



**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
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JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
DIRECTOR

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Statement of
JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 23, 2024
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SB2291, SD1
RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports** SB2291, SD1, 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
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

February 23, 2024

To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Friday, February 23, 2024
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

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

Re: S.B. 2291 SD1 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. This measure will help create opportunities for expanding the workforce in areas of critical and future need.



Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
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Written Statement of
Wayne Inouye
Interim Director
Hawaii Technology Development Corporation
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 23, 2024
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room #211

In consideration of
SB2291 SD1
RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members of the Committee.

The Hawaii Technology Development Corporation (HTDC) supports SB2291 SB1 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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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means 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 the Agribusiness Development Corporation, Hawaii Technology Development Corporation, and Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority, helping them better serve the needs of farmers and agricultural businesses in Hawaii.

Towards that end, **Hawaii Farmers Union requests to have a representative included as a member of each 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



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February 23, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2291, SD1
RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:30 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, 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 2291, SD1, 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 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 provide support for the next generation of new farmers who are interested in developing the skills and knowledge needed to be successful agriculture businesses.

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



NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY



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

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 23, 2024
10:30 am
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

in consideration of

SB 2291, SD1 RELATING TO ADVISORY BOARDS.

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) is pleased to support SB 2291, SD1 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 300 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.