

SB 2800

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

February 3, 2016
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 2800
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2800 which establishes a grant program within Chapter 163D, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The Department supports this administration bill.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation serves as the development arm of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and their ability to provide grants will enhance capabilities to expand Hawaii's agricultural economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
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**TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 3, 2016
2:45 p.m.

**SENATE BILL NO. 2800
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) strongly supports Senate Bill No. 2800 which establishes a grant program within Chapter 163D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to support Hawaii’s farms and emerging agribusiness operations.

The ADC is an agency attached to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture tasked with transitioning former plantation lands and water systems for diversified agriculture and providing solutions to certain bottleneck issues facing today’s agriculture industry.

Establishing a grant program under 163D HRS will give ADC the ability to provide capital to farmers and agribusiness operations for critical agriculture-related improvements such as modernizing and expanding existing agricultural operations, which includes equipment modernization and/or replacement,

infrastructure repairs, research and development of new markets and products, and technical training and educational services.

The ability to issue grants will not only allow the ADC to streamline its operations, it will: 1) provide the means to assist local farming operations; 2) make investments to strengthen and diversify Hawaii's agricultural; and 3) attract and retain businesses. In addition to providing ADC with another tool to help move agriculture forward, the ability to issue grants may help foster partnerships to facilitate ADC projects.

In regard to Section 1, subsection (e) on page 3, line 15, the ADC already has a self-imposed limit due to its limited amount of funds and cannot issue a grant it cannot sustain. Furthermore, a limit on the grant amount may limit or deter certain grant proposals. For these reason, the ADC request the removal of this provision to provide the grant program with more flexibility. We appreciate your consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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February 3, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2800
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 224
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports SB 2800 establishes an Agribusiness Development Corporation grant program.

ADC was initiated by the agricultural industry as the closure of plantations escalated and there was a need to identify mechanisms that could quickly place farmers on lands that were destined to be idle.

HFB believes that ADC has a tremendous amount of power and has a responsibility in continuing to assist Hawaii's transition from plantation agriculture to smaller diversified agricultural operations.

Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are finding it difficult to secure the financial support necessary to build capacity. Access to ADC grants can result in increased capacity, new business opportunities, increase employment opportunities and address Hawaii's goals of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2800 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:41:01 PM

SB2800

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Kia Paul	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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