

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



WENDY L. GADY
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 22, 2024
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

HOUSE BILL NO. 1815, HD1
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chairperson Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 1815 HD1, which includes agritourism in the definition of "enterprise" to authorize the Agribusiness Development Corporation to financially support businesses engaged in agritourism.

Agritourism comes with economic benefits for farmers and ranchers. From generating additional income and direct marketing to preserving farms, farmland, and local culture and traditions, agritourism diversifies farmers' income streams, meaning they can make money outside of their regular planting season.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



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February 22, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1815, HD1
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1815, HD1, which includes agritourism in the definition of "enterprise" to authorize the Agribusiness Development Corporation to financially support businesses engaged in agritourism.

We strongly support agritourism as it represents an excellent revenue enhancement opportunity for farmers and ranchers as well as an educational opportunity for the public. Fostering the profitability of farmers and ranchers will significantly contribute to the State's goal of increased self-sufficiency.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) was initiated by the agricultural industry as sugar and pineapple downsized. It was established to help transition Hawaii's agricultural industry from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations. Transitioning large tracts of monoculture farmland into smaller diversified ag lots and finding and supporting bona fide farmers to work those lands is a long and complex process. ADC has had success developing a productive diversified sector out of former sugar and pineapple lands.

ADC assists farmers and ranchers with land and water issues, regulatory mandates, invasive species, global competition, financing, marketing, and research funding. As the entrepreneurial agricultural arm of the state, ADC should have the authority to support agritourism.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the Committee on Finance
Thursday, 22, 2024, at 1PM
Conference Room 308**

RE: HB 1815 HD1 Relating to The Agribusiness Development Corporation

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii Supports (“The Chamber”) **supports HB1815 HD1**, which includes agritourism in the definition of "enterprise" to authorize the Agribusiness Development Corporation to financially support businesses engaged in agritourism.

The Chamber appreciates the opportunity to support this bill as it enables new opportunities for growth and development within Hawaii’s agricultural and agritourism industries.

The Chamber completed its 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii Initiative earlier this year. The vision was to create a data-based action plan for Business to lead and shape Hawaii’s economic future as a top place to do business. We connected with stakeholders from business, government & community to shape goals and priorities and develop a strategy that presents achievable policy reforms and metrics to increase Hawaii's economic competitiveness.

As a part of the blueprint, stakeholders indicated that industry diversification, specifically within Hawaii’s agricultural industries, is a key opportunity for growth in advancing the local economy and achieving greater food self-sufficiency.

The Chamber is Hawaii’s leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the “Voice of Business” in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state’s economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

On behalf of The Chamber, thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HB-1815-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:55:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
T.J. Cuaresma	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I do not support HB1815 HD1.

I would ask that each and every member of this committee LISTEN and SPEAK with those community members that have suffered immeasurable losses including the deaths of my sons' classmates (brothers whose father worked for the City and County of Honolulu alongside my own father) and my classmates' daughter leaving her grandson without a mother.

I am a resident of the Wahiawa and Whitmore Village communities and during the past years have witnessed the mismanagement by the Agribusiness Development Corporation and would implore this Committee to NOT allow more suffering in those communities.

Three deaths is enough!