

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

April 15, 2025

1:15 p.m.

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 77 HD1

REQUESTING THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO
DESIGNATE KUNIA, LEILEHUA PLATEAU, AND POAMOHO AS THE
CENTRAL OAHU AGRICULTURAL CORRIDOR AND TO ESTABLISH A LIST
PRIORITIZING POTENTIAL AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS THAT WOULD PROVIDE THE MOST VALUE TO
THE STATE.

Chairperson DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of House Concurrent Resolution 77, HD1, requesting the Agribusiness Development Corporation to designate Kunia, Leilehua plateau, and Poamoho as the Central Oahu agricultural corridor and to establish a list prioritizing potential agricultural infrastructure improvement projects that would provide the most value to the state.

Some of Hawaii's largest diversified farmers operate on the central plain of Oahu. Investing in the region's aging plantation era infrastructure is of critical

importance not only because of the impact on the production of crops, but also because of the economic impact on the community. Making these investments will ensure the infrastructure can support agriculture production for centuries to come.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
TOURISM**

TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025
1:15 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 225

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 77, HOUSE DRAFT 1
REQUESTING THE AGRBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO
DESIGNATE KUNIA, LEILEHUA PLATEAU, AND POAMOHO AS THE CENTRAL
OAHU AGRICULTURAL CORRIDOR AND TO ESTABLISH A LIST PRIORITIZING
POTENTIAL AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
THAT WOULD PROVIDE THE MOST VALUE TO THE STATE.**

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Concurrent Resolution No. 77, HD1. This resolution requests the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to designate Kunia, Leilehua Plateau, and Poamoho as the Central Oahu Agricultural Corridor and to establish a list prioritizing potential agricultural infrastructure improvement projects that would provide the most value to the State. This resolution also requests the Department of Transportation to consider traffic signage for speed limits and "no passing" zones. The Department supports the concepts expressed in this resolution and otherwise defers to the ADC.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
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HCR77hd1, Requesting The Agribusiness Development Corporation To Designate Kunia, Leilehua Plateau, and Poamoho As The Central Oahu Agricultural Corridor And To Establish A List Prioritizing Potential Agricultural Infrastructure Improvement Projects That Would Provide The Most Value To The State

Senate EDT Hearing – 1:15 PM
Tuesday, April 15, 2025

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate EDT Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. Our family farms grow approximately 1 million pounds of import replacement produce each week. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have also served as an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

This measure acknowledges the importance of Central Oahu's most productive agricultural lands by requesting the designation of Kunia, Leilehua Plateau, and Poamoho as the Central Oahu Agricultural Corridor. Further, the measure acknowledges the need for state and county agencies to work towards preserving it amongst competing needs for land. Assessment and recommendations for a prioritized list of Infrastructure improvements for these agricultural lands will enhance Hawaii's increased capacity for food security.

Farm workers and farmers need safe roadway entrances and exits to their farms. Traffic calming recommendations and enforcement of 35 miles per hour speed limits, no-pass zones, and other methods must be a priority to protect farmers and agricultural workers.

Your support of this measure is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

LATE

HCR-77-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/15/2025 7:27:01 AM

Testimony for EDT on 4/15/2025 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Miyamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

LATE

HCR-77-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/15/2025 7:19:27 AM

Testimony for EDT on 4/15/2025 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie A Whalen	Testifying for Kunia village Title Holding Corporation	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and committee members

Please forgive me for being late with this testimony and thank you for hearing this resolution.

The Corridor:

My belief: IAL has not worked. It mainly was focused on large landowners and their land. Land is only one of many agricultural needs for a successful farm. So while it is one of the components for successful agriculture by itself it is insufficient.

Patching water systems here and there are nice but again alone insufficient. Labor housing unaddressed; marketing/transportation patchy or not addressed.

By chance the Oahu-Kunia-Poamoho/Waialua area are prime as a pilot/demonstration for this concept. This corridor already has:

1. Small, medium and large farmers; some land already preserved for agriculture;
1. Water sustainability via the Waiahole ditch, and 2 wastewater treatment plants producing water for irrigation;
1. Labor housing with process in place to build more;
1. Marketing and transportation-local company promising both at no cost;
1. Warehouse space for processing/value added;
1. Research and technology transfer facilities for support.

The other counties could find their own corridors to support.

Supporting the corridor concept to develop and produce legislation to maximize incentives for these areas maybe the final attempt to develop an agricultural industry in the state. Efforts have been on-going since the 1970s and where are we today?

Thank you again for hearing this resolution and please consider passing it. It is not requesting funding just support of the concept as it can be worked on and possible suggest legislation supporting and incentivizing this concept.

Mahalo

stevie

HCR-77-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2025 10:12:18 AM

Testimony for EDT on 4/15/2025 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Mae Buscemi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Day All,

I beleive it is critical to the State of Hawaii to provide resources to allow the population to feed itself. We must not be dependent on the continental United States or any foreign power.

Further this will open up possible jobs that would allow more of our keiki to stay at home and have a secure job. Taking care of the land and the people is something to be proud of.

Sincerely,,

Donna Buscemi

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