



NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY



An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Written Only

Statement of
Gregory P. Barbour
Executive Director
Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, March 28, 2024
9:30 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

in consideration of

SB 2291 SD2 HD2 RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS.

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) is pleased to support SB 2291 SD2 HD2 as it relates to NELHA and establishes an advisory board focused on workforce development. We have been quite active in developing opportunities for workforce development over the past several years.

NELHA has been working with the University of Hawaii and the local schools on the island of Hawaii for the past several years to bring administrators, professors, and instructors to our facility in Kona to better explain the kinds of skills and training necessary for the businesses here. Based on these meetings we established an educational tour program and we have hosted over 500 students since starting school tour program last November. Students learn about NELHA and what companies occupy at the tech park and had a chance to tour the

research campus, talk to experts and participate in a scavenger hunt for an edible treat.

Activity books and internship brochures were also provided.

We also hosted meeting with Good Jobs Hawaii (GJHI) and HOST Park clients and community members learned about Good Jobs \$35 million workforce development initiative which is aiming to fill education gaps and provide support for internships and programs in select sectors including food security and ocean technology. NELHA based businesses also provided input and feedback on what skills are needed to meet their company objectives. We also met with the CEO of ClimbHI and are part of their CLIMBHI bridge program which connects Hawaii schools to businesses and other organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

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 28, 2024

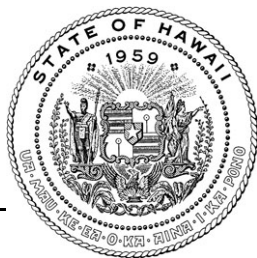
To: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair,
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024
Time: 3:30 p.m.
Place: Conference Room 308, State Capitol

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

Re: S.B. 2291 SD2 HD2 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 SD2 HD2 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 FINANCE

Thursday, March 28, 2024
3:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
SB2291, SD2, HD2
RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** SB2291, SD2, HD2 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.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 28, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2291, SD2, HD2
RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
3:30 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 SB 2292, SD1, HD2, 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.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawaii

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.**

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawaii

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.

Puna, Hawaii

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawaii

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.

Kona, Hawaii

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

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

Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

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.

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaaupai
Molokai

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Negus Manna
Lana'i

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

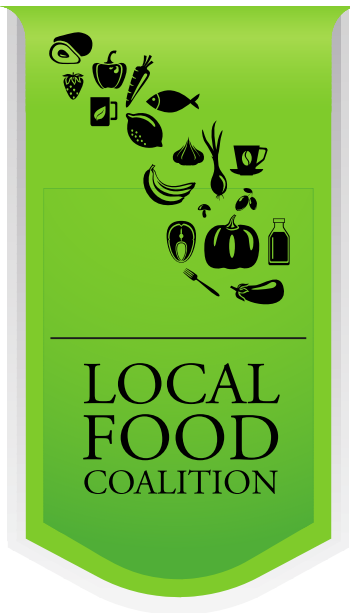
India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thursday, March 28, 2024 – 3:30 P.M.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Agenda #2

SB 2291 SD2 HD2 – RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS

SUPPORT

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

The Local Food Coalition **SUPPORTS** SB 2291 SD2 HD2, 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 HD2.



Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
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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 FINANCE

Thursday, March 28, 2024
3:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room #308

In consideration of
SB2291 SD2 HD2
RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS.

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) supports SB2291 SD2 HD2 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.

SB-2291-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/27/2024 3:02:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/28/2024 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to establish advisory boards to focus on workforce development that will lead to opportunities for employment and the necessary expansion of the workforce to meet current and future needs in these identified areas.

Thank you for your support of Hawaii's agricultural producers.