

# **SCR144**

**REQUESTING THE BOARD OF  
AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO ADOPT  
DEFINITIONS FOR SMALL AND  
LARGE FARMS.**

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

March 31, 2015  
3:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 144  
and  
SENATE RESOLUTION 87  
REQUESTING THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO ADOPT DEFINITIONS  
FOR SMALL AND LARGE FARMS**

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 144 and Senate Resolution 87 requesting the Board of Agriculture and the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors to adopt definitions for small and large farms to be able to measure changes in agricultural diversity. The resolutions define small and larger farms based on whether the farm owner is directly managing or has hired management for daily operations, and the farm owner works or does not work on the farm. The resolutions also request the Board of Agriculture to use these definitions of small and large farms for all administrative actions that require definition of size of a farm. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of the resolutions and will take these requests into consideration as they may apply to the Department functions; however, the Department would like to point out the more pressing need to define bona fide agriculture as outlined in Senate Bill 1073, part of the Administration's package.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these resolutions.



**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



**JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
Executive Director

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 COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

**Tuesday, March 31, 2015  
3:00 P.M.**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 144  
REQUESTING THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRIBUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS TO ADOPT  
DEFINITIONS FOR SMALL AND LARGE FARMS.**

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) supports the intent of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 144 which request the Board of Agriculture (“BOA”) and the Agribusiness Development Corporation Board of Directors (“ADC Board”) to adopt definitions for small and large farms.

Defining what’s considered a small and large farm is a highly debatable subject because all farming isn’t created equally. For example, a 100-acre plant nursery can generate more income than a 100-acre vegetable farm. Although the size of the farms are identical, the amount of income a farmer can make per acre may vary.

ADC views small farmers, or “truck farmers”, as farmers who don’t own land and farms on 100 acres or less. On the Galbraith land, ADC will have at any given time several small farms that range from 5-acre to 100-acre operations. Rough estimates suggest that a vegetable farmer can generate on average \$25,000 to \$30,000 per acre. Based on these estimates, a small farm on the Galbraith land may generate anywhere from \$125,000 to \$300,000 annually. Although the United States Department of Agriculture’s definitions of a small and large farmer are not perfect, it is difficult to determine what the impact will be, if any, by changing these definitions.

In closing, ADC supports differentiating between Hawaii’s farms and foreign farms because it will not only allow the State to measure changes in agricultural diversity, it will help us focus our effort on the most valuable resource, the farmer. However, it is unclear how adopting Hawaii-specific definitions will impact these efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC  
PO BOX 27  
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759  
(808) 688-2892**

SCR 144/SR87, Requesting the Board of Agriculture and Agribusiness Development  
Corporation Board of Directors to Adopt Definitions for Small and Large Farms  
Senate AGL Hearing  
Tuesday, March 31, 2015 – 3:00 pm  
Room 414

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs

Position: Support

Chair Ruderman and Members of the Senate AGL Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC, which is part of our family-run business of farms on Oahu and Molokai, under the administrative umbrella of Sugarland Growers, Inc. We have more than 35 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu.

We support the need for clearer definition of small and large farms in Hawaii and support the definitions offered in SCR 144/SR87 whenever it is applicable. Defining small and large farms by how it is operated rather than by acreage or amount of revenue seems to be a better indicator of Hawaii's agricultural community.

I can be reached at 688-2892 if there are any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR144 on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM  
**Date:** Monday, March 30, 2015 8:43:23 AM

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**SCR144**

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 31, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
penny levin	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support the intent of this resolution. Creating a Hawaii-specific definition for small farms is important to increasing the vitality and economic feasibility of small commercial and subsistence growers. However, I would urge the legislature to consider that small farms and large farms in Hawaii are a matter of scale. The definition should be more indepth than working on the farm and a limit of \$350,000. Per the USDA, a small farm is also defined as 500 acres or less which is a large farm by Hawaii standards, whereas a small farm is more likely to be 50 acres or less in the vegetable, fruit, flower produce arena and a small ranch under 100 acres.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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