



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 2, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2407, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LAND

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

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 SB 2407, SD2, HD1, which establishes 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.

We respectfully request that the \$200,000 appropriation for the Hawai'i Island property manager position be restored, as included in the original version of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

April 2, 2026
2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

SENATE BILL NO. 2407, SD2 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LAND

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB2407, SD2 HD1, which establishes a dedicated Land Manager position on Hawai'i Island within the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC).

I. Purpose and Strategic Need

The Agribusiness Development Corporation was established under HRS Chapter 163D to acquire, manage, and support agricultural lands and infrastructure to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Hawai'i.

As ADC continues to expand its operational responsibilities statewide, the need for on-island management capacity on Hawai'i Island is critical, particularly as ADC advances key development projects that support statewide food system priorities.

One such priority project is the development of a parcel in the Shipman Industrial Park into a cold and frozen storage facility, which will serve as essential infrastructure to support Hawai'i's agricultural and food security mandates.

II. Supporting State Mandates and Food System Infrastructure

The proposed cold and frozen storage facility is directly aligned with State policy objectives, including:

- Increasing local food production and processing

- Supporting institutional procurement goals, including Department of Education meal programs
- Reducing reliance on imported food
- Strengthening Hawai'i's food system resilience

Cold and frozen storage is a critical missing link in the agricultural value chain. Without adequate storage and aggregation capacity:

- Farmers face barriers to scaling production
- Value-added processing opportunities are limited
- Distribution to institutional buyers is constrained

The Shipman Industrial Park project will help address these gaps by providing:

- Aggregation and distribution capacity
- Storage for locally produced food
- Infrastructure to support value-added processing and market access

III. Role of the Hawai'i Island Land Manager

A dedicated Hawai'i Island Land Manager is essential to successfully advancing this project and similar initiatives.

This position will:

1. Support Project Development and Implementation

- Oversee site development and readiness
- Coordinate with contractors, engineers, and partners
- Ensure timely progression of the cold storage project

2. Provide On-the-Ground Coordination

- Maintain consistent presence for project oversight
- Coordinate with tenants, producers, and stakeholders
- Address operational issues in real time

3. Integrate Land and Infrastructure Planning

- Align land use with infrastructure development
- Support co-location of agricultural and value-added activities
- Ensure efficient use of state-managed assets

4. Support Long-Term Operations

- Facilitate tenant onboarding and compliance
- Monitor facility uses and performance
- Support ongoing operations and maintenance

IV. Operational and Economic Benefits

The establishment of this position will:

- Accelerate development of critical food system infrastructure
- Improve coordination and reduce project delays
- Enhance accountability and oversight
- Support job creation and economic activity on Hawai'i Island

Most importantly, it will ensure that strategic investments—such as the Shipman Industrial Park cold and frozen storage facility—are successfully implemented and sustained.

V. Conclusion

SB2407 represents a targeted and necessary investment in ADC's capacity to deliver on statewide agricultural and food security priorities.

By establishing a Hawai'i Island Land Manager, the State enables ADC to:

- Advance critical infrastructure projects
- Support local food production and distribution
- Strengthen Hawai'i's agricultural economy

For these reasons, the Agribusiness Development Corporation respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB2407, SD2 HD1. This testimony may be further refined following discussion and potential approval at the ADC Board meeting scheduled for April 7, 2026, which was rescheduled from March 19 due to the recent storms.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President



Christian Zuckerman
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Kelii Gannet
Kohala, Hawai'i

East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Ka'u, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

Gina Lind
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Moloka'i

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Rachel LaDrig
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

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 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
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

SB-2407-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:51:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Shaw	Agriculture Stewardship Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

Date of Hearing: 2 April, 2026

To: Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and the House Committee on Finance

Subject: SB2407 SD2 HD1, Relating to Agricultural Land

Aloha,

Hawai'i Food+ Policy supports **SB2407 SD2 HD1** which, as amended by the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems, establishes 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.

Previous amendments have 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 as this bill moves into the House Committee on Finance, the duties and description of this proposed role are established 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 HD1 and urge the committee to specify or propose specifics of the position's duties and pay.

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.