



March 14, 2022

Mr. Frederick Lau, Chair and Board of Directors  
Agribusiness Development Corporation  
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Support for agenda item D. 4.

Dear Chair Lau and members of the Board:

Aloha, and mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of agenda item D. 4.: *Request for reconsideration of the January 31, 2018 Board authorization for the Kekaha Agriculture Association (KAA) to pursue a declaratory order to designate a portion of the Agribusiness Development Corporation's (ADC) Kekaha lands as Important Agricultural Lands in accordance with Chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and to certify ADC's authorization as the landowner of lands set aside for control and management of ADC via Executive Order No. 4007, rather than the Department of Land and Natural Resources.*

KIUC recognizes the significance of the Important Agricultural Lands program (IAL) in promoting diversified agriculture, increasing agricultural self-sufficiency, and assuring the availability of agriculturally suitable lands. KIUC supports KAA's pursuit of a declaratory order to designate a portion of ADC's Kekaha lands as IAL.

As you know, KIUC is currently undergoing the Chapter 343 compliance process for the West Kaua'i Energy Project (WKEP), which is partially located on ADC lands in Mānā. The project will utilize the Mānā Reservoir as part of a pumped storage hydro renewable energy facility, while also providing water delivered by the project to surrounding lands for irrigation.

WKEP requires the use of lands adjacent to the Mānā Reservoir for constructing a solar facility, an electric substation with interconnection equipment and a power house. A roughly 350-acre parcel for the solar field has already been identified, and will include an agricultural component in compliance with state land use requirements. Mutually agreeable locations for the power house and substation, which are expected to use no more than 20 acres collectively, have also been identified. Acreage for these critical components of WKEP is included in this request.

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While WKEP will provide a significant amount of firm, renewable energy for Kaua'i, it will also assist in expanding agricultural production on lands owned by ADC and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on Kaua'i. We appreciate ADC's continued support as we work toward realizing the benefits of WKEP, and encourage you to approve this request.

Mahalo for your consideration,

*David Bissell*

David Bissell (Mar 14, 2022 13:31 HST)

David Bissell  
President and Chief Executive Officer

cc: James Nakatani, Executive Director, ADC



# ADC Board Agenda Item D.4.

Final Audit Report

2022-03-14

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