

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

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

**JANUARY 30, 2024
1:01 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2767
RELATING TO THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2767. The bill clarifies that the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority's (NELHA) duties include supporting aquaculture. The Department supports this bill.

While NELHA currently manages aquaculture tenants and supports aquaculture industry development, this policy could change depending on economic or political shifts. The proposed language would create an explicit relationship with aquaculture and signal to the industry that NELHA will continue to support aquaculture into the future.

As such, the Department supports this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY



An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

Statement of
Gregory P. Barbour
Executive Director

Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
and
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Tuesday, January 30, 2024
1:01 pm

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

in consideration of

SB 2767
RELATING TO THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY.

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) is pleased to support SB 2767 which clarifies NELHA's role in aquaculture and the businesses here at our ocean science and technology park in Kona. NELHA's mission has been evolving over the past 50 years this measure will assist in explaining our role in supporting economic development.

Our enabling legislation as contained in Section 227D-2 HRS provides broad powers for the purpose of "ocean-related research, technology, and commercialization" and businesses have had much success. This is due to our comparative advantage resulting from the vast amounts of pristine nutrient rich ocean water that we pump ashore; ocean temperature differential due to the close proximity of deep ocean water; and, a climate optimal for sea

water aquaculture due to the high solar insolation. As such, of the over 50 business at NELHA approximately 40 percent could be considered aquaculture related and all rely on seawater for their livelihood.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



WENDY L. GADY
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 205
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Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

**TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM
and
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Tuesday, January 30, 2024
1:01 p.m.
Conference Room 229
& Videoconference**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2767
RELATING TO THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY
OF HAWAII AUTHORITY**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2767 relating to
the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA). The Agribusiness
Development Corporation (ADC) supports this measure, which clarifies that
NELHA's duties include supporting aquaculture.

NELHA has developed significant infrastructure that is conducive to
promoting aquaculture. They have demonstrated their ability to collaborate and
inject capital into our state's economy. ADC is currently working with NELHA

and the Hawaii Technology Development Corporation on entering into a memorandum of agreement to exploit the natural synergy between the sister agencies to pursue future aquaculture projects.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



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January 30, 2024

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

TESTIMONY ON SB 2767
RELATING TO THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference
1:01 PM

Aloha Chairs DeCoite and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Wakai and Richards, 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 SB 2767, which clarifies that the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority's duties include supporting aquaculture.

Hawai'i's aquaculture industry farm gate value is \$80,000,000, the second-highest contribution to the economy in diversified agriculture. Hawai'i's favorable climate and geography allow for inherent advantages benefitting aquaculture production.

The Legislature acknowledged the importance of Hawai'i's aquaculture industry by revitalizing the Aquaculture Development Program through Act 63, SLH 2019. However, more investment and research into the aquaculture industry is needed, including investment and research into different types of aquaculture, aquaculture system optimization, and economic implications of various methods of aquaculture production.

NELHA is an exceptional facility that features an ideal climate, access to cold deep-ocean water and warm surface water, and the opportunity to interact with experts in aquaculture biology, engineering, and finance. Successful NELHA businesses will help to grow Hawai'i's aquaculture industry, bringing in investment, producing high-quality seafood, and increasing employment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



KOWA PREMIUM FOODS HAWAII CORPORATION
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01/29/2024

TO: Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair; and Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair; and Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards III, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)

Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 1:01 p.m.; State Capitol Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 2767 RELATING TO NELHA – Clarifies that NELHA duties include supporting aquaculture

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

Kowa Premium Foods Hawaii strongly supports SB 2767 Relating to NELHA. Kowa Premium Foods Hawaii has owned and operated Big Island Abalone since January 2018. Big Island Abalone was an early tenant of NELHA and has been an anchor tenant for over 20 years. Kowa has expanded the operation to include tours, food wagon and DIY BBQ area. Future expansion is in the planning stages. Kowa now employs 43 people including our retail operation in Honolulu. Aquaculture is the anchor of our present and future ventures. NELHA's support of our aquaculture operation is essential to the future of our business.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Satoshi Yoshida

COO

Kowa Premium Foods Hawaii

satoshi_y@bigislandabalone.com



KOWA PREMIUM FOODS HAWAII CORPORATION

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January 29, 2024

TO: Senator Lynn DeCoite, Chair; and Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy, Economic Development and Tourism

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair; and Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards III,
Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)

Tuesday, January 30, 2024, 1:01 p.m.; State Capitol Conference Room 229
& Videoconference

**RE:In STRONG SUPPORT for SENATE BILL 2767 RELATING TO
NELHA – Clarifies that NELHA duties include supporting aquaculture**

Aloha Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and
Members of the Committees,

As a representative for our company, I strongly support SB 2767, which is related to NELHA. It is documented that ancient Hawaiians sustained themselves through an extensive, sustainable, and ecocentric "aquaculture" practice. Maintaining a population of millions of individuals over tens of generations through several millennia and not ever by creating mountains of single-use waste, toxically polluting their near-shore waters, or desertifying the land. I believe the Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority's duties should be amended to include terminology reflecting the indigenous people's ancient practice of sustainably cultivating aquatic life on these islands: aquaculture.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scottie Arakaki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Scottie "Ame" Arakaki
Co-Founder, Chair, and CEO
EcoPonicX, Inc.
EcoPonicX.com
[808-725-7168](tel:8087257168)

SB-2767

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 10:52:00 PM

Testimony for EET on 1/30/2024 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Testifying for Hawaii Young Republicans	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

It is absolutely crucial we support the sustainable development of aquaculture in Hawaii. Providing additional economic diversification and increased food system resiliency are very important. All of us stand to benefit. Approve this bill!