

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2025**  
**10:01 A.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1006, H.D.2, S.D.1**  
**RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1006, H.D. 2, S.D.1. This bill includes agricultural tourism in the definition of "enterprise" to authorize the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to financially support farming businesses engaged in agricultural tourism. It further transfers the Agricultural Development Division (ADD) of the Department of Agriculture (Department) to the ADC.

The Department acknowledges the original intent of this bill to support farming businesses by including agricultural tourism in the definition of "enterprise" and promoting a new revenue stream, however the Department opposes the proposed transfer of ADD to ADC, which emerged from a subject matter hearing on agricultural tourism based on a verbal amendment and without being thoroughly evaluated. We respectfully offer the following comments for consideration:

- The ADD must remain within the Department to maintain a singular focus on agriculture promotion statewide. Most USDA programs require that the partnering agency be state departments of agriculture which could be jeopardized if ADD



were transferred to ADC. In addition, remaining within the Department helps preserve synergies among its various divisions and staff, all with a singular focus on agriculture.

- This proposed transfer will cause a significant shift in the Department's existing organizational structure that will threaten the ability to support, assist and grow Hawaii's agricultural industry. Such a significant move warrants further evaluation, in-depth analysis, and meaningful inputs from the agricultural sector statewide, including commodity groups, industry associations, local government partners, independent farmers and the Board of Agriculture.
- As currently drafted, this measure does not provide a clear rationale or justification for the proposed transfer. Without a well-defined explanation of the anticipated benefits, synergies, or how transferring the ADD to the ADC would enhance the effectiveness of serving Hawai'i's agricultural sector, it is challenging to provide a comprehensive assessment.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
HUI HO'OU LU AINA MAHIAI

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
April 1, 2025  
10:01 a.m.  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

HOUSE BILL NO. 1006 HD2 SD1  
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) appreciates the opportunity to provide **comments** on HB 1006 HD2 SD1 which seeks to enhance agritourism by including agricultural tourism in the definition of “enterprise” to financially support farming businesses engaged in agricultural tourism. This important amendment will allow ADC to provide financial and strategic support to farming businesses engaged in agritourism, which is a growing and vital component of Hawaii’s agricultural economy. Including agritourism in the definition of “enterprise” is a necessary step to ensure that Hawaii’s farmers can fully participate in this dynamic and growing sector. By providing financial support and resources to agritourism ventures, ADC will strengthen Hawaii’s agricultural economy, enhance rural development, and promote sustainable tourism practices.

The Bill also moves the Agricultural Development Division from the Department of Agriculture to the ADC under the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT). The move may unify and strengthen the functions of the Agricultural Development Division with the ADC’s

focus of agricultural development and DBEDT's Research & Economic Analysis Division and Hawaii Tourism Authority. Working with the interdepartmental connections, the move may provide a more efficient and cohesive marketing approach for Hawaii's agricultural businesses. If the legislature so directs, DBEDT and ADC will review the resources available and determine and report any needs going forward. As always the ADC will work with DBEDT and DOA leadership to achieve the intent on this bill.

I respectfully provide comments to the Committee regarding this amendment.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.  
Mayor



Benson Medina  
Director

Dennis Lin  
Deputy Director

## County of Hawai'i

### DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

25 Aupuni Street, Room 1301 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-4252  
(808) 961-8366 • Fax (808) 935-1205  
E-mail: chresdev@co.hawaii.hi.us

March 31, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TUESDAY, April 1, 2025  
10:01 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

TESTIMONY ON HB 1006 HD2 SD1  
Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee,

I am Benson Medina, Director of the Department of Research and Development, County of Hawai'i. One of the agricultural objectives of this department is to "support research, development, control, and education that improves agricultural production, quality, resilience, and producer viability."

The County of Hawai'i provides written comments on HB1006 HD2 SD1, to include agricultural tourism in the definition of "enterprise" to authorize the Agribusiness Development Corporation to financially support farming businesses engaged in agricultural tourism and transfer the Agricultural Development Division of the Department of Agriculture to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Hawai'i County has 3,638 farms (NASS, 2022) and more than 20 farming associations that fall under and utilize services related to the Agricultural Development Division. We ask that any decision of whether to transfer this Division is made after further input from these stakeholders and thorough consideration of any potential impacts on producers and associations.

Additionally, we request legislators to take into consideration the statutes of each department and assess if transferring any of the programs that ADD administers to ADC would affect the ability of the state to administer these programs. Given that more than \$8 million in federal funds were administered through ADD in 2023-2024 ([HDOA, 2024](#)), it is important that producers do not lose opportunities because of a loss of capacity within the Department of Agriculture to receive federal funding opportunities. The Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program, a USDA program to build resilience in the middle of the food supply chain, states: "eligible entities are departments of agriculture in States and Territories," ([USDA](#)). Given the current economic disruptions affecting producers, please consider possible interruptions to crucial funding streams resulting from a transfer.

Thank you for championing agriculture in Hawai'i and for the opportunity to provide comments on HB1006 HD2 SD1.

Respectfully,

Benson Medina  
Director, Research and Development



**THE SENATE  
KA 'AHA KENEKOA  
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025**

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, April 1, 2025 10:01 AM  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street**

**RE: HB1006, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 350 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

**The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) Opposes House Bill 1006, HD2, SD1**

We do not see the need to have the rights, powers, functions, and duties of the Agricultural Development Division (ADD) of the Department of Agriculture be transferred. The Department of Agriculture, through ADD has been doing an admirable job utilizing USDA funds for the Specialty Crop Block Grants, microgrants and administering programs such as the Made in Hawai'i, Buy Local, and agriculture statistics.

Our industry has been assisted with the marketing and support of the department. We worry that the transfer of the department may lead to future problems with funding due to the current unstable climate of our country. This is not the time to be making changes that could hurt our members, agriculture and communities in Hawaii.



If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 2627, cell 960-1433 and email [eric@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:eric@greenpointnursery.com).

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eric S. Tanouye', is positioned above the printed name.

Eric S. Tanouye  
President  
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association



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

April 1, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1006, HD2, SD1**  
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference  
10:02 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 Section 1 of HB 1006, HD2, SD1**, 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, which represents an excellent revenue enhancement opportunity for farmers and ranchers and 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 sector 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 successfully developed a productive diversified sector from 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.

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 10:01AM  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB1006 HD2 SD1 Relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation**

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports House Bill 1006 House Draft 2 Senate Draft 1 (HB1006 HD2 SD1), which includes agricultural tourism in the definition of "enterprise" to authorize the Agribusiness Development Corporation to financially support farming businesses engaged in agricultural tourism. Transfers the Agricultural Development Division of the Department of Agriculture to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

HB1006 HD2 SD1 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for Travel & Tourism. This bill promotes policies that drive economic growth, enhance workforce opportunities, and improve the quality of life for Hawaii's residents.

Hawaii needs to strengthen its agricultural sector by balancing core farming operations with complementary activities like agricultural tourism. This measure clarifies that agritourism must remain a secondary income stream—capped at twenty-five percent—while at least seventy-five percent of farm activity remains dedicated to crop or livestock production. In addition, it transfers the agricultural development division from the department of agriculture to the agribusiness development corporation, centralizing oversight to streamline processes, better support local farmers, and enhance the State's food security goals.

By keeping farming as the primary operation, farmers can expand revenue potential through agritourism without diminishing overall production. Consolidating the agricultural development division under the agribusiness development corporation further promotes efficiency and resource allocation, strengthening Hawaii's farming industry and maintaining a stable economic foundation for the State's agricultural future. The Chamber supports this legislation because it nurtures a healthy balance between core production and agritourism, ultimately bolstering the resilience and competitiveness of Hawaii's agricultural sector.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

We respectfully ask to pass House Bill 1006 House Draft 2 Senate Draft 1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify



# MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**LATE**

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 211  
Tuesday, April 1, 2025 AT 10:01 A.M.

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

## **SUPPORT HB1006 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS HB1006 HD2 SD1** which includes agricultural tourism in the definition of "enterprise" to authorize the Agribusiness Development Corporation to financially support farming businesses engaged in agricultural tourism; and transfers the Agricultural Development Division of the Department of Agriculture to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

The Chamber recognizes that agricultural tourism (agtourism) offers a wide range of benefits for both farmers and local communities. For farmers, agtourism provides diversified income streams through activities such as farm tours, farm-to-table dinners, and agritainment, offering additional revenue beyond traditional agricultural sales. It also enhances brand awareness, as direct interaction with consumers allows farmers to build brand recognition and customer loyalty. Additionally, agtourism helps preserve agricultural heritage by educating the public about farming practices, food production, and rural lifestyles, fostering a deeper appreciation for agricultural traditions. By hosting events and workshops, farmers can further strengthen ties with their communities and build social capital.

For communities, agtourism stimulates economic growth by attracting visitors who spend on lodging, dining, and shopping. It creates jobs in hospitality, tourism, and agriculture-related sectors, and it can help revitalize rural areas by attracting tourists and promoting local businesses. Moreover, by generating income from non-agricultural activities, agtourism incentivizes farmers to keep their land in agricultural production, helping to preserve open spaces and natural landscapes.

In essence, agtourism offers a sustainable way for farmers to thrive, communities to prosper, and consumers to connect with the source of their food.

*We would like to request that the previous version of the bill be restored (HB1006 HD2.)*

For these reasons we **SUPPORT HB1006 HD2 SD1** and respectfully request its passage.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



**THE SENATE  
KA 'AHA KENEKOA  
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025**

**COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair**

**Tuesday, April 1, 2025 10:01 AM  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

**State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street**

**RE: HB1006, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

Aloha,

My name is Thong Teng Neo and am the current President of the Hawaii Tropical Flower Council (HTFC). HTFC is a statewide association of commodity organizations, ie: anthurium, orchid, protea, tropic flowers and foliages, blooming and foliage plants. The Hawai'i Tropical Flower Council directs promotion and supports research of Hawaii's tropical flower industry. Each of the state's major flower commodity groups (anthuriums, orchids, proteas, tropic flowers and foliages, blooming and foliage plants) is represented on the council's board of directors. HTFC serves as a non-profit Hawaii Corporation to promote for its commodity groups and other producers of tropical horticulture grown in the State of Hawaii.

We would like to express our opposition to HB1006, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

We question the need of moving the Agricultural Development Division (ADD) and have found the current administration of duties and responsibilities of ADD to be fair and adequate.

This department has supported our industry and agriculture and we would like to see it remain as is, especially as we are already seeing many changes to grants and funding from the federal level.

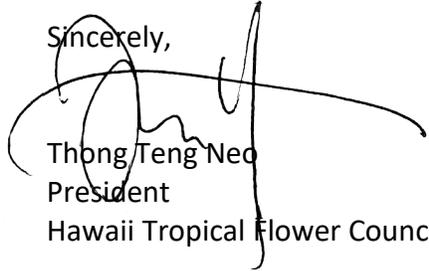
HTFC ▪ P.O. Box 4400 ▪ Hilo, HI 96720 ▪ [www.hawaiitropicalflowercouncil.org](http://www.hawaiitropicalflowercouncil.org)

*www.Hawaii's Flowers.com*  
Share the Aloha!



Thank you for taking the time to read this correspondence and if you have any questions, I can be reached at [neo@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:neo@greenpointnursery.com) or 808 959 3535 ext 2615.

Sincerely,



Thong Teng Neo  
President  
Hawaii Tropical Flower Council



THE SENATE  
KA 'AHA KENEKOA  
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Tuesday, April 1, 2025 10:01 AM  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**RE: HB1006, HD2, SD1 RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.**

Aloha,

My name is Jon Tanouye and I am the current President of the Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGO).

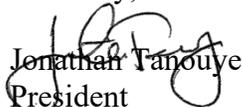
We would like to voice our opposition for **House Bill 1006, HD2, SD1**

OGO does not see a need to transfer the Agricultural Development Division (ADD) and believe the current status of the ADD division has been complimentary to our industry and marketing.

We would like to avoid any changes that could turn out to be detrimental to our industry, agriculture and community.

If you have any other questions, you may contact me to discuss and I can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 or via email at [jon@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:jon@greenpointnursery.com).

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan Tanouye  
President

Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGO)

**HB-1006-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2025 8:13:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2025 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good idea to help farmers develop an additional source of income. Mahalo!



**RE: Strong Opposition to HB1006 HD2 SD01 with comments**  
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

The Synergistic Hawai'i Agriculture Council (SHAC) consortium represents 1,500 agribusinesses, from growers to processors and shippers, stretching across the State.

We stand strongly opposed to the language inserted in the SD1 draft, which aims to move the Agricultural Development Division (ADD) from the Department of Agriculture to ADC.

**Under Federal Farm Bill statutory language, some of the funding ADD receives can ONLY be provided to a State Department of Agriculture.** This bill would cut Hawaii off from receiving certain Federal funds.

While not the intent of the bill, the end result of the ADD movement would cause a loss of funding for multiple market development activities that directly benefit hundreds of growers in the state. We simply cannot afford that loss at this moment.

SHAC has no issue with the agritourism language. Unfortunately, it is attached to a poison pill which is highly detrimental to the agricultural industry as a whole.

Please vote No. Alternatively, return the language to the HD2 version.

Mahalo nui loa for voting against the SD1 language in this bill.

Suzanne Shriner  
Administrator