

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
HUI HO'OULU AINA MAHIAI

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

April 11, 2025
10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 141, SD1

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO COLLABORATE WITH
THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REGARDING GRANT
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:
The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 141, SD1, which urges the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with ADC on grant funding opportunities with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

ADC has a history of working closely with HDOA and USDA to pursue grant funding that supports the development of Hawaii's agricultural industry. These efforts included collaborative proposals aimed at bolstering local food

production, expanding agribusiness infrastructure, and providing technical support to farmers and ranchers. Unfortunately, federal funding for one such USDA grant initiative was recently canceled. Despite this setback, the experience reinforced the value of interagency collaboration and demonstrated the importance of aligning federal opportunities with local needs.

ADC remains committed to seeking new and innovative grant opportunities that advance our mission. We will continue to pursue partnerships and funding mechanisms that assist in economic development and provide direct benefits to Hawaii's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural entrepreneurs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your continued support of initiatives that strengthen Hawaii's agricultural sector.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



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SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025
10:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 141 SD1

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REGARDING GRANT FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR141 SD1 that urges the Department of Agriculture (Department) to collaborate with the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) regarding grant funding opportunities with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

This resolution enhances the current collaborations between the Department and ADC that was strengthened by the grant writer funded by the Ulupono Initiative for FY25. The Department is in strong support of the continued collaboration with ADC seeking opportunities with the USDA to benefit the farmers, ranchers, growers, exporters, value-added producers as well as commodity groups and agriculture associations statewide in support of increasing Hawaii's food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these resolutions.





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April 11, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SR 159

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO COLLABORATE WITH THE
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REGARDING GRANT FUNDING
OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
10:30 AM

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice-Chair Kusch, 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 SR 159, which urges the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with the Agribusiness Development Corporation regarding grant funding opportunities with the United States Department of Agriculture to provide more support for local agricultural organizations or entities and encourage the development of a sustainable agricultural industry in Hawai'i.

The decrease in direct Federal appropriations for agriculture has resulted in an increased dependence on grants. Many federal programs have become competitive grant programs.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Grant writing for USDA grants usually involves a very complex application process that can be difficult to navigate. This often deters farmers and ranchers from applying for grants. Well-trained and skilled grant specialists could assist farmers and ranchers in obtaining USDA and other grants by helping them apply for and fulfill their requirements.

Access to USDA grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, and increased employment opportunities for Hawai'i farmers and ranchers while helping to address Hawai'i's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

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