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Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports SB2407.**

Authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) for purchasing agricultural parcels promotes both the expansion and protection of valuable agricultural lands in Hawaii. The acquisition of these lands will enable the development of vital agricultural projects, fostering innovation and growth in the agricultural sector.

Furthermore, the establishment of a full-time Hawaii Island Property Manager position within the ADC is a strategic move to ensure effective management and oversight of these agricultural assets. With dedicated personnel overseeing property activities, there will be enhanced intra-agency coordination and improved support for local farmers.

Combining financial investment in land acquisition with strategic management is a comprehensive and necessary approach to agricultural development.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
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March 20, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2407, SD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LAND

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice-Chair Kusch, 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 2407, SD2, which establishes and appropriates funding for one full-time Hawai'i Island property manager position within the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

Access to well-managed agricultural land remains one of the most significant challenges facing farmers and ranchers in Hawai'i. While securing land is important, effective on-the-ground management is just as critical to ensuring those lands are productive, accessible, and maintained for agricultural use.

ADC plays an important role in managing State agricultural lands and supporting agricultural development. Establishing a dedicated Hawai'i Island property manager will help improve oversight, responsiveness, and coordination with farmers, ensuring that ADC-managed lands are better utilized and maintained.

This position will help address day-to-day operational needs, support tenants, and improve the overall effectiveness of ADC's land management efforts on Hawai'i Island.

HFB appreciates the Legislature's continued support for strengthening agricultural infrastructure and respectfully urges passage of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Date of Hearing: 20 March, 2026

To: Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Subject: **SB2407 SD2**, Relating to Agricultural Land

Aloha,

Hawai'i Food+ Policy supports SB2407 SD2 which, as amended by the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, appropriates an unspecified amount for the establishment of one full time-equivalent (1.0 FTE) Hawai'i island property manager position within the agribusiness development corporation (ADC) for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

Amendments removed the need to define the public purpose of the land which had been sought to be purchased and alleviates the \$1,000,000 appropriation consideration at this point in time. Removing the sections relating to the land acquisition we are now left with determining the appropriation from the general revenues for the establishment of one full time-equivalent (1.0 FTE) position which in initial versions of the bill were at \$200,000 for the fiscal year 2026-2027.

Hawai'i Food+ Policy would like to suggest that the committee works to establish the duties and description of this proposed role in this upcoming hearing. We would also like to suggest inquiry into the current pay for other roles within the ADC doing similar tasks as the role this legislation would establish. This would allow an appropriate appropriation for the position to be established.

We support SB2407 SD2 and the current intent of this amended legislation. We also urge the committee to flesh out the specifics of the position's duties. Determining specifics of the role's pay could be established in the next committee, House Committee on Finance, should this committee see this legislation appropriate to pass.

Mahalo,

Brandon Kinard & the Food+ Policy Team

#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

LATE

SB-2407-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/19/2026 10:30:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emma Waters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Writing in strong support of this bill that would establish a needed Hawaii Island position.
Mahalo.