JOSH GREEN, M.D. GOVERNOR

> SYLVIA LUKE LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAI'I 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 & TOURISM

March 25, 2025 1:00 p.m. Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 90/SENATE RESOLUTION 73

REQUESTING THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ROUTINE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF THE KOHALA DITCH.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in <u>support</u> of the intent of Senate Concurrent Resolution 90 & Senate Resolution 73, requesting the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to assume responsibility for the routine maintenance and repair of the Kohala ditch. The Kohala ranchers and farmers depend on water from this system. Investing in the region's aging plantation era infrastructure is of critical importance not only because of the impact on the production of livestock and 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.