



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 10:00am

By

Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Sylvia Yuen

Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HR 111/HCR 131, Requesting the Convening of a Working Group to Review the Duties and Responsibilities of the Agribusiness Development Corporation and Make Recommendations to Improve the Corporation's Efficiency and Programs to Better Address Current and Future Agricultural Issues

Chair Tsuji and members of the Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HR 111/HCR 131, which requests the convening of a working group to review the duties and responsibilities of the Agribusiness Development Corporation and make recommendations to improve the corporation's efficiency and programs to better address current and future agricultural issues.

Seventeen years ago when the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) was established, Hawaii's agriculture was transitioning from sugar and pineapple plantations to diversified crops. The transition has been virtually completed, and there is a different set of issues facing agriculture today. These issues place greater focus on land, water, biosecurity, food safety and security, and other issues. Within this context, the ADC can play a critical role in advancing Hawaii's agriculture, particularly in serving as the interface between public and private sectors and streamlining processes within the government to achieve positive agricultural outcomes.

CTAHR supports the intent of HR 111/HCR 131 and will be pleased to participate on the working group as called for in these resolutions