

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025
2:15 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

SENATE BILL NO. 1657 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 1657 SD2 HD1 that authorizes the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to acquire by condemnation any real property or interest in real property, under certain conditions and prohibits any real property acquired by the Corporation by condemnation from subsequently being transferred or taken for any other public use without the Corporation's consent. The Department of Agriculture (Department) supports this bill.

This bill provides ADC another way to acquire lands and irrigation structures to allow farmers and ranchers to increase the quantity of food produced in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
HUI HO'OULU AINA MAHIAI

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
March 18, 2025
2:15 p.m.
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

SENATE BILL NO. 1657 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

ChairTarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 1657 SD2 HD1 relating to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). ADC supports this measure, which authorizes it to acquire by condemnation any real property or interest in real property for the purposes of Chapter 163D, HRS. This bill also requires ADC to make a determination that the property is necessary for the corporation's immediate or future use and prohibits real property acquired by condemnation from being subsequently transferred or taken for any other public use without the consent of ADC.

Land and water are the basis for agriculture and is a necessary component for the industry to achieve thrivability. ADC supports the idea of acquiring property through the condemnation process pursuant to Chapter 101, HRS because it will provide another tool to promote agriculture and economic

development. Properties that may be acquired by ADC through condemnation include vacant farmland, irrigation infrastructure, and facilities that could potentially foster agricultural development for the public's benefit.

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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March 18, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1657, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
2:15 PM

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

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 1657, SD2, HD1, which authorizes the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) to acquire real property through condemnation for agricultural purposes. Ensuring that agricultural lands remain dedicated to farming and are not lost to non-agricultural uses is essential for Hawai'i's long-term food security and agricultural sustainability.

ADC was established to facilitate the transition of Hawai'i's agricultural industry from plantation agriculture to diversified farming. Over the years, ADC has played a key role in managing and developing agricultural lands, supporting infrastructure improvements, and working to ensure that land and water resources are available for farmers and ranchers. However, with increasing pressures from urbanization and competing land uses, securing land for agricultural purposes has become more challenging.

Providing ADC with an additional tool to protect and expand agricultural land holdings by allowing the corporation to acquire real property through condemnation when necessary will help prevent agricultural lands from being sold for non-agricultural development and ensure they remain available for agricultural production. Any land acquisitions made under this authority must align with the state's broader agricultural goals. It is important to prioritize lands suitable for diversified agriculture, ensure that acquired lands are actively farmed, and provide long-term, affordable leases to bona fide farmers. Water resources must also be secured to support productive farming operations.

With the growing need to increase agricultural self-sufficiency and ensure that farmlands remain dedicated to farming, this measure represents an important step in safeguarding Hawai'i's agricultural future. We urge the committee to pass this bill to support the preservation and expansion of agricultural lands in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.