# **SB 715** Testimony



State of Hawaii DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 1428 South King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512 Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613 RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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# TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND WATER AND LAND

> JANUARY 31, 2013 2:45 P.M. ROOM 229

# SENATE BILL NO. 715 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Nishihara and Solomon, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 715. The purpose of this bill is to allow the department of agriculture (department) to enter into leases with the agribusiness development corporation. The department supports the intent of this bill with the following changes.

Replace page 4, proposed section (e) with this language: (e) Sections 8(b)(2) and 8(b)(5) shall not apply to any disposition of non-agricultural park lands leased or otherwise disposed of by the department to the agribusiness development corporation; provided that any transfer, assignment, or other disposition of any interest of a non-agricultural park land lease, excluding a security interest, by the agribusiness development corporation, shall be treated as a transfer of the non-agricultural park land lease and shall be subject to the approval of the board and to reasonable terms and conditions, consistent with this chapter or rules of the board that the board may deem necessary; also provided that any disposition of lands or facilities to the agribusiness



TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND WATER AND LAND SENATE BILL NO. 715 PAGE 2



development corporation shall be for the purpose of agricultural or aquacultural activities, or shall otherwise promote the purpose established in chapter 163D. The agribusiness development corporation shall not attempt to nor make deals to sell any leased non-agricultural park land.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE Governor

> STATE OF HAWAII AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION 235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205 Honolulu, HI 96813 Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

### BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND WATER AND LAND

Thursday, January 31, 2013 2:45 p.m. Conference Room 229

## SENATE BILL NO. 715 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairpersons Nishihara and Solomon and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 715. The purpose of this bill is to allow the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to negotiate and enter into leases with the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). ADC supports the proposed bill.

ADC's mission is to create a vehicle and process to make optimal use of agricultural assets such as land and infrastructure. This bill seeks to allow DOA to lease lands under its control to ADC for the purpose of administering a comprehensive and dynamic agribusiness development program.

ADC is prepared to cooperate with DOA to provide options for farmers to access land, help create jobs in the agricultural industry, and reduce our state's dependence on imported foods.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JAMES J. NAKATANI Executive Director