SCR 59 – URGING THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO START A FARM APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 59.

The University of Hawai‘i Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, is the home of the Hawai‘i Cooperative Extension Service as part of the Land Grant Mission of the College and the University. As such we are committed to providing training to the Hawaiian citizenry with respect to agriculture and natural resources.

If the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) were to form a farm apprenticeship program, the College and Extension Service would be committed to engage in technical and workforce development issues, including outreach and training as much as the available resources would allow.

In the absence of the ADC forming such a program, the College and Extension Service will continue its already significant programs in these areas.