

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 12 2025RE: S.B. No. 1003
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Economic Development and Tourism, to which was referred S.B. No. 1003 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to purchase a land parcel in Kau for agricultural development.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Synergistic Hawai'i Agriculture Council; Ka'u Coffee Growers Cooperative; United Ka'u Farmers Cooperative; Island Harvest Inc.; Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association; Ka'u Ocean Vista Coffee Estate; Rusty's Hawaiian, Isla Custom Coffees; and three individuals.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Agribusiness Development Corporation and Hawai'i Farm Bureau.

Your Committee finds that Kau, on Hawaii island, has long been a cornerstone of the State's agricultural heritage, successfully diversifying farming and agricultural activities in the twenty-first century. A key region for agricultural stability, Kau has the potential to increase Hawaii's food security and resiliency. Your Committee believes that there is a



current disparity in support to local farmers and agricultural workers, particularly in state assistance to Kau. This state assistance can be best actualized through the ADC, under the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, due to their clear mandate of providing key support, resources, and initiatives to local farmers throughout the State. This measure will bolster Kau by authorizing the issuance of general obligation funds for the ADC to purchase agricultural land in Kau to provide critical support to farms in the region.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying the name of the fee owner of the property to be acquired by ADC;
- (2) Inserting a blank general obligation bonds issuance and appropriation amount;
- (3) Inserting an effective date of July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Your Committee notes that this measure, as amended, contains an unspecified general obligation bonds issuance and appropriation amount. Should your Committee on Ways and Means choose to deliberate on this measure, your Committee respectfully requests that it consider inserting an amount of \$2,931,960.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Economic Development and Tourism that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1003, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1003, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Economic
Development and Tourism,

Lynn DeCoite

LYNN DECOITE, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Economic Development and Tourism
EDT

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 1003	Committee Referral: EDT, WAM	Date: 1-30-25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
DECOITE, Lynn (C)	✓			
WAKAI, Glenn (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol				✓
KIM, Donna Mercado	✓			
AWA, Brenton				✓
TOTAL	3	0	0	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes