

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
HUI HO'OUULU AINA MAHIAI

Special Meeting of the Board of Directors

Held via Teleconference with In-Person Viewing Location

November 1, 2024
2:00 p.m.

Pursuant to section 92-3.7, *Hawaii Revised Statutes*, this meeting will be held using interactive conference technology (ICT). Board members, staff, persons with business before the Board, and the public may participate remotely online using ICT, or may participate via the in-person meeting site which provides ICT.

Interested persons may submit written testimony in advance of the meeting, which will be distributed to Board members prior to the meeting. If possible, we request that testimony be received by our office as soon as possible to ensure that staff has time to disseminate it and that Board members have time to review it. Written testimony may be submitted electronically to dbedt.adc@hawaii.gov or sent via U.S. Postal Service, or delivered to:

Agribusiness Development Corporation
235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

When testifying via ICT, via telephone, or in-person, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization you represent, if any. Each testifier will be limited to two minutes of testimony per agenda item.

The public may participate in the meeting via:

ICT: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89416714342>
Telephone: (669) 900-6833, Webinar ID: 894 1671 4342
In-Person: at the meeting location indicated below

ICT ACCESS

To view the meeting and provide live oral testimony, please use the link above. You will be asked to enter your name in order to access the meeting as an attendee. The Board requests that you enter your full name, but you may use a pseudonym or other identifier if you wish to remain anonymous. You will also be asked for an email address. You may fill in this field with any entry in an email format, e.g., ****@****.com.

As an attendee, your microphone will be automatically muted. When the Chairperson asks for public testimony, you may click the Raise Hand button found on your Zoom screen to indicate that you wish to testify about that agenda item. The Chairperson or staff will individually enable each testifier to unmute their microphone. When recognized by the Chairperson, please unmute your microphone before speaking and mute your microphone after you have finished speaking.

For ICT, telephone, and in-person access, when testifying, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization, if any, that you represent. Each testifier will be limited to two minutes of testimony per agenda item.

TELEPHONE ACCESS

If you do not have ICT access, you may get audio-only access by calling the Telephone Number listed above.

Upon dialing the number, you will be prompted to enter the Meeting ID that is listed next to the Telephone Number above. After entering the Meeting ID, you will be asked to either enter your panelist number or wait to be admitted into the meeting. You will not have a panelist number. Please wait until you are admitted into the meeting.

When the Chairperson asks for public testimony, you may indicate you want to testify by entering “#” and then “9” on your telephone’s keypad. After entering “#” and then “9”, a voice prompt will let you know that the host of the meeting has been notified. When recognized by the

Board Meeting Agenda

November 1, 2024

Chairperson, you may unmute yourself by pressing “#” and then “6” on your telephone. A voice prompt will let you know that you are unmuted. Once you are finished speaking, please enter “#” and then “6” again to mute yourself.

For ICT, telephone, and in-person access, when testifying, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization, if any, that you represent. Each testifier will be limited to two minutes of testimony per agenda item.

Instructions to attend State of Hawaii virtual board meetings may be found online at <https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/files/2020/08/State-of-Hawaii-Virtual-Board-Attendee-Instructions.pdf>.

IN-PERSON ACCESS

There will also be one meeting location, open to the public, which will have an audio-visual connection. That meeting will be held at:

State of Hawaii, Leiopapa A Kamehameha
State Office Tower Building
235 S. Beretania St., Suite 204
Honolulu, HI 96813

For ICT, telephone, and in-person access, when testifying, you will be asked to identify yourself and the organization, if any, that you represent. Each testifier will be limited to two minutes of testimony per agenda item.

LOSS OF CONNECTIVITY

In the event of a loss of ICT connectivity, the meeting will be recessed for a period not to exceed thirty minutes to restore connectivity with all board members and the public in-person access location noted above. In the event that audio connectivity is re-established within thirty minutes without video connectivity, interested participants can access the meeting via the telephone number and Meeting ID number noted above. In the further event that connectivity is unable to be restored within thirty minutes, the meeting will be automatically continued to a date and time to be posted on the ADC website at <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/adc/> no later than close of business the next business day. New ICT, telephone, and in-person access information will be posted on the website no less than twenty-four hours prior to the continued meeting date. Alternatively, if a decision is made to terminate the meeting, the termination will be posted on the ADC website.

SPECIAL ASSISTANCE

If you require special assistance, accommodations, modifications, auxiliary aids, or services to participate in the public meeting process, including translation or interpretation services, please contact staff at (808) 586-0186 or by email at dbedt.adc@hawaii.gov.

Please allow sufficient time for ADC staff to meet requests for special assistance, accommodation, modifications, auxiliary aids, translation, or interpretation services.

NOTE: MATERIALS FOR THIS AGENDA WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN THE ADC OFFICE, 235 S. BERETANIA STREET, SUITE 205, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 ON AND AFTER OCTOBER 25, 2024.

Agribusiness Development Corporation Non-Discrimination Statement

The Agribusiness Development Corporation does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability, or any other class as protected under applicable federal or state law, in administration of its programs, or activities, and the Agribusiness Development Corporation does not intimidate or retaliate against any individual or group because they have exercised their rights to participate in actions protected by, or oppose action prohibited by, 40 C.F.R. Parts 5 and 7, or for the purpose of interfering with such rights.

If you have any questions about this notice or any of the Agribusiness Development Corporation’s non-discrimination programs, policies, or procedures, you may contact:

Mark Takemoto
Acting Title VI Non-Discrimination Coordinator
235 S. Beretania St., Ste 205 Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 586-0186
dbedt.adc.titlevi@hawaii.gov

If you believe that you have been discriminated against with respect to an Agribusiness Development Corporation program or activity, you may contact the Acting Non-Discrimination Coordinator identified above.

AGENDA

- A. Call to Order
- B. Approval of Minutes
 - 1. None
- C. Chairperson's Report
 - 1. None
- D. Committee Reports
 - 1. None
- E. Action Items
 - 1. Request to accept the recommendations of the Land Application permitted interaction group.
 - 2. Request for approval to establish a permitted interaction group to make recommendations on land opportunities project for small and disadvantaged land applicants; appointment of members thereto
- F. Informational Items
 - 1. Notice of Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors to be held on December 5, 2024
- G. Adjourn

The Board may go into executive session on any agenda item pursuant to the exceptions provided under section §92-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

E-1

STAFF SUBMITTAL
November 1, 2024

Subject: Request to accept the recommendations of the Land Application permitted interaction group

Applicant: Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC)

Authority: 163D-4(a)(5), Hawaii Revised Statutes

BACKGROUND:

On March 18, 2024, the Land Application permitted interaction group (Committee) was tasked by the Chair of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) Board of Directors (Board) with assisting ADC in 1) developing a solicitation to interested farmers and rating sheet for applications and 2) evaluating the land applications ADC received in response to the solicitation. The objective of the committee was to develop a merit-based process to identify highly qualified applicants to farm on ADC's agricultural lands.

On March 19, 2024, the ADC solicited applications from interested farmers to fill the remaining vacant farm lots on Oahu and Kauai.

In addition to the individuals who submitted expression of interest for land, the ADC expanded its solicitation outreach to the public that included the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, USDA, Hawaii Farm Bureau, Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation, Go Farm, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, DHHL, UH-CTAHR, Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estate, Dole Foods, and various community groups in the area. The deadline for submitting applications was May 03, 2024.

REQUEST:

Request that the Board accept the Committee's recommendations which were presented at the October 24, 2024 Board meeting.

FINDINGS #1 – APPLICATION SCORING:

In total, the ADC received 39 land applications. Of the 36 land applications received, sixteen (18) were in Tier 1 (applications received complete and on time). Eighteen (18) applications in Tier 2 (applications received incomplete or after the deadline). Recommendations for potential Licenses by the committee are for Tier 1 then recommendations from Tier 2.

Using their discretion and expertise, the committee evaluated the land applications and awarded points for each of the following categories: Experience, Marketability of Products, Finances, Business Plan and Farming Practices. The following were the top scorers:

ADC Land Application License Review

	Applicant Name or Enterprise	Acres presently Farming	Total Scoring	Acres Requested
1	Aloun Kauai Farming LLC	1160	352	1107
2	Teng Da Inc. -Yida Zeng	16	339	200
3	Xianzhi Zhao	10	328	10
4	Suriwong Chaiyachet	50	335	50
5	Kauai Taro	10	308	95

FINDINGS #2 – FARM VISITS

In addition to evaluating the individual land applications, the committee also conducted farm visits and interviews with the top-rated applicants to help them formulate their recommendations. The following are the farms the committee visited:

Aloun Farms



Aloun Farms is currently farming in numerous multiple areas in Ewa Plains, Kunia, Waipio and on other islands in Hawaii. The farm offers major crops including cabbage, watermelon, bell peppers, bananas, and tomatoes. They are excellent operators and are one of the largest growers of local produce in the State. They currently sell produce to large retailers and local distributors based on the customer's needs. Their request is for 1107 acres.

Teng Da Inc – Yida Zeng



Teng Da Inc – Yida Zeng – Currently farming successfully in Waianae growing sweet/Thai basil, taro, betel leaf, passion fruit, pepper, eggplant, papayas and other crops. He is requesting 200 acres to expand his farming operation. He is GAP certified.

Xianzhi Zhao



Herb Plants

Xianzhi Zhao Farms is currently farming in Waianae, Oahu. His major crops include herbs. He is an excellent farm operator, and his farm was clean and tidy, and had multiple employees. He is requesting 10 acres on Galbraith.

Suriwong Chaiyachet



Suriwong Chaiyachet – Currently farming with his family in Kahuku on a 50 acres farm. His crop consists of row crops – string beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, taro leaves, papayas and bananas. He is requesting 16 acres to continue his farm operation.

Kauai Taro



Taro Patch

Kauai Taro – Currently farming with over 20 years of successful taro farming on Kekaha, Kauai. He is requesting 95 acres of land adjacent to his current farm. He works and supplies local communities with his products. His main customers are local markets.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

Aloun Kauai Farming LLC with the highest score overall, request board accept recommendation of the land application permitted interaction group and approve for staff to work with applicant on licensing land in the Kekaha area as requested by applicant. Final area and location to be presented to board for final approval.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

Teng Dan inc- Yida Zeng - Request board accept recommendation of the land application permitted interaction group and approve for staff to work with applicant on licensing land on Oahu as requested by applicant. Final area and location to be presented to board for final approval.

RECOMMENDATION #3:

Xianzhi Zhao Xiong – Request board accept recommendation of the land application permitted interaction group and approve for staff to work with applicant on licensing land on Oahu as requested by applicant. Final area and location to be presented to board for final approval.

RECOMMENDATION #4:

Suriwong Chaiyachet – Request board accept recommendation of the land application permitted interaction group and approve for staff to work with applicant on licensing land on Oahu as requested by applicant. Final area and location to be presented to board for final approval.

RECOMMENDATION #5:

Award Kauai Taro – Request board accept recommendation of the land application permitted interaction group and approve for staff to work with applicant on licensing land in the Kekaha area as requested by applicant. Final area and location to be presented to board for final approval.

DISCUSSION:

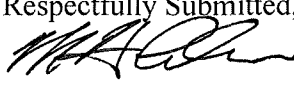
This presents a summary of the committee’s evaluation of the land applications. The committee made their selection in confidence based on their expertise and discretion and believes that the land application process has identified the most qualified applicants who can help the State increase its local agriculture productions.

RECOMMENDATION TO BOARD:

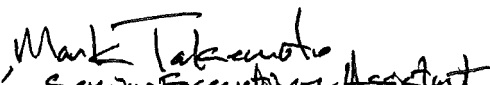
Based on the foregoing, staff recommends that the Board:

1. Approve the Request.

Respectfully Submitted,


WENDY L. GADY
Executive Director

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Mark Takemoto
Senior Executive Assistant

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

E-2

STAFF SUBMITTAL
November 1, 2024

Subject: Request for approval to establish a permitted interaction group to make recommendations on land opportunities project for small and disadvantaged land applicants; appointment of members thereto

Applicant: Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC)

Authority: 163D-4(a)(5), Hawaii Revised Statutes

BACKGROUND:

In the Spring of 2024, ADC published a request for land application. Well over 30 land applications were received, including many from small and disadvantaged immigrant farmers who were being displaced from their current farmland on both Oahu and Kauai islands. Many of these farmers did not meet the minimal scoring criteria required to be accepted as potential licensees. Nevertheless, farm visits suggested that some of these farmers are good farmers and may merit additional consideration.

REQUEST:

Staff requests that a permitted interaction group (Committee) be established to consider a potential land opportunity project for small and disadvantaged famers who may be imminently displaced from their current farming operations. The Committee shall consider the proposed location (see Exhibit A), criteria, time frame, special license terms, and eligibility requirements for the proposed project, and present their findings and recommendations to the ADC Board of Directors (Board).

OPERATIONAL PLAN:

Upon approval of the Request and appointment of members to the Committee, a staff member will be appointed to coordinate and schedule meetings of the Committee.

CONSERVATION PLAN:

N/A

CHAPTER 343:

Under section 343-5(a), Hawaii Revised Statutes, an environmental assessment shall be required for actions, that propose, among other things, the “(1) use of state land or county lands, or the use of state or county funds[.]” Staff is currently consulting with other agencies to determine if an EA is required or if exemptions may apply/be appropriate. Creation and operation of the Committee is a de minimis action.

DISCUSSION:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the creation and operation of the Committee beyond staff time.

Many of the applicants under the aforementioned request for land application appear to be good farmers but lack certain financial resources and Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification(s). The Committee will bring their collective expertise to bear on the Request and report their findings and recommendations to the Board.

RECOMMENDATION:

Based on the foregoing, staff recommends that the Board:

1. Approve the Request; and
2. The Committee shall automatically dissolve upon the presentation of the final report to the Board; and

Request for approval to establish a permitted interaction group to make recommendations on land opportunities project for small and disadvantaged land applicants; appointment of members thereto
February 15, 2024

3. Declare that, pursuant to ADC's Comprehensive Exemption List dated May 1, 2018, the proposed action is a de minimis action and will have minimal or no significant effect on the environment and is therefore exempt from the preparation of an environmental assessment, pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lyle Roe

LYLE ROE

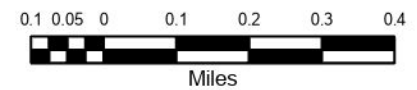
Asset Manager

EXHIBIT A



STATE OF HAWAII AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Potential Project Area
TMK (1) 6-4-003:016



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