



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of  
**HB2459, HD2**  
**RELATING TO THE FOOD AND PRODUCT INNOVATION NETWORK.**

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) **strongly supports** HB2459, HD2.

This measure strengthens the statutory framework for the Food and Product Innovation Network (FPIN) and directly advances Hawai'i's long-term economic diversification strategy outlined in Redesigning Hawai'i's Economy for Resilience.

Hawai'i's economy remains highly concentrated and vulnerable to external shocks. DBEDT's statewide strategy calls for a structural shift toward value-added manufacturing, export-oriented growth, workforce alignment, and regional production hubs that reduce import dependence and increase economic resilience.

HB2459, HD2, provides the operational structure needed to move FPIN from a set of facilities into a coordinated statewide economic system.

DBEDT's framework for economic resilience integrates four core pillars:

- 1) Curriculum-to-career pathways
- 2) Infrastructure and facilities
- 3) Policy alignment, and
- 4) Layered incentives.

HB2459, HD2, directly advances all four.

### 1. Infrastructure & Facilities → From Pilot to Commercial Scale

DBEDT's strategy identifies a major gap between early-stage production and commercial-scale manufacturing, the "valley of death" where businesses fail due to lack of compliant facilities, equipment, and support systems. FPIN sites are designed to bridge this gap.

HB2459, HD2, strengthens this role by requiring:

- Integrated food safety and regulatory frameworks
- Technical assistance for labeling, testing, and certification
- Coordination with DOH, CTAHR, and regulatory agencies

This ensures FPIN facilities are not just kitchens, but industry-ready commercialization platforms.

### 2. Workforce Alignment - Embedding Compliance and Industry Skills

DBEDT's resilience model connects education, training, and industry through cradle-to-career pathways. HB2459 HD2 embeds regulatory compliance and food safety education into workforce programs offered through the network.

This links FPIN to:

- CTE programs
- Community college pathways
- Industry-recognized credentials, and
- Strengthens workforce readiness in value-added food manufacturing – a priority sector for diversification.

### 3. Export & Market Access – Shifting Hawai'i Toward Value-Add Growth

DBEDT's strategy emphasizes that future growth must come from export-oriented value-added sectors, not just local consumption.

HB2459, HD2, requires ADC to develop a coordinated market access strategy with:

- Transportation
- Tourism
- Airlines and harbors
- Logistics providers

This connects production to distribution, tourism channels, and international markets – turning Hawai'i-made food products into economic drivers beyond our shores.

#### 4. Policy Alignment & Branding – Maximizing Hawai'i's Competitive Advantage

The bill aligns and harmonizes “Hawai'i Made” and “Hawai'i Grown” branding initiatives. DBEDT's economic framework highlights Hawai'i's brand as a core export advantage; fragmentation weakens its value.

Brand alignment:

- Reduces duplication
- Improves market clarity
- Increases producer returns, and
- Supports the State's mandate to grow value-added production and exports.

#### 5. Performance Accountability – Results-Based Governance

HB2459, HD2, establishes measurable performance indicators including:

- Businesses graduating to commercial operations
- Growth in value-added output
- Export expansion
- Workforce credentials
- Contributions to food security
- Leveraged private and federal funds

This mirrors DBEDT's shift toward data-driven, outcome-based economic development, ensuring FPIN delivers measurable economic impact.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2459 HD2  
RELATING TO THE FOOD AND PRODUCT INNOVATION NETWORK**

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS TODD, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 03/04/2026, 10:00 am, 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) requests that this measure be  
2 considered so long as it does not supplant the priorities and requests outlined in the Governor’s  
3 executive budget request.

4 **Department Position:** The Department supports HB2459 HD2.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Health Services Division, Food and Drug Branch  
6 (“EHSD-FDB”) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department:

7 HB2459 HD2 strengthens the Hawai’i Food and Product Innovation Network (“FPIN”)  
8 through adopting statutes to refine governance and integration among key state agencies, sets  
9 forth key performance indicators, and increases market access, branding alignment, and growth  
10 opportunities for Hawai’i businesses. HB2459 HD2 builds upon the framework established by  
11 Act 237, Session Laws of Hawaii (“SLH”) 2025.

12 The mission of the Department is to protect and improve the health and environment  
13 for all people in Hawai’i. Investing in the FPIN, which will increase access to local, safe, and  
14 nutritious foods, supports the Department’s mission. Access to safe and nutritious food is a  
15 social determinant of health and the Department notes that both physical and mental health

1 outcomes improve when healthy food options are readily available to the public for  
2 consumption.

3 The Department appreciates the continued opportunity to participate in the FPIN,  
4 primarily through its food regulatory programs. By working together with sister agencies, the  
5 Department has been able to educate local manufacturers on food safety regulations up front.  
6 Continued coordination will be critical as the industry evolves and new technologies emerge.

7 The Department defers to the Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) as to the  
8 implementation and substantive matters of this measure. However, the Department is ready  
9 and willing to partner with ADC and other agencies identified in this measure to incorporate a  
10 coordinated food safety and regulatory framework to ensure that food products developed  
11 through the FPIN are safe and comply with the Department’s food safety and food  
12 manufacturing regulations.

13 **Offered Amendments:** None.

14 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

By

Parwinder Grewal, Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience  
and

Vassilis Syrmos, PhD  
Interim Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 2459 HD2 – RELATING TO THE FOOD AND PRODUCT INNOVATION NETWORK

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony offering comments on HB 2459 HD2 relating to the Food and Product Innovation Network.

The measure requires the Food and Product Innovation Network (FPIN) to integrate a coordinated food safety and regulatory framework. Requires the Agribusiness Development Corporation to establish performance indicators for the FPIN, develop a market access strategy, align and harmonize state branding initiatives, and report certain data to the Legislature. Appropriates funds.

University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience (CTAHR) faculty have expertise in the fields of food safety, food science, human nutrition, regulatory compliance education and aspects of food innovation. CTAHR supports the State's food security and economic diversification goals and looks forward to its continuous collaboration with Hawai'i Department of Education's Regional Kitchen program and assisting agricultural entrepreneurs grow and create value-added products for local and global consumption. The appropriation in HB 2459 HD2 will support statewide community assets.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 10:00AM  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

**RE: HB2459 HD2 Relating to the Food and Product Innovation Network**

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sherry Menor, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports House Bill 2459 House Draft 2 (HB2459 HD2), requires the Food and Product Innovation Network to integrate a coordinated food safety and regulatory framework. Requires the Agribusiness Development Corporation to establish performance indicators for the Food and Product Innovation Network, develop a market access strategy, align and harmonize state branding initiatives, and report certain data to the Legislature.

HB2459 HD2 aligns with our 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii: An Economic Action Plan, specifically under the policy pillar for 21st Century Agriculture. This policy pillar prioritizes cross agency coordination that supports business growth and development for Hawaii's farmers, ranchers, and food producers. This measure supports these stakeholders by ensuring food safety and regulatory compliance, ensuring alignment with state-supporting branding initiatives, and leveraging the expertise of the ADC to help these value-added producers reach markets locally and internationally.

The Food Product Innovation Network offers a keystone food system resource, helping to promote development, production, and export readiness for value-added producers. The administrative support offered in this bill is a prudent next step in the evolution of the Food Product Innovation Network, one that supports FPIN system performance, safety, and integration. This legislative infrastructure will incorporate the necessary partner agencies to grow the potential and the impact of FPIN as a powerful resource that brings Hawaii's best food products to market.

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii is the state's leading business advocacy organization, dedicated to improving Hawaii's economy and securing Hawaii's future for growth and opportunity. Our mission is to foster a vibrant economic climate. As such, we support initiatives and policies that align with the 2030 Blueprint for Hawaii that create opportunities to strengthen overall competitiveness, improve the quantity and skills of available workforce, diversify the economy, and build greater local wealth.

We respectfully ask to pass House Bill 2459 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



# MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 308  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026 AT 10:00 A.M.**

To The Honorable Representative Chris Todd, Chair  
The Honorable Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Finance

**SUPPORT FOR HB2459 HD1 RELATING TO THE  
FOOD AND PRODUCT INNOVATION NETWORK**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports HB2459 HD2 as it seeks to strengthen the infrastructure supporting value-added agriculture, manufacturing, and branding—key drivers for a more resilient and diverse economy.

The bill's requirements for a coordinated food safety and regulatory framework are important to expand market access and reduce barriers for local producers. By streamlining regulations and integrating food safety standards, the measure can help Hawai'i businesses compete more effectively in both local and export markets. This bill supports the growth of small and medium enterprises, encourages entrepreneurship, and creates new job opportunities—outcomes that are essential for economic recovery and long-term prosperity. This bill would also assist the many local value-added manufacturers we work with through our Made in Maui County program.

We also support the directive for the Agribusiness Development Corporation to establish clear performance indicators and develop a comprehensive market access strategy. These measures will provide needed accountability and ensure that public investments in the Food and Product Innovation Network translate into measurable economic benefits. Aligning state branding initiatives can further enhance the visibility and competitiveness of Hawai'i-made products, supporting both local consumption and export potential.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our support of HB2459 HD2.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



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March 4, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2459, HD2**  
RELATING TO THE FOOD AND PRODUCT INNOVATION NETWORK

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, 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 HB 2459, HD2**, which strengthens and expands the Food and Product Innovation Network (FPIN) within the Agribusiness Development Corporation to better support agricultural producers and food businesses through coordinated workforce development, regulatory navigation, value-added processing, market access, and performance accountability.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau has been a strong and consistent supporter of the Food and Product Innovation Network and its role in helping farmers, producers, and food businesses move beyond raw production into value-added processing, manufacturing, and expanded market opportunities. FPIN reflects years of collaborative work among ADC, educational institutions, industry partners, and State agencies to strengthen Hawai'i's food system and diversify the agricultural economy.

HB 2459, HD2 builds on that foundation by improving coordination, accountability, and statewide integration of FPIN activities. The bill's emphasis on workforce development, regulatory navigation, market access, branding alignment, and performance measurement will help ensure that FPIN continues to provide practical, results-oriented support to farmers and food businesses seeking to scale up and enter new markets.

We also support efforts to integrate food safety education and technical assistance into FPIN. Food safety compliance is often one of the most significant barriers preventing farmers and processors from expanding their operations or accessing institutional and

export markets. Providing coordinated guidance and readiness support can help reduce confusion and improve compliance outcomes.

At the same time, it is important to clarify that ADC's role in food safety should remain one of coordination, education, and technical assistance, rather than regulatory oversight or auditing. Regulatory authority and enforcement appropriately reside with existing state, federal, and third-party entities. In addition, food safety requirements vary significantly depending on the type of crop or product, and implementation should remain flexible and risk-based so that small, diversified, and value-added producers are not unintentionally burdened by requirements that do not apply to their operations. Implementation should also avoid creating duplicative regulatory or compliance layers that overlap with existing state, federal, or private sector food safety systems.

HB 2459, HD2 represents an important opportunity to strengthen FPIN as a statewide resource that connects agricultural production to processing, compliance, branding, and markets. With thoughtful implementation and continued coordination with industry stakeholders, the measure can further support local food production, economic diversification, and food system resilience.

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



**HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR

STERLING HIGA  
CHAIRPERSON

CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Statement of  
**CRAIG K. NAKAMOTO**  
**Executive Director**  
Hawai'i Community Development Authority  
before the  
**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**HB 2459, HD2**  
**RELATING TO THE FOOD AND PRODUCT INNOVATION NETWORK.**

Chairperson Todd, Vice Chairperson Takenouchi, and members of the Committee.

The Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA) **supports HB 2459, HD2**, which requires the Food and Product Innovation Network to integrate a coordinated food safety and regulatory framework; requires the Agribusiness Development Corporation to establish performance indicators for the Food and Product Innovation Network, develop a market access strategy, align and harmonize state branding initiatives, and report certain data to the Legislature; appropriates funds.

In Section 3 of this measure, an unspecified amount of funds is appropriated for fiscal year 2026-2027 for the operations of the food and product innovation network. However, the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, in its report no. 755-26, respectfully requests the Committee on Finance consider an appropriation amount of \$1,750,000. **HCDA supports that appropriation request**, which will allow the Food and Product Innovation Network to provide technical assistance to ensure compliance with testing, validation, and certification requirements. This is particularly critical for the High-Pressure Processing Facility at the Central Oahu Agriculture and Food Hub, as it serves as a cornerstone for advancing food safety, extending shelf life, and supporting local producers in meeting compliance standards.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
HUI HO'OU LU AINA MAHIAI

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
March 4, 2026  
10:00 PM  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

HOUSE BILL NO. 2459, HD2  
RELATING TO THE FOOD AND PRODUCT INNOVATION NETWORK

Chairperson Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports HB2459, HD2, and respectfully requests the appropriation of **\$1,750,000** to implement the coordinated Food and Product Innovation Network (FPIN) framework established in this measure.

HB2459, HD2 amends ADC's statutes to strengthen its role in developing a coordinated and performance-driven food and product innovation system for Hawai'i. The measure clarifies ADC's authority to support an integrated food safety and regulatory framework, establish performance indicators for the Food and Product Innovation Network (FPIN), develop a market access strategy, align state branding initiatives, and improve data reporting to the Legislature.

ADC's statutory mission is to promote diversified agriculture and value-added agricultural enterprises. HB2459, HD2 modernizes this mission by recognizing the growing importance of food processing, innovation facilities, and export-ready products. The bill strengthens ADC's ability to coordinate infrastructure, regulatory navigation, and market access for food and product manufacturers.

To effectively operationalize these statutory enhancements, ADC requests **\$1,750,000 in funding** to support implementation over the initial phase of the program. These funds will provide:

- Dedicated project management and interagency coordination capacity to align regulatory processes across relevant departments;
- Development of an integrated performance measurement and automated reporting system to track outcomes and legislative benchmarks;
- Technical assistance services for businesses in labeling, food safety plan development, testing, validation, and certification;
- Market access strategy execution, including coordination of aggregation, cold storage, distribution logistics, tourism purchasing channels, and export readiness;
- Branding alignment and harmonization efforts to strengthen the value and recognition of Hawai'i-grown and Hawai'i-made products; and
- Integration of regulatory compliance education into workforce training programs to build long-term industry capacity.

HB2459, HD2 advances a framework aligned with applicable federal and state food safety laws, regulations, rules, and food codes. This coordination is essential for ADC-supported shared-use facilities and innovation hubs that serve multiple producers. The requested funding ensures that streamlining efforts maintain public health protections while reducing duplication, shortening time to approval, and accelerating product launch timelines.

ADC supports the bill's requirement for measurable performance indicators aligned between governing boards and legislative oversight. These include:

- number of businesses served and graduating from FPIN facilities;
- increases in value-added agricultural and food manufacturing output;
- job creation and business survivorship;
- time to regulatory approval and product launch; and
- market penetration into institutional, tourism, and export channels.

The \$1,750,000 investment will enable ADC to build the data infrastructure necessary to measure these outcomes, benchmark against comparable jurisdictions, and provide transparent, outcome-driven reporting to the Legislature. This ensures accountability for public funds and supports continuous system improvement.

HB2459, HD2 recognizes that production and processing must be paired with coordinated logistics and market access. Adequate implementation funding is critical to integrate aggregation, cold storage, distribution systems, tourism

demand, and export infrastructure into a cohesive statewide strategy. Without dedicated resources, these coordination functions cannot be sustained at the scale required to achieve meaningful economic impact.

HB2459, HD2 advances the objectives of Act 175 by strengthening food safety coordination, processing capacity, and market access so local producers can reliably meet institutional procurement needs, including public school meal programs. The requested appropriation provides the operational capacity needed to translate statutory authority into measurable increases in local food utilization.

HB2459, HD2 is expected to improve coordination across agencies, reduce duplicative regulatory processes, and increase the effectiveness of public investments in food system infrastructure. While initial implementation requires targeted investment, the establishment of performance indicators and automated reporting systems will improve efficiency and accountability over time. These improvements are expected to catalyze private-sector investment, expand value-added agriculture, and create quality jobs across the state.

HB2459, HD2 modernizes ADC's statutory authority and establishes a coordinated, accountable framework for Hawai'i's food and product innovation system. By aligning regulation, food safety, branding, logistics, market access, workforce development, and data reporting—and by providing \$1,750,000 in implementation funding—the Legislature will ensure that the goals set forth in this measure are fully realized.

For these reasons, the Agribusiness Development Corporation strongly supports HB2459, HD2 and respectfully urges the Committee to approve of the requested \$1,750,000 appropriation.

Thank you for the your consideration.



#### Officers

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Natalie Urminska  
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Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Finance 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 HB2459.**

HB2459 establishes the Food and Product Innovation Network to bridge the critical gap between harvest and retail, directly advancing local food goals by capturing market share currently lost to imports.

By mandating the Agribusiness Development Corporation to develop active market access strategies, this bill shifts state land use from passive leasing to intentional economic development, helping ensure local farmers profit directly from the value-added "Made in Hawaii" premium.

The integration of a coordinated food safety framework removes the prohibitive costs of independent compliance for individual smallholders, allowing family farms to enter institutional supply chains (DOE, DOH, PSD) that may otherwise be inaccessible due to regulatory barriers.

To ensure the sustained support of small farms, which represent the vast majority of agricultural operations in the islands, we recommend amending SECTION 2 §163D-B(b) to add a seventh performance indicator:

(7) The growth in revenue and market access for small-scale producers through the utilization of shared-use processing, branding, and distribution infrastructure.

This specific metric ensures that the network remains accountable to the broader agricultural community and that its success is measured by the economic empowerment of Hawaii's small-scale producers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin  
Advocacy Director  
Hawai'i Farmers Union

**HB-2459-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:57:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT!!!**

This will help the economy, especially for local farmers.

Mahalo!