolfshagen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Either disband the ADC or hold is board of directors' feet to the fire.
They have completely abdicated their stated charter:
Grown here, sold here, eaten here.

Hold them accountable - support SB335!

- Randy, Mirka, and Pueo Wolfsahgen / Kekaha

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 12:37:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support our local agriculture. We need to stop depending on mainland shipments to feed our people. **SUPPORT THE LOCAL FARMERS!**

Mahalo,

Andrew Isoda, Napili Mau'i

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 1:11:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Small farmers and those who would like to be farmers need all the help they can get. I support this bill because we need to be self sustaining in order to be food secure. It really is past time to get to work making this happen. Mahalo, Laura Gray R.N.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 1:25:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anita Cook	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to grow real food and lessen our dependence upon imported foods. Please support this Bill SB335

aloha

anita and tommy cook

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 1:45:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support SB335. Hawaii needs to produce more food locally that is sustainable and affordable for its local citizens to become less dependent on imported food that include additional costs of transportation from mainland. According to a recent State audit is that the ADC's management has failed miserably over the past nearly 30 years to fulfill its mission. The ADC in my opinion should actually be abolished but until then it needs to be tightly controlled. The ADC manages over 22,000 acres of state-owned agricultural land, most of which is located on Kauai. The vast majority of this land is currently not used to produce food for local consumption, which should become the priority as it will also encourage and improve the local economy of food growers. .

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 1:51:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

support [SB335](#) to support local food production and food security

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 2:41:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha - please support this bill.

The Agribusiness Development Corp. (ADC) has failed in the past 30 years to fulfill its mission to protect local food production. The vast majority of the land it manages is not used to produce food for local consumption. This must change. Please support this bill. Thank you.

Elizabeth Hansen, Hakalau HI 96710

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 2:42:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A current article in Civil Beat reported on a recent audit of the Agricultural Development Corporation's poor performance to date. This legislation would ensure the ADC takes action no later than 1 Jan 2022 to lease at least 50% of the lands it overseas to farmers that will grow food for consumption here in Hawaii. This is a great step in the right direction for the ADC, but more importantly for all of us who live here in Hawaii.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 2:56:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii needs locally-grown food. ADC has not fulfilled its mission. State agricultural land should be used to grow food we can eat here. Please pass this bill.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 3:06:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill. The Agribusiness Development Corp. (ADC) has failed in the past 30 years to fulfill its mission to protect local food production. The vast majority of the land it manages is not used to produce food for local consumption. This must change. Please support this bill. Thank you.

Rodger Hansen, Hakalau HI 96710

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 3:13:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Shame that ADC must be forced to fulfill its mission. But so be it.

SUPPORT

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 3:31:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB 335 which mandates the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) lease out at least 50% of its land to farmers and ranchers whose business is “local food production.

The fact that this bill is being considered highlights the gross incompetence of the ADC. Shouldn't this bill be part of a larger cohesive plan? We learned from the State auditor that the ADC does not even have a plan. Will every objective of ADC be legislatively mandated like this? What an embarrassment to the State of Hawaii. The ADC needs to be dissolved.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 3:44:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tony Radmilovich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please vote for this bill to pass. It is good policy.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 3:45:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ro Elgas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I was shocked to read the Audit Report for ADC. The quote from the guy in charge was something like, "We are going a great job" should have been grounds for removal. Their failure to lease land to local farmers is a HUGE fail. Not only is there a laziness in leasing large tracks of land to agrochemical corporations it's a crime against the island ecology. Such farming kills off beneficial bugs and pollinators. It makes nearby organic farming nearly impossible due to chemical runoff, drift and a degraded ecology. Now add that... NO FOOD FOR THE ISLAND GETS PRODUCED!

SB 335 is an important for building island sustainability and a more resilient economy. When food money is spent on off-island food that money is gone from the island, never to be seen again. When the money is spent on fresh island grown food the farmer and workers the money is cycled through the community. They may get a haircut, pay for ukulele lessons, eat at a local restaurant, buy a fruit tree for the yard.

SB335 is vital for building food security. During my time as an organic certifier I read harvest records from farms across the US and around the globe. Every time we hear of record rain, cold, heat, drought, some region of farmer is usually just lost a crop. Plants live and thrive in their zone. Record breaking weather usually means that zone is shifting and crops are in shock, dropping fruit, withering, drowning. Such rolling-crop failures are on the rise. Hawaii as a remote island chain needs to include bills such as SB 335 in plans for food sovereignty and security.

A yes vote on SB 335 would be a yes to the health benefits of fresh food for locals rather than weeks old food off the boats. Prioritizing organic and sustainable farming operations is vital. Chemical farming practices degrade our island water and fails at soil building. Chemical farming puts workers and sensitive ecosystems at risk. Regenerative farming practices insure the health of the farmer workers, the water, the pollinators, and worms while building soil and reducing chemicals and runoff.

The approval of SB 335 is vital to Hawaii's healthy and prosperous future.

Thank you for your time.

Ro Elgas

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 3:45:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Taylor Warner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha I am Taylor Warner a resident of Hawaii Island and I support SB335. As a local farmer I agree with the need to lease land for local regenerative food production for these reasons below

- The state audit recently revealed that throughout the entirety of its 27-year existence, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land.
- Requiring that 50% of Hawai'i's agricultural lands are utilized for local food production will help reduce our dependence on imported food.
- SB 335 will allow more small scale farmers to gain access to these agricultural lands, bringing us a step closer to a diversified food production economy.
- This measure will help create opportunities for jobs in agriculture.
- Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals.
- It is time that we seriously address our over dependence on imported food with tangible solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production.
- Lawmakers should prioritize regenerative farming operations that utilize soil and water conservation practices. These farming practices provide additional environmental benefits such as improved soil health and preventing run-off.
- The committee should consider adding a representative of an environmental organization and a regenerative/organic farmer to the board of the ADC. This will Ensure that the agency has the internal knowledge and capacity to implement its mission.
- Given the overwhelming failure of the ADC, lawmakers should seriously consider if dissolving the agency altogether is a better option.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 3:54:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Mcknight	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Why does there need to be a law requiring the agency (ADC) managing State agricultural land to actually lease that land for local food production? According to a recent State audit is that the ADC's management has failed miserably over the past nearly 30 years to fulfill its mission. **The ADC in my opinion should actually be abolished** but until then it needs to be tightly controlled.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 4:05:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

The ADC manages over 22,000 acres of state-owned agricultural land, most of which is located on **Kauai**. **The vast majority of this land is not used to produce food, certainly not food for local consumption.** Spoiler alert: The large fields of corn you see are mostly “seed corn” intended for export and used to produce ethanol, cattle feed, and high fructose corn syrup. **No one actually eats this corn.**

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 4:29:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Hathaway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha.

My name is Cynthia Hathaway. I have been a resident of Puna, Big Island for 38 years. I built my house and have farmed my land organically all these years, producing enough to agment my family's diet. I value our aina. I want our islands free of toxins and food production/experimentation that contaminates our land, air and water. I want food production that keeps our money in our communities and creates jobs that support sustainable living practices. I want local farmers tilling our local soil.

It is vital that our state increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production. From what I have researched, the ADC has not taken enough action. Can we do without the ADC? The addition of a representative of an environmental organization and a regenerative/organic farmer to the board of the ADC could boost its effectiveness at the least. Something big must happen. Times a wastin'!

Pass SB 335.

Thank you.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 5:41:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dee Green	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

It is time that we address our dependence on imported food and work toward real solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production. Allowing Hawai'i to grow in food production will reduce our carbon footprint and provide food security to the islands as well as provide a myriad of health benefits.

The ADC has been a huge failure and should be dissolved.

Thank you for your time

Dee Green

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:23:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

If I had to look for the silver lining of this pandemic, the first thing I'd point out is that this crisis has been going on long enough to make those who routinely pay lip service to sustainability actually back up their rhetoric. It's about time we actually take action and get serious about things like clean energy generation, climate resilience, and, as this bill mentions, local food production.

Why does there need to be a law requiring the agency (ADC) managing State agricultural land to actually lease that land for local food production? The answer, according to a recent State audit is that the ADC's management has failed miserably over the past nearly 30 years to fulfill its mission. **The ADC in my opinion should actually be abolished** but until then it needs to be tightly controlled.

The ADC manages over 22,000 acres of state-owned agricultural land, most of which is located on **Kauai. The vast majority of this land is not used to produce food, certainly not food for local consumption.**

Please, if this bill's approach is misguided, then by all means amend it or introduce another. But make sure whatever good solution you find actually helps and actually passes. We should not and cannot wait any longer.

Thank you,

Dylan Ramos

96816

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:11:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik Horsley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need local food production.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:37:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB335 because it mandates that the ADC lease out at least 50% of its land to farmers and ranchers whose business is local food production. I think it is shameful that the more than 22,000 acres of state-owned agricultural land that ADC manages on my island, Kaua'i, is used to produce seed corn intended for export for ethanol, cattle feed, and high fructose corn syrup. The production of this corn does not benefit the people of Hawai'i except perhaps the few that work the land. It certainly does not provide food that will increase our food security.

Thank you.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:42:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

There is nothing better than local production of food and agricultural products for our islands. Relying on Matson and Young Brothers to feed us is risky and insecure. We must make local lands available for locally used and consumed production.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:21:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB335. In 27 years of existence, [ADC has largely failed](#) in its intended purpose of bridging the gap left by the loss of plantation industry. If the ADC is to go on, I'd like to see it become more democratized by placing production power and market reach into the hands of local farmers. A course correction should have happened long ago, but transferring land use is a good next step. Mahalo nui for your time.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 11:36:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lori Kizer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please vote for SB335. Thank you.

Lori Kizer, Kapaa

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 5:36:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need to use our agricultural land for food production. If the pandemic has shown us one thing, it is that we need to be self sustaining and that begins with food.

Mahalo,

MeleLani Llanes

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:55:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

That will be helpful to our economy and our farmers

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:12:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Representatives:

I strongly support this bill to mandate the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to lease out at least 50% of its land to farmers and ranchers whose business is “local food production.”

Mahalo,

Joe Wilson

Waiale'e / north shore O'ahu

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:25:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Current guidelines have clearly not lead to the intended result, and big businesses consistently take advantage of the system to enrich themselves at the expense of local markets. Please support SB 335. Thank you.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:53:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB335, for varrious reasons

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:33:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support now so efforts get more focused on supporting food production for local consumption. Using public resources for public health is a good policy.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:04:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is not the best bill because it does not mandate organic farming practices, permaculture and sustainable practices but it is about food production for local consumption which is so important. Thank you for supporting this bill and I hope it will go further in the future.

Mahalo,

Sharon Levine

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 2:15:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Because we need to actually grow food on our lands to feed ourselves. Common sense e nÄ• hoa.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 3:29:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB335 to require that 50% of Hawai'i's agricultural lands are utilized for local food production will help reduce our dependence on imported food. It will allow more small scale farmers to gain access to these agricultural lands, bringing us a step closer to a diversified food production economy and creating opportunities for jobs in agriculture.

Expanding our local food production will help reduce our carbon footprint, grow our food security, and provide health benefits to locals. It is time that we seriously address our over dependence on imported food with tangible solutions such as this requirement to increase the state agricultural lands leased for local food production.

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

Given the overwhelming failure of the ADC, lawmakers should seriously consider dissolving the agency altogether.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 7:32:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly Support this bill /with amendments.

This farming program should be run under the Dept. of Ag - NOT THE ADC.

It's time to ABOLISH THE ADC. We can't afford 25 + years of failure for this costly and ineffective agency. Now, more than ever, THIS is the year to shut it down. Thousands of Hawai`i residents know the ADC is a huge joke... but they're sure not laughing.

Just like the PLDC - the ADC was always a bad idea and legislators have propped it up for far too long.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:44:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill might solve some of the uselessness of the ADC. Would prefer to see it abolished and have a do over. What a mess. And the Leg has done no effective oversight. Fail.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:52:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee Members, If we can not get the ADC abolished then let's at least do this. Mahalo

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:53:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Senators of The Great State of Hawai'i,

Mandating that the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) lease out at least 50% of its land to farmers and ranchers whose business is "local food production" is one of the best bills before you,. As a Senator of this largely tourist and agricultural state, I affirm you will protect our local food production. It is healthier, more nutritious and provides an economy that is stable from within. We have many young people who are interested in farming, but the limitations for available land here is holding back so much of our growth and happiness our Hawaiian culture used to know. Let's remember the 'good ol' days...I was born here in 1950...I pray some semblance of it can return!.

Mahalo for your ahonui with us who have a vision and are seeking your support,

April Lee

PO Box 190805; Hawi , HI 96719

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:57:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I strongly support passage of this bill.

We need to step up regarding supporting local farmers and local food safety.

This is a wonderful step in the right direction.

Mahalo nui loa,

Lorraine Newman

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 10:38:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support SB 335.

This is clearly the way to go. We are too dependent on food being imported into Hawaii. This hurts all of us in Hawaii and contributes to Hawaii being one of most expensive places to live. We need to grow more of the food we eat.

This bill is surely the way to go.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify!

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:20:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:22:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

With the current pressing need for food sustainability in Hawaii the purpose and intent of this bill is sorely needed and greatly appreciated. I strongly support this bill. Please pass it.

Mahalo nui loa,

Polli Oliver

Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:08:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha: I'm writing to express my very strong support of this bill - for our island farmers' benefit :)

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:38:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support !

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:40:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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.

What we really need in the state is to be able to produce our own food for consumption here in the islands. Let's prioritize regenerative farming operations on state agricultural lands. Let's utilize soil and water conservation practices that provide environmental benefits such as improved soil health and prevention of run-off.

Hawai'i's agricultural lands need to be utilized for sustainable, local food. Let's make sure farmers have land to farm.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:47:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need to open up ag lands to local small farmers and SUPPORT THEM in their efforts. It is not about profits! It is about a fallback, a backstop, to failed tourism economies. We need to survive locally despite economic activity. Reconnect to sustainably living within the arms of our Mother Nature!!!

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:50:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Local farmers offer local food! A healthy island.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:58:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

50% local food production is a good start and a step in the right direction.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:16:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

In strong support!

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:16:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This will help get farmers and producers access to land which will allow for more local food production. This is another avenue to reaching our Aloha+ Challenge goals of doubling local food production by 2030. Please support SB335! Mahalo.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:27:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

WRITING IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB335

MARK KOPPEL

UMAUMA, HI

Aloha Honorable Legislators,

I am writing in strong support of SB335. Actually, having done nothing, ADC should be abolished. SB335 is at least a step in in the right direction.

Please support SB335.

Mahalo,

Mark Koppel

Umauma

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 8:28:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:12:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

The lands in question (those managed by the ADC) should be used by LOCAL farmers to produce CLEAN food for OUR community, which is not happening under the ADC control. Please see that these lands are leased to local farmers to produce local food.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:35:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB335 and think the ADC should lease out at least 50% of it lands for farmers and ranchers to produce local foods.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:46:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Also a boon to local farmers.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:56:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need local farmers for local food, creating more jobs here and making sustainability a way of life

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 9:57:49 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jade mcgaff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We could be the organic seed bank for the WORLD> We have so much nutritious food BUT we need it in the hands of our Ohana. Stop big corporations. Give teh lnad back to our families.

Thank you

'Jade MCGaff, MD

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:07:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support local agriculturists and farmers over outsiders. Therefore, I support this bill.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:58:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helen Cox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I support SB 335 because the ADC's management has failed miserably over the past nearly-30 years to fulfill its mission. The ADC manages over 22,000 acres of state-owned agricultural land, most of which is located on Kaua'i. The vast majority of this land is not used to produce food, certainly not food for local consumption. ADC must allocate land for local food consumption!

Mahalo!

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 11:13:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha to the Senate Agriculture Committee,

I am testifying today to express my strong support for SB335. My husband and I live on Kaua'i and have an apiary and small farm. We have seen firsthand the ADC's gross mismanagement and outright neglect of our precious agricultural lands on Kaua'i, and it is clear that outside oversight and legislation is necessary to see that these lands are leased to farmers who are actually involved in local food production. SB335 is a fine stop gap measure, although we are both in strong support of abolishing the ADC altogether.

Please support this bill, which will contribute to Hawai'i's food sovereignty and sustainability, as well as help our local economy by supporting our farmers. This is an important step in moving away from an economic system that is heavily dependent on tourism, and will help us to keep money circulating locally while creating many more jobs and opportunities in the Hawai'ian agriculture sector.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony,

Maria Walker

1728 Hulu Rd.

Kapa'a, HI 96746

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:05:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support abolishing the ADC. If the ADC continues in it's roll, then I support this bill requiring 50% of our public farms lands be least to local farmers producing foods for local consumption.

Sincerely,

Marion McHenry

Princeville

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:15:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:15:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

The Pandemic gives us a perfect opportunity to change our economy to sustainable agriculture. Agriculture fits the CULTURE OF HAWAII, fits the job needs, lowers our expenses, and would not be as volatile as tourism. Tourism destroys our way of life for the benefit of strangers and does nothing for the residents. This bill fits the requests of the citizens.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:32:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Mary Lacques, and as a resident of O'ahu's predominantly agricultural North Shore district, I am writing in strong SUPPORT of SB 335 which requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to annually lease at least fifty per cent of land leased or up for lease renewal to operations whose primary business is local food production beginning 1/1/2022. Requires the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation to submit reports to the legislature on leasing activities.

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

According to the ADC audit, their focus on "land banking" is "not a strategy consistent with ADC's statutory mandate, which envisioned a corporation that would provide "aggressive and dynamic leadership" to assist agricultural enterprises in transforming the dual crop industry into other diverse agricultural enterprises."

As the current pandemic has magnified the need for a diverse, well balanced economy, we witness time and time again the urgency for island-wide accelerated food production for local consumption. Prioritizing regenerative farming practices on these publicly owned lands, including water conservation and soil health not only support and help amend Hawai'i's fragile ecosystem, but also encourage traditional Hawaiian land management principles.

Passage of SB 335 would ensure the leasing of at least fifty percent of these prime ADC state lands for this very purpose.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 12:51:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Stowell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB335. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) has failed to accomplish much of it's mission during the past 27 years of it's existence. Instead of helping small farmers and ranchers, the lands the ADC has aquired are currently being leased to agrochemical companies for experimentation and Genetically Engineered seed crops for export. How does this serve our local communities? Hawaii's agricultural lands should be utilized for sustainable local food production, providing jobs for those that live here.

The recent audit of the ADC revealed the mismanagement of lands and a lack of aountability. The corporation has been incapable of carrying out its basic statutory responsibilities and functions. Therefore, the ADC should be dissolved.

mahalo,

Julie Stowell

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:12:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Members of the Legislature:

I am writing to strongly urge you to support SB335 which seeks to require the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to make progress on its long-delayed mission of transitioning agricultural lands and requiring basic reporting which the ADC has not done. I was shocked to read the results of the State Auditor's report on the ADC as well as the results of the study of the ADC by the University of Hawaii.

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

The requirement of SB335 to annually lease at least 50% of land to local food production would go a long way to helping the ADC meet its mission of transitioning old plantation lands to modern use for agriculture. In addition, local food production is essential to help reduce Hawaii's dependence on imported food and diversify the economy and to make the islands more resilient in the event of a disruption in the supply chain.

I urge you to strongly support SB335 and help Hawaii finally make progress toward achieving a transition of its agricultural lands to benefit the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Julio Magalhães

Kilauea, Kauai

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:14:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I strongly support SB335. Hawai'i must increase its local food production and the Department of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development Corporation, as tools of the state, should be dedicating at least 50 percent of its resources, including land, to the production of healthy, nutritious local food.

Mahalo,

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:50:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Committee members,

If SB335 is going to keep ADC in existence - then i oppose the bill. A state audit recently revealed that throughout the entirety of its 27-year existence, the ADC has failed to accomplish much of its mission aside from acquiring large acres of land. The University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization recently reached the same conclusion. They were both scathing in their reports on the ADC. There is talk of disbanding the ADC. This is the best course of action. The new entity could try and lease out at least 50% of its land to farmers and ranchers whose business is "local food production.

I am sorry my feedback to this bill is late 50 min but that is a very small infraction compared to te 27 years failure that the ADC has done so little with so much! i would like to know if my late input was accepted?

Tlaloc Tokuda

Kailua Kona HI 96740

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:52:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Antya Miller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a strong advocate for agriculture on the North Shore of Oahu, I oppose SB 335 eliminating ADC.

Per the Auditor's Report, ADC has some serious management issues that must be addressed. However, they have not been given the time to address the issues identified.

ADC has made important progress toward a plan to bypass Lake Wilson to provide mountain water to the North Shore Ag lands, the majority of IAL Ag lands on Oahu. The main reason most of the former Waialua Sugar Company lands remain fallow is due to lack of R1 water coming from Lake Wilson. Well water is very expensive due to the electricity needed to pump the water from the ground.

In reviewing the testimony that is in opposition to this bill, it is coming from mostly anti-conventional farming individuals and organizations who only want organic farming. We need all forms of agriculture to put our fallow Ag lands back into production.

Please oppose this bill and allow ADC to address the auditor's recommendations.

Mahalo,

Antya Miller

808-342-8557

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 4:23:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall John Francisco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

While I understand and appreciate the legislative intent of this bill, it does not reflect the current reality that not all farmers have the financial and other capacity to meet the needed requirements in order to participate at the scale essential to maintain a sustainable economic activity. So far, ADC is continuing its intended purpose and yes, there is always room for improvement. However, I do not think that this action is realistic nor practical as small and medium farmers could be driven out of the market and is contrary to the state goal of becoming self-sufficient. Also, I do not believe that the Dept. of Ag. can take on the additional responsibility without additional resources.

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 5:05:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Simply... I agree to at least the use or 50% of the land leased to local farmers for local food. Why not all?

thank you

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 7:35:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

I fully support SB335, and ask that you support and pass this bill. It makes the best sense right now. Local food production should be a priority and this bill will help to maximize that end.

Mahalo,

James
Long
Na'alehu, HI

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

Support of Bill #SB335

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Co-Chair Nishihara and
Agricultural Committee Members,

I write in strong support of this bill, as it finally gives Hawaii's small farmers a chance to access valuable Ag land to produce food for our Islands.

For far too long, the ADC has favored the big AG companies that do not produce food for local consumption. Apportioning at least 50% of these lands, allowing small farmers and ranchers to rent/lease them will not only increase the individual users' incomes but that of Hawaii in general - in the form of a fiscally healthier food production program.

There was a time when these Islands grew all the food the populace needed. Now, we import nearly all of our food, to a region that has year-round growing seasons, good rainfall and lots of Ag land that can be remediated from the out-dated and often abusive farming practices of recent years.

It can also provide an opportunity for Agro-Tourism to grow, as visitors are able to see how our local food production works to sustain not only our residents but provides fresh healthy produce and meats to our restaurants.

Mahalo for passing SB1410, The Hawaiian Right to Farm act, emphasizing the Kanaka historic cultural rights to customary and traditional subsistence farming

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

Allowing more of the Native Hawaiian community to participate in growing food will be a win-win for everyone.

Mahalo nui for accepting this testimony,

Sandra Herndon
Kaua`i

LATE

SB-335

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 12:12:20 PM
Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2021 3:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sharon Goodwin	Testifying for Kauai Community Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

I'm greatly in favor of SB 335 to open 50% of leased lands and lease-renewed lands for food production. This is vital step in correct direction for our multi-island State. Mahalo.