

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
TOURISM AND AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025  
1:01 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 141 / SENATE RESOLUTION 159**

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

Chairs DeCoite and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Wakai and Richards and Members of the  
Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SCR141 / SR 159 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).

These resolutions enhance 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.



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 COMMITTEES ON  
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT  
AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

March 12, 2025  
1:01 p.m.  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 141/SENATE RESOLUTION 159

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

Chairs Gabbard and Decoite, Vice Chairs Richards and Wakai, and Members of  
the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Concurrent  
Resolution 141 & Senate Resolution 159, urging the Department of Agriculture  
(HDOA) to collaborate with the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC)  
regarding grant funding opportunities with the United States Department of  
Agriculture.

. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



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March 18, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

**TESTIMONY ON SCR 141 / 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 229 & Videoconference  
1:01 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and DeCoite, Vice-Chairs Richards and Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

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 SCR 141 / 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.