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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Ka'ū, on Hawai'i  
2 island, has long been a cornerstone of the State's agricultural  
3 heritage. Following the decline of the region's large-scale  
4 sugar plantations in the 1990s, Ka'ū successfully transitioned to  
5 a diverse range of agricultural enterprises, including fruit and  
6 vegetable farming, coffee cultivation, macadamia nut production,  
7 and livestock grazing.

8       The legislature further finds that Ka'ū's fertile lands,  
9 coupled with its farmers' resilience and adaptability, uniquely  
10 position the region to enhance the State's agricultural  
11 resilience and contribute meaningfully to the State's food  
12 security. Despite these strengths, Ka'ū's steadfast independence  
13 and self-reliance have often led to the region being overlooked  
14 for state assistance in farming initiatives.

15       The legislature also finds that to address this disparity  
16 and support local farmers, it is necessary to acquire  
17 agricultural land in Ka'ū. Doing so will strengthen local



1 farming operations, promote sustainable agriculture, and advance  
2 the objectives of the agribusiness development corporation.

3 The legislature further finds that the agribusiness  
4 development corporation's mission is to acquire and manage, in  
5 partnership with farmers, ranchers, and aquaculture groups,  
6 selected high-value lands, water systems, and infrastructure for  
7 commercial agricultural use and to direct research into areas  
8 that will lead to the development of new crops, markets, and  
9 lower production costs.

10 The legislature believes that, given the unique history of  
11 the community of Ka'ū, robust community outreach and legislative  
12 oversight are critical to ensuring that the community's needs  
13 and aspirations are fully considered. Therefore, engaging the  
14 community in discussions regarding the role of the agribusiness  
15 development corporation will help identify the specific types of  
16 support, resources, and initiatives that align with the goals of  
17 local farmers and uphold the values of the region.

18 The legislature also finds that the agribusiness  
19 development corporation is uniquely equipped to provide critical  
20 support to farmers in the region through land leasing options,  
21 increased agricultural production, access to strategic



1 resources, workforce development, infrastructure enhancements,  
2 land preservation, and overall economic growth, while ensuring  
3 that local lands remain in local hands by preventing acquisition  
4 by foreign buyers.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the  
6 issuance of general obligations bonds and appropriate funds for  
7 the agribusiness development corporation to purchase a parcel of  
8 land located in Ka'ū for agricultural development identified as  
9 tax map key: (3) 9-6-5:63.

10 SECTION 2. The director of finance is authorized to issue  
11 general obligation bonds in the sum of \$ or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary and the same sum or so much thereof  
13 as may be necessary is appropriated for fiscal year 2025-2026  
14 for the purpose of financing the purchase by the agribusiness  
15 development corporation of a parcel of land identified as tax  
16 map key: (3) 9-6-5:63, owned by the Ellis Jacob Hester Trust,  
17 for agricultural development.

18 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated in section 2 of this Act  
19 shall be expended by the agribusiness development corporation  
20 for the purposes of this Act.



1       SECTION 4. The appropriation made for the capital  
2 improvement project authorized by this Act shall not lapse at  
3 the end of the fiscal biennium for which the appropriation is  
4 made; provided that all moneys from the appropriation  
5 unencumbered as of June 30, 2028, shall lapse as of that date.

6       SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

ADC; Kau; GO Bonds; Appropriation

**Description:**

Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for the Agribusiness Development Corporation to purchase a land parcel in Kau on the county of Hawaii for agricultural development. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

