

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

March 19, 2024

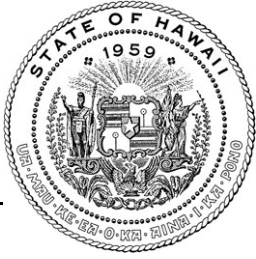
To: The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair,
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Time: 2:00 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 325, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

Re: S.B. 2291 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS

The **DLIR supports** this measure, which proposes to create advisory boards, focused on workforce development within the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Hawaii Technology Development Corporation, and the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority. SB2291 assigns the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations, or designee, to these proposed boards. This measure will help create opportunities for expanding the workforce in areas of critical and future need.



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

DANE K. WICKER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
SB2291, SD2
RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** SB2291, SD2, which establishes advisory boards, focused on workforce development, for the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation, and Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority.

DBEDT is supportive of seeking and encouraging partnerships with the agricultural, technology, and natural energy industries and this measure will assist with advancing these efforts. The advisory boards will support the departmental and agency initiatives by further identifying workforce needs and improving the coordination and alignment with Hawai'i businesses, community partners, and other government agencies. Cultivating and growing these targeted and emerging industries and ensuring that the workforce pipelines are developed will support the desired increase in exports and local food production, as well as the overarching goal of creating an economically sustainable Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



WENDY L. GADY
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

**TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 325
& Videoconference

**SENATE BILL NO. 2291 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2291 SD2 HD1 relating to advisory boards. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports this measure, which establishes advisory boards, focused on workforce development, to the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation, and Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority.

ADC supports the Legislature's intent to establish advisory boards focusing on training and upskilling our workforce, so that the agricultural industry can attract and retain highly skilled employees, which will help the industry sustainably scale and prosper — not to mention support growth for the economy. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
521 Ala Moana Blvd, Ste 255 | 808-539-3806
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 | www.htdc.org

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR

Written Statement of
Wayne Inouye
Interim Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room #325

In consideration of
SB2291 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS.

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama and members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) supports SB2291 SD2 HD1 that establishes advisory boards, focused on workforce development, to the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation, and Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority.

HTDC is committed to fostering innovation and cultivating a skilled workforce in the tech sector. As individuals acquire new skills and join the workforce, they become valuable assets to the local economy. The technology sector not only attracts talent but also encourages innovation, positioning Hawaii as a hub for technological advancement. HTDC supports the establishment of advisory boards focusing on workforce development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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March 19, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2291, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS**

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, 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 SB 2292, SD1, HD1, which establishes advisory boards, focused on workforce development, to the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Hawaii Technology Development Corporation, and Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are aging. The average age of Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers exceeds 60 years old, and if they were in other professions, they would most likely be retired. Yet many of these farmers and ranchers are those who provide agricultural products to supermarkets, restaurants, hotels, farmers' markets, and the Farm to School program and truly make a difference in reducing imports.

Multigenerational commercial farms and ranches are facing the prospect of closure because succession plans do not exist. As these farmers and ranchers retire, their lands go out of agricultural production. There is an urgent need for curriculum, interns, or apprentices who are willing to not only work on these farms but also take over their operations.

This measure will support the next generation of new farmers interested in developing the skills and knowledge needed to be successful agriculture businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – 2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

SB 2291 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS
SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union United
Hawai'i Food Industry Association
Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association
Kohala Center
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i
Maui Farm to School Network (Maui F2SN)
Ulupono Initiative
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i at Manoa

The Local Food Coalition **SUPPORTS** SB 2291 SD2 HD1, which establishes advisory boards, focused on workforce development, for the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), Hawaii Technology Development Corporation, and Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority.

The Coalition supports the creation of an ADC workforce development board. The recent US Census on Agriculture reported that the average age of farmers and ranchers is nearly 61 years of age. Because succession plans do not exist for many of these farms and ranches, there is a high risk these operations will close as these farmers and ranchers retire.

We need to support those who show an interest in agriculture by providing opportunities to learn and gain hands-on experience to ensure that a new generation of farmers and ranchers can help the state reach its goal of increasing local food production and reducing our reliance on imports.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprised of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2291 SD2 HD1



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

March 18, 2024

Subject: SB 2291 *Relating to Advisory Board*

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

We, The Hawaii Food+ Policy, support SB 2291 and the establishment of advisory boards, focused on workforce development, for the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Hawai'i Technology Development Corporation, and Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority.

The growth and support of Hawaii's agricultural sector is imperative to decreasing our reliance on imports and strengthening our agricultural economy. With strong local demand and support for local produce and value-added products, one of the largest challenges facing the agricultural industry is the workforce. Not only are there not enough farmers to tend to the land allocated for agricultural production, but those who are involved are aging. If Hawaii seeks to decrease reliance on food imports and revitalize the agricultural sector, support and investment is needed in attending to a more plentiful agricultural workforce.

For these reasons, The Hawaii Food+ Policy group supports SB 2291 and workforce development for our agricultural sector.

Mahalo,
Hawaii Food+ Policy Team

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

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



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State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
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Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawaii

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawaii

Puna, Hawaii

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawaii

Kona, Hawaii

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaaui
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lana'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports SB2291.**

We believe that by establishing these advisory boards, we can foster collaboration, innovation, and long-term success for Hawaii's farmers and agricultural businesses. These boards will provide valuable insights and recommendations to shape the future of our agricultural workforce.

Hawaii Farmers Union (HFU) operates a Farm Apprentice Membership program across multiple islands, has incubated food hubs, and works consistently to grow the agricultural industry.

Towards that end, Hawaii Farmers Union (HFU) requests to have a representative included as a member of the Agribusiness Development Corporation workforce advisory board.

Workforce development is crucial to the success and sustainability of Hawaii's agricultural industry. By bringing together experts and stakeholders in the field, these advisory boards will help identify opportunities for growth, address challenges, and enhance the overall competitiveness of our agricultural sector.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF