

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held Virtually on August 25, 2025

Via Zoom Teleconference and/or In-Person at Kekaha Agricultural Processing Building, 7189-D Kaunualii Highway, Kekaha, Hawaii 96752

Pursuant to section 92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), this meeting was held remotely with Board members, Staff, Applicants, and the Public participating via Zoom meeting venue, and an In-Person meeting location available for public participation at the Kekaha Agricultural Processing Building, 7189-D Kaunualii Highway, Kekaha, Hawaii 96752.

Members Present, in person:

Jesse Cooke, City and County of Honolulu Member (Member Cooke)

David Hinazumi, Kauai County Member (Member Hinazumi)

Dean Okimoto, Member-At-Large (Member Okimoto)

Nathan Trump, Hawaii County (Member Trump)

Jayson Watts, Chair, Maui County Member

Members Present, virtually:

Earl Yamamoto, for Sharon Hurd, Ex-Officio Member for HBOA (Member Yamamoto)

Jason Okuhama, Vice-Chair, Member-At-Large (Member Okuhama)

Karen Seddon, Member-At-Large (Member Seddon)

Dane Wicker, Designee for DBEDT, Ex-Officio Member James Tokioka (Member Wicker)

Members excused:

Glenn Hong, Member-At-Large (Member Hong)

Ciara Kahahane, Designee for DLNR Ex-Officio Member Ms. Dawn Chang (Member Kahahane)

Counsel Present, virtually:

Jennifer Waihee-Polk, Deputy Attorney General

Staff Present, in person:

Wendy L. Gady, Executive Director (Ms. Gady)

Deo Rhoden, Water Systems Manager

Mark Takemoto, Sr. Executive Assistant (Mr. Takemoto)

Ken Nakamoto, Project Manager (Mr. Nakamoto)

Staff Present, virtually:

None.

Guests Present, virtually:

David Matsumiya

Kawika

FIN-JNakama

AAkana

Ryan Kagimoto

Kylie Wager Cruz

Kimi Makaiau

Fern Holland

Charlyn Ontai

Guests Present, physical location:

Mark Stoutmeyer, Corteva

Thomas Nizo, HWTAC

Dexter Kishida, HDOT

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Jamie Barna, Wines of Kauai

J. Uyehara, KAA

Umi Martin, Umi's Farm

Kaniela Young, KWC

Janoah Young KWC

Taworn Panyamee, Taworn Farm

Thanawat Chak Ano, Ned Kauai Farm

Tristian Gongazlez, Goodfellow Bros.

Sam Vedder, Resident

Mike Faye, KAA

Arnold Bunao, Kalepa Koalition

A. Call to Order & Roll Call

Chair Watts called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Chair Watts conducted the roll call. Member Cooke, Member Hinazumi, Member Okimoto, Member Trump, and Member Watts acknowledged their presence physically at the meeting with others in attendance. Member Okuhama, Member Wicker, Member Seddon, and Member Yamamoto acknowledged their presence with no one over the age of 18 being present in the room with them. Members Hong and Member Kahahane were excused.

B. Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Session Minutes, July 18, 2025

Chair Watts: This item will be deferred to our September board meeting.

C. Chairperson's Report

1. Discussing the Public First Lawsuit (Pub. First L. Ctr. v. Def. Council; Jon N. Ikenaga; and Agribusiness Dev. Corp. Bd. of Dir., Civ. No. 1CCV-24-0000050 (Haw. Cir. Ct. January 10, 2024).

2. Discussing the Agribusiness Development Corporation Bylaws

3. Discussing the Kauai activities and projects

Chair Watts deferred the chairpersons report. (taken out of order)

D. Committee & Permitted Interaction Group Reports

1. None

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Chair Watts noted that for today's meeting, there will be a small procedural change taking the informational items before moving into the action items. Chair noted that these presentations are directly relevant to the decisions the board is being asked to make today and believes that receiving the information first will be of great help to make informed decisions.

Chair Watts asked if he needed a motion to take this action, he did not.

Chair Watts further noted that from the attorney general's office, that for the agenda items F1, F3, and F5, the presentations by Mark Corteva, by Joshua Uyehara, and Mike Faye of Kekaha Ag, and Les Milnes, that the board will be listening to their presentations, but there would be no board discussion at this time.

F. Informational Items

1. Presentation by Mark Stoutmeyer of Corteva regarding recent activities and priorities for the future (presentation attached)

Chair Watts introduces Mark Sotomayor from Corteva, providing background on the company spun out of Dow and DuPont.

Corteva focuses on providing high-quality seeds and solutions for farmers and consumers in a sustainable manner.

Corteva tackles global challenges like climate change, tariffs, and food security, with operations in Hawaii focusing on corn breeding and development.

Corteva has a long history in Hawaii, with 170 employees and integrated pest management operations across four locations.

Corteva has invested over \$15 million in modern shade houses and seeks to expand its footprint, requiring land for seed purity and quality.

Chair asked if anyone from the public wished to give testimony. There was none.

2. Presentation by Alec Sou of Aloun Kauai Farming LLC regarding their farming plans in Kekaha (presentation attached)

Alex Sue discusses the farming plans and challenges faced by Kauai Farming, highlighting the community support and infrastructure.

Kauai Farming started in summer 2022 with a handshake agreement and has since expanded to 2000 acres under lease.

The company faces logistical challenges in shipping, with a limit of 10 containers per week due to transportation issues.

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Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held Virtually on August 25, 2025

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Kauai Farming recently acquired Kauai Shrimp, adding 360 acres of land, and is exploring new crops and partnerships with the University of Hawaii.

The company emphasizes the need for reliable infrastructure and logistics to support its growth and food production.

Chair asked if anyone from the public wished to give testimony. There was none.

3. Presentation by Josh Uyehara and Mike Faye of Kekaha Agriculture Association regarding recent activities and priorities

Joshua Uyehara and Mike Faye provide an overview of the Kekaha Agriculture Association (KAA) and its history.

KAA was formed in 2003 to manage the infrastructure left by the Kekaha Sugar Company, including irrigation, roads, and electrical systems.

The association has invested over \$70 billion in capital improvements and operates on a public-private partnership model.

KAA has identified priority projects, including upgrading the irrigation system, building an agricultural processing facility, and addressing fire risk.

The association is working with state and federal partners to secure funding and support for these projects.

Chair asked if anyone from the public wished to give testimony. There was none.

4. Presentation by Dexter Kishida, Climate Resiliency Manager of Hawaii Department of Transportation regarding Port Allen and the Short-, Medium-, and Long-Term Plans for Shipping within Hawaii (presentation attached)

Dexter Kishida from the Hawaii Department of Transportation discusses the transportation needs of the agricultural sector in Kauai.

The department aims to build a resilient, effective, and secure ag transportation network to support local farmers and ranchers.

Key issues include limited inner-island shipping capacity, high transportation costs, and the need for refrigerated facilities near and at ports.

Short-term plans include building temporary aggregation points near the harbor, expanding the island ag discount program, and piloting shared logistics co-loading.

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held Virtually on August 25, 2025

Via Zoom Teleconference and/or In-Person at Kekaha Agricultural Processing Building, 7189-D Kaunualii Highway, Kekaha, Hawaii 96752

Mid-term plans include building permanent agricultural cargo hub, integrate port and airport operations with digital scheduling, develop a Kauai based processing facilities, and expanding maritime and air cargo capacity.

Long-term plans include building permanent agricultural cargo hubs, integrating port and airport operations, and developing disaster-resilient transportation corridors.

Chair Watts stated that he's asked Mr. Kishida to "piggyback" and follow the board of directors throughout the next few months as the board travels to Maui and the Big Island and give similar presentations on infrastructure issues on other island and let the board know what the Department of Transportation is thinking about.

Chair Watts further stated that there's a lot of federal grants out there that the Department of Transportation is looking at and that everyone can work together to figure out who would be best to apply for these grants... that there's a lot of synergy here.

Chair Watts continued stating that the state can help meet Young Brothers halfway on this matter; that it's critical to the small farmer who is already operating on a razor-thin margin, and he believes that the realities of the cold chain are critical.

Chair further stated that he thinks that a lot of our harbors lack the electrical infrastructure to support these containers; make sure they're plugged in, and then the DOE and the farmer school rule, how that fits into all of this and the disaster resilience kind of playing. That looking at cold storage on the school level, getting fresh product into schools being critical too, if you want to provide local fresh to the disaster situation.

Chair asked if there was any board discussion.

Member Okimoto: one of the things is I'm thinking about, the space that you have as important thing, because You know, for an example there's got to be some kind of coordination with the farmers as far as what they're growing, mowing what they're growing, because if you're going to consolidate at the port and stuff, there's different products, like, for example. Limes and lemons don't have to be refrigerate to the point of lettuce or these other things, so they're gonna have to be going in different containers. So, you know, to really make this thing work, you gotta and fill a container, and send. All this stuff has to be coordinated, and I guess that's gonna fall on the ADC more than anybody else and that's a lot of coordination.

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held Virtually on August 25, 2025

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Mr. Kishida: that's what we're hoping to do with ADC.

Chair Watts: From what I gather, what I'm hearing is a lot of those conversations are happening all over the place. I mean one thing in having him come is to kind of try to start to bring all that, to consolidate that. Yeah, I think we're all thinking along those lines, Dexter's an ag guy, but I think, like, you know, as HDOA considers what they're doing, and DOT considers what they're doing, kind of who's the best person to be doing what.

Mr. Kishida: I mean, we do manage the ports, so on the infrastructure and near and around the ports, that's why we/I'm glad Director Sniffin created this position to really focus on it, knowing that it's a key issue for our state. And so, we can't help to consolidate and coordinate these discussions and that movement forward, so we're organized, and the 12 of us aren't doing 12 different things. There's just not enough resources.

Chair asked if there was any further board discussion.

Member Trump: Thanks, Dexter, for the presentation. I was just curious, kind of within the existing footprint of these ports, is there room for additional infrastructure or aggregation facilities, or is that within, like, the DOT area that they manage? And my second question, sorry, is, in discussions with Young Brothers on this, what's kind of been their reaction and their kind of willingness to step forward and help find a solution for these issues?

Mr. Kishida: So far, Young Brothers has been pretty aligned in the thoughts that kind of I've highlighted. To go back to the first question, though, that's where they wouldn't be aligned, because there's just not enough room on our ports itself. So, a lot of this aggregation, or the consolidation to containers, really needs to happen off-port. That's the safest, most efficient. If you've been to Sand Island Young Brothers Terminal in the morning, we had to change some things, because the line would just go down the street, and people are sitting there for hours waiting to drop or pick up, because there's not enough space, so for efficiency's sake, we've got to move it. As Mr. Sou explained, even here, to get from here to Nawiliwili, really, during peak times is just irresponsible, right? It's already as is. But then, the time spent is money spent for all of our ag businesses, as Chair said, on razor-thin margins, we know that we've got to maximize every minute. And so, how do we move it near, but off-board to get these containers full dropped in an area quickly, so Young Brothers then could pick up and load, while keeping temp and everything else. So yeah, it's definitely a puzzle, but we have some great minds on it, so I think we'll figure this out it just won't be on our ports.

Chair Watts: I think that's critical, what Trump is talking about, because that and to your point, the, you know, as the FPINS (Food and Product Innovation Networks) evolve and all that, right? I mean, you got a lot of cold storage

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requirements, you know, a lot of moving pieces. And so how we place those things, and where we place them going forward, it's critical.

Member Trump: And as long as you can get, I guess, enough product for a full container, it doesn't necessarily have to be, like, you know, at the port. It could be anywhere, and that's pretty easy for, you know, any of the YB or I guess Matson in some cases, to handle local.

Mr. Kishida: Absolutely, absolutely. One of the other pieces of the conversation, I always thought, we need to build this huge, refrigerated facility, near our ports. And I think what's really coming up is the conversation of just power. Being able to plug in refrigerated containers at the port and having more refrigerated containers in the state will be actually more efficient than loading, unloading, loading, unloading near our ports especially for our larger farmers who can fill a 20 or 40-foot container, why not just drop it, plug it in, so YB (Young Brothers) has time, and then we could maybe look at drops later in the evening, or off times, not within that expanded, but still pretty tight window that we're looking at. And then in some cases, for export, we do know unloading is actually going to be more efficient, because of the requirements through USDA, or even, Customs it's easier if the container's unloaded, and so having that kind of modular unit where it would be unloaded for them to inspect and then loaded may be actually the better option. So, the conversations with our federal partners are also have been ongoing and are key as we think about what the needs are for our ag industry.

Chair Watts: Earl?

Member Yamamoto: Yes. Hey, Dexter, long time.

Mr. Kishida: Hey, Earl.

Member Yamamoto: I have a question in front of me. That has to do with, the short-term DOT anticipated actions. Is there any during the short term. Is there any infrastructure upgrades proposed during that, now to two-year period for, Nawiliwili or, Port Allen?

Mr. Kishida That will be the planning phase, so getting the data that's necessary to justify what this looks like, to activate Port Allen, or to have the necessary, a revitalization of Port Allen is going to be significant, so we need to have a strong justification on what's going to be moving through there. Not to say that a few boat charters aren't enough, but it's not. 10 containers, not enough. We're looking at needing to ship at least, like, 100 containers per sailing, so 200 a week or so. That's kind of minimum, is the rough estimate, but we've got to sharpen our pencils on that as well. And it's not saying that it all has to come from ag, right? This is a port that everybody can use. And so, to do the necessary upgrades, which

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Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held Virtually on August 25, 2025

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means really just redoing the port, and that's, it's also going to take it offline for a decent amount of time.

Member Yamamoto: Okay. Okay.

Mr. Kishida: I'm sorry, Earl, another piece that, that, for Nawiliwili Airports, and Port Allen even is power. Our power infrastructures at the ports are not able to easily include the refrigeration or power nest power needs of the acceptor there. So that's another piece that we're looking at, is how do we install and upgrade the availability of power reports.

Which is probably somewhere around, like, photovoltaics or other types of renewable energy generation. We also want to meet our energy security goals. That are still open for comment if anybody would like to go to our website.

Member Yamamoto: Okay, okay.

Member Okimoto: Excellent. What you're basically saying, though, is if you gotta do the data collection first before you guys even move we're not looking at 2 years, right?

Mr. Kishida: We're looking 2 years down the road. Correct. Correct. But we gotta start now to justify this so we can get this going.

Chair Watts: Are there other places throughout the state that maybe have a quicker timeline that you guys may already have some data for?

Mr. Kishida: Oh, there, there are. Actually, on Maui, it might be a good example of how in looking at the increases of what's being produced and coming off island, Hawaii Island also, we can get some data. So that's why I think the acres to containers, and of course it depends what I mean, there's a lot of fine detail, but we can get some proxy numbers, and we've started to aggregate them but because ADC has the unique ability, kind of, not only being landowner, but also being able to create value-add opportunities, et cetera, et cetera. I think the conversation is going to be really rich on West Kauai because we can get to a level of detail that is a little harder when we're trying to get this from 200 private farmers.

Member Okimoto: So what you're saying is, I gotta gear up really fast.

Mr. Kishida: We're at least give us, like, the real projections, right, of where we're gonna look like in 2, 5, 10 years to make sure that we're growing half a step ahead of working on.

Chair Watts: Which I guess kind of aligns with, I think he's kind of not ready right now, right, for that.

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held Virtually on August 25, 2025

Via Zoom Teleconference and/or In-Person at Kekaha Agricultural Processing Building, 7189-D Kaumualii Highway, Kekaha, Hawaii 96752

Mr. Kishida: Correct. So that's why now's the time. Now's the time to plan.

Mr. Sou: Could I offer a comment on Port Allen?

Mr. Kishida: Sure.

Mr. Sou: I mean, we've been looking at it for a while. You've got an airbase there that's hardly used. The state owns literally over 200 acres.

Mr. Kishida: On the other side, yeah, yeah.

Mr. Sou: Yes, that infrastructure, I think you've been built from scratch at top notch. And if you sit down with Bruce Robinson, he has a 7.5-megawatt system - ties your power. You might want to strike a deal with, somehow between photovoltaic on this side of the island, it's a no-brainer, and sit down with, you know, the Bruce Robinson, they control all the ground in that area, they can be very creative. So, you're talking private partner with, you know, public? That's one family, you need to bring them in. Because not only that, their ground, beautiful irrigation system, 8,000 acres, all gravity float. Where can you find that? And they have, unfortunately, Jason, Chair, they have more money than you guys are fighting for. And now we under control, you know? So cool. Something to think about.

Chair Watts: Alright, any other questions from board members, the public? There was none.

5. Presentation by Les Milnes, President of Kalepa Koalition regarding the Koalition's current operations and challenges

Chair Watts deferred this item and asked if there was any public testimony. There was one.

Fern Holland: Aloha, I was actually trying to testify on one of the first two items, but it didn't appear that a pause was given to do that. I asked in the question and answer, but nobody responded.

Ken Nakamoto: Hmm, we didn't see any hands raised. Did you have a specific question on which one?

Fern Holland: I actually would like to provide testimony. The first item would have been fine, or I could have done it to the second. I mean, I can make it applicable to almost anything, but it's really relevant to the first two items, mostly.

Ken Nakamoto: Oh, okay, go ahead.

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held Virtually on August 25, 2025

Via Zoom Teleconference and/or In-Person at Kekaha Agricultural Processing Building, 7189-D Kaumualii Highway, Kekaha, Hawaii 96752

Fern Holland: Thank you very much. I really, appreciate you all. I'm sorry I couldn't be there in person today. I wanted to speak a little bit to the ADC board and staff, really about the kuleana of what our state lands are meant, to produce, food for our people. I'm very concerned, and I continue to be concerned, about some of the former License's use, particularly Hartung, formerly Syngenta, the use of a lot of those soils, and Westside agricultural lands, because really, I believe that that land needs to be remediated. I think that there should be requirements that are placed on those that are leasing our state lands, that they return the land in at least as good, if not better condition, than they received it. And we've seen this issue for over 100 years now on, really, the largely utilized land almost in liquidation for the benefit of certain agricultural uses and I believe that, you know, I personally have concerns that Aloun Farms is now going to take over land that has never been properly remediated from experimental pesticide use. You know, we've seen decades of experimental use happening with genetically engineered crops and restricted-use pesticides on that land without really any remediation. We've had this incredible toxic cycle out there. You know, resulting in depleted soils and waters. And I'm just asking that the ADC consider having stricter requirements for the use of these pesticides. And that they really look at, the long-term vision for what this is for, and, you know, I'm very grateful to start to see that we're seeing food production with Aloun Farms coming in, producing food, rather than just experimental research that we've seen out there for decades. But we really need to have a bolder vision, I guess, of what that land could do and provide, and really appropriate crops and the use of agricultural techniques that Hawaii has been compatible with could result in less pesticide use and a regenerative land treatment and management of our lands out there. That would actually be really important for fire and disaster management, because we would address the concerns with flooding and fire if we return these indigenous crops and wetland systems as a part of that, and so I'm just really asking that you guys understand the research behind the concerns that have happened on West Kauai, and also be very bold about the expectations that you have for the people that are leasing our state lands. There's liability lawsuits happening across the United States right now with attempts to basically, big corporations like Corteva, are fighting to not have liability in association with pesticide lawsuits, and who does that liability then land back on? Is it the ADC, and is it our Kuleana to be ensuring that we aren't liable for the impacts of these pesticides? So I would ask that the things that are banned in Europe and much of European Union are not used on West Kauai, and that you guys just really think about some of these long-term uses, and I appreciate it, and again, I really wish that I could have been there in person today, but I appreciate all of you, and we really do need to focus on the food security aspect, because if those ships don't come, and like we went through COVID, we deal with these emergency situations. We need to be having food growing here that we can actually consume, that'll feed our people. Not just stuff that is, not used. And if we don't have those chemicals coming in, we need to be growing things that aren't dependent on them. So, I really appreciate your time, everybody. Creep up the great work. Thank you.

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held Virtually on August 25, 2025

Via Zoom Teleconference and/or In-Person at Kekaha Agricultural Processing Building, 7189-D Kaumualii Highway, Kekaha, Hawaii 96752

Chair Watts: Thank you, Fern. Any other testimony from the public?

Ken Nakamoto: Chair, I just had a couple questions that was in the Q&A and, was from Kylie Wagner-Cruz, and she asked, can ADC make all hard copy materials relied upon in these presentations available by sending them to the ADC email list and posting them on the ADC's meeting website?

Chair Watts: Yes, correct. Once we get back, the Executive Director will make all of the hard copies received today available to the public.

6. Presentation by Alec Sou of Aloun Kauai Farming LLC and Josh Uyehara of Hartung Brothers Hawaii LLC regarding the anticipated transfer of equity from Hartung Brothers Hawaii LLC to Aloun Kauai Farming LLC

Chair Watts: As members, we are able to engage in questioning.

Ms. Waihee-Polk: Chair, but we would probably take public testimony before discussion by the board.

Chair Watts: Sure.

Mr. Uyehara: So yeah, just very briefly, basically, with the change in, some of the contracts already lost some of the long-term contracts that have been you know, key for the hard-hung operation going forward. Really, it was incumbent on us to try to figure out what would be the next steps, for the property that we had been licensing. And, as we know here on West Kauai if the lands are left fallow for any period of time, they've overgrown very quickly and become very expensive with battling production. I was trying to estimate, like, because I was, you know, involved at the time. Originally reef clearing the land from over prone, you know, poly kola, sugarcane, kitty grass. That was a severe fire hazard risk for the entire time leading up to that was many billions of dollars, actually, to do third this land from the state we started with. And so, the idea is, you know, trying to figure out a way to avoid having that revert to that kind of state, and, you know, making it prohibitively expensive to get back into production. Thankfully, you know, the timing has worked out. Alec mentioned, you know, been working for a number of years on trying to figure out, how to bring some scale agricultural production to West Kauai that was actually tied to food production. And so, he's in the best position of anyone, potentially, to do this now. We haven't, you know, finalized all of our agreements and things, but given the advanced stages of our discussion, we wanted to put this to the board's attention, just to let everyone know what we're talking about.

Alec Sou: I'll defer, I mean, like Josh said, we're still working on the detail of the transaction. We are exploring a combination of long-term permanent crop versus

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held Virtually on August 25, 2025

Via Zoom Teleconference and/or In-Person at Kekaha Agricultural Processing Building, 7189-D Kaunualii Highway, Kekaha, Hawaii 96752

row crop. But I've had many meetings with, both DBEDT and Senate, in terms of trying to work out and Department of Education. We've been working with DOE for many years now, trying to figure out this how do you move it, almost we're at ground zero trying to provide food lunch, school lunches for, you know, thousands of kids, every day. And there's a whole infrastructure of science, ag, you know, post-harvest, not just the farming itself, but post-harvest handling, processing that needs to go on. So, we're exploring a lot of different things. It's still in early stages. We have some pretty good idea of crop. Again, it'll be, gauge as to how much further Port Allen or infrastructure or logistics are gonna get move in the next 3 to 5 years. If our investment will have to be curtailed based around that. We can't get it out timely, why, you know, drop millions of dollars in packages? So, a lot of moving parts, but at least it's getting started, and the details, you know, we gotta work things out still.

Chair Watts: Any, testimony from the public?

Ken Nakamoto: No hands raised chair.

Chair Watts: Board members, are there questions? Seeing none, thank you for the update. I also would just offer that, you know, thank you for both you and Grove Farm too, it's helping to keep the farm-to-school movement going. I know it hasn't been easy, the infrastructure's not there, but whenever the DOEs try to, I think, look at local food on their menus, it will always try to step up for them, so thank you for that.

Ken Nakamoto: Members, at this point, does anybody need a break, or keep going, or we keep going or? Okay, we'll take a 5-minute break, if that's okay. Five minute recess.

Recess: 11:29 a.m. – 11:34 a.m.

7. Executive Director's Report- Please see weekly reports available at <https://dbedt.hawaii.gov/adrc/reports>

C. Chairperson's Report

1. Discussing the Public First Lawsuit (Pub. First L. Ctr. v. Def. Council; Jon N. Ikenaga; and Agribusiness Dev. Corp. Bd. of Dir., Civ. No. 1CCV-24-0000050 (Haw. Cir. Ct. January 10, 2024)).

Ms. Waihee-Polk: I will see if I can get the Attorney General on.

Chair Watts: Okay.

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held Virtually on August 25, 2025

Via Zoom Teleconference and/or In-Person at Kekaha Agricultural Processing Building, 7189-D Kaumualii Highway, Kekaha, Hawaii 96752

Jennifer Waihee-Polk: I'll just see.

Chair Watts: Okay.

Jennifer Waihee-Polk: Sorry, I can't, but that's okay, you can move forward. We'll just save anything for another meeting if we have legal questions.

Chair Watts: Okay.

Chair Watts: The chair and the executive director have met with the director of the Office of Information Practices to determine the best way forward, and it is the clear intent of the chair that the ADC will fully comply with the Court's decision. Accordingly, all members of this board will undergo Sunshine Law training at the earliest convenience. OIP will give us some advice as to how and when that occurs. But to ensure that we get the proper support, as we move forward, I'm also, directing that all the ADC staff, undertake Sunshine Law training as well, that the corporation's operations are aligned with both the letter and the spirit of the law, and the OIP director will get back to Wendy as to when and how that occurs. But we want to get that done as soon as possible.

2. Discussing the Agribusiness Development Corporation Bylaws

Chair Watts: And then with respect to, item C2, that'll take us, into the action items. Just a quick comment that, you know, I intend to ensure that we comply with the bylaws of this corporation, and with the concerns raised previously by the state auditor, regarding the failure of the ADCs to appoint members to our standing committees, in today's action item, you will see that we will be addressing, that, going forward.

Chair Watts: So, moving to action items. We'll take something out of order here, but I know they got to...

Jennifer Waihee-Polk: Did you get public testimony?

Chair Watts: Oh, sorry. Any members of the public have any comments?

Jennifer Waihee-Polk: Sorry, Chair, I'm so sorry, you're good, I might have missed this, so did we, are we, putting the Executive Director's report later, or?

Chair Watts: We referenced it.

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held Virtually on August 25, 2025

Via Zoom Teleconference and/or In-Person at Kekaha Agricultural Processing Building, 7189-D Kaumualii Highway, Kekaha, Hawaii 96752

Jennifer Waihee-Polk: Okay, did we get public testimony- just check if there's public testimony?

Chair Watts: Do we have public testimony on the executive director's reports?

Ken Nakamoto: No hands raised chair.

Jennifer Waihee-Polk: Okay, sorry, thank you.

Chair Watts: Is there any public testimony regarding item C1?

Ken Nakamoto: No hands raised chair.

Chair Watts: C2?

Ken Nakamoto: No hands raised.

Chair Watts: And if there's no objection from the members, we'll take one of the action items out of sequence here, because I know they've got to run to another meeting. I'd like to take, item, action item E3.

3. Request for approval to amend License Agreement No. L-08202 issued to Hartung Brothers, Inc. to withdraw Field 117 in Kekaha, District of Waimea, County of Kauai, State of Hawaii, Tax Map Key No. (4) 1-2-002:003 (portion) (taken out of order)

Member Trump: I move to approve to amend the license agreement.

Member Cooke: Second.

Chair Watts: Motion by, Board Member Trump, seconded by Jesse Cooke. Any objections from the members?

Chair Watts: If not, so approved (Unanimously approved: 9-0).

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01:38:49.360 --> 01:38:52.499

Ken Nakamoto: Oh, sorry chair, we have one hand.

Ken Nakamoto: Go ahead, Fern.

Fern Holland: Thank you again, guys. I just want to emphasize one more time, the importance of when these lands are abandoned, that some sort of testing, independent testing is done of remediation for the soil. So, testing for what may

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be left and how we can remediate, there needs to be some sort of environmental control on the abandonment of these lands. Thank you very much.

Chair Watts: Thank you, Fern.

3. Discussing the Kauai activities and projects

Chair Watts: This matter is deferred indefinitely.

E. Action Items

1. Appointment of members to the standing Administration Committee, the standing Technical Assistance Committee, and the standing Marketing/Communications Committee

Chair Watts: Colleagues, pursuant to the bylaws of the ADC as chair after careful consideration, I am assigning each active member to a committee in a way that balances expertise, efficiency, and representation. Before I announce the announcements, I do want to note that, Board Member Glenn Hong is, currently experiencing some personal difficulty with attending our board meetings, and so, he's not being included, currently, but as his time becomes available, we'll make that availability happen for him in a responsible way, to meet quorum requirements, etc. So out of respect for a situation, he would not be formally assigned to a committee at this time. Also, to keep in mind for the board members that, you know, the ADC staff is currently managing a significant number of projects, high-dollar projects, throughout the state, and it's imperative that we keep a regular schedule and keep these committees moving so that we don't become any kind of impediment to that progress, so as we do that, please keep in mind, these are my initial recommendations. If any board members have any issues, please reach out, and we can see if we can adjust those. But for the administration committee, purview to review and make recommendations on personnel, fiscal, and administrative matters.

Chair Watts announces the appointment of Dave Hinazumi, Ciara Kahahane, Dane Wicker, and himself for the Administration Committee. The committee's purview includes reviewing and making recommendations on personnel, fiscal and administrative matters.

Members Nathan Trump, Karen Seddon, Jason Okuhama, Dean Okimoto, and Jesse Cooke are appointed to the Technical Assistance Committee. The committee's purview includes reviewing and making recommendations on matters

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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that relate to technical assistance to agriculture enterprises, including all ADC projects.

Members Sharon Hurd, Dane Wicker, Jesse Cooke, Nathan Trump, and Chair Watts are appointed to the Marketing Committee. The Marketing Committee's purview is to review and make recommendations on the marketing of agricultural products and services consistent with ADC initiatives and the state of Hawaii agribusiness priorities.

Chair Watts: Hopefully this can provide a fair distribution of work, maintain some balance across everyone's subject matter expertise, and ensure our community is operating efficiently and effectively. So, I thank you, all of you, for your willingness to serve, and if you have any concerns, please reach out and we can try to make some adjustments. Next item.

Jennifer Waihee-Polk: Oh, Chair, did you take public testimony?

Chair Watts: Nope. Sorry about that. Any public testimony?

Ken Nakamoto: No hands raised, Chair.

Chair Watts: No hands raised.

2. Request for approval to establish a permitted interaction group to review the draft strategic plan, recommendations, feedback, and any necessary changes and provide the Board of Directors with an update at the September 2025 ADC Board of Director's Meeting, a full report at the October 2025 ADC Board of Director's Meeting, for a discussion and vote at the November 2025 ADC Board of Director's Meeting

Chair Watts: This timelines keeps us in line with the law and at this time, I'd like to appoint.

Jennifer Waihee-Polk: You have to form the meeting for, you have to form the group. That the board has to form the group.

Chair Watts: Is there a motion?

Member Cooke: Motion.

Member Okimoto: Second.

Chair Watts: Second. Okay, we have a motion by Board Member Cooke and a second by Board Member Okimoto. Any objections?

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held Virtually on August 25, 2025

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Jennifer Waihee-Polk: Public testimony.

Chair Watts: Public testimony?

Ken Nakamoto: No hands raised chair.

Chair Watts: No hands raised.

Jennifer Waihee-Polk: And so, discussion and vote.

Chair Watts: Any discussion, members?

There was none.

Chair Watts: Any objections?

There was none.

Chair Watts: Seeing none, the measure is adopted. (Unanimously 9-0)

Chair Watts: I will be appointing Sharon Hurd HDOA Chair, Jesse Cooke, Dane Wicker, Ciara Kahahane, and myself to the strategic planning PIG. I just have to keep in mind, members, for all the committee assignments that have been just done, each committee would have to elect its own chair, and I think work with Wendy's office to ensure that they are staffed properly and noticed properly.

3. Request for approval to amend License Agreement No. L-08202 issued to Hartung Brothers, Inc. to withdraw Field 117 in Kekaha, District of Waimea, County of Kauai, State of Hawaii, Tax Map Key No. (4) 1-2-002:003 (portion) – this was taken out of order earlier in the meeting
4. Request for approval to issue a license agreement to Taworn Panyamee and Thanawat Chak Ano for 58.81 gross acres, more or less of Field 117 for agriculture use in Kekaha, District of Waimea, County of Kauai, State of Hawaii, Tax Map Key No. (4) 1-2-002:001 (portion)

Member Okimoto: Motion.

Member Trump: Second.

Chair Watts: A motion by Board Member Okimoto, seconded by Board Member Trump.

Chair Watts: Is there any discussion?

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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Jennifer Waihee-Polk: public testimony first.

Chair Watts: Public testimony?

Ken Nakamoto: No hands raised chair.

Chair Watts: Any discussion? Board members?

Member Okimoto: Yes, I'd like to make some comments. I admit, I've been to the two farms that, that, are referencing there, and then you know, they have established, fields of fruit growing, Asian fruit mostly and I will tell you that it's a shame that they have to move, because they're just beginning to prove, so, I'm all for them going over there. Plus, you know, Ned, which, I don't know which I don't know what it is real name is went to the farmer's market on Sunday. I mean, on Saturday, so I was here this past weekend. And, so, I saw this pancake thing, and I knew had, he did some value-added things with his fruits and stuff. And so, I wanted to go up, and so I went up and I started to order, and I said, oh, how long is it going to take? Because there's a lot of people standing around. So, oh, at least half an hour to 45 minutes. My jaw dropped and I go it must be really good, she goes, yeah, and then all the people over there are going, yeah, it's really good. You know. So, you know, what I'm basically saying is, you know, he's not only growing the fruit, but he teaches people, you know, probably how to use them and stuff like that, and, you know, they're fruits that are, most of Hawaii probably doesn't even know about a lot of it, right? And, hardworking, we use it the farm, clean farm, I mean, Just, a highly, highly recommend that they get their land and move on and become established farmers in the Kauai community.

Chair Watts: Thank you. Any other board discussion?

Wendy Gady: Chair I just wanted the board to know that both of these farmers have been not only grafting trees, but also planting and potted trees to move to ADC land for quite a few months. Exciting.

Chair Watts: Yeah, it is, for sure. And again, I'd like to thank, Loon and, and, and, Joshua, for, for agreeing to Give up this parcel for them, so any other discussion?

Chair Watts: Earl?

Earl Yamamoto: Yes. Let's see, this proposed license agreement is to suit two separate farmers, but they're sharing the, a single parcel.

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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Earl Yamamoto: Is that a, oh, is there a precedent for that, or is there a potential problem with that? This unspecified relationship between the two entities on the same ADC parcel?

Chair Watts: Executive Director what are the standards.

Wendy Gady: I don't know, Chair and board members, I don't know that we have a written policy or procedure. It is not something that the board or the individual EDC staff requested. It was something that was requested by the farmers themselves and they felt that it would also provide some backup, so if one person's on vacation, the other person can help watch their crop at the same time.

Earl Yamamoto: Okay.

Member Okimoto: Sure. I'd like to make a comment about from, you know, people you know, giving up that parcel for these people, but I think also it might be advantageous, both ways, because I think, Alec can probably help them with some of them walking, either stuff. And hopefully, maybe, expand this pancake operation through Oahu, so I can try it. You know, so I think it might be synergistic. Useful.

Chair Watts: Thank you. I think, Earl, Earl, so you had a follow-up, Earl?

Earl Yamamoto: Aww. Yeah, ah, well, I was just wondering for the sake of, well clarity in case there's a problem, which I cannot imagine, you know, I'm not a land manager or anything like that, but in, in case there's something that I cannot, envision right now, because I don't have the background with, with ADC and its, land management, expectations, I guess, of its licensees. I just raised it just out of, you know, in, in reading the submittal, looking for that, more formal, you know, some kind of, some kind of partnership or something like that between the two, the two entities, being considered. That's all.

Chair Watts: Thank you, Earl.

Earl Yamamoto: Yeah.

Chair Watts: Any objections from the members moving forward?

There was none.

Chair Watts: Any testimony from the public?

AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting held Virtually on August 25, 2025

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Ken Nakamoto: No hands raised chair.

Chair Watts: Alright, great. No objections. Seeing none, measured as adopted. (Unanimously approved 9-0).

5. Request for approval to issue a request for proposal to operate and maintain a high-pressure processing facility at the Central Oahu Food and Agriculture Hub, Whitmore Village, District of Wahiawa, City & County of Honolulu, State of Hawaii, Tax Map Key No. (1) 7-1-002:001 (portion)

Chair Watts: Is there a motion to proceed?

Member Cooke: Motion.

Member Hinazumi: Second.

Chair Watts: It's a motion by Board Member Cook, seconded by Board Member Hinazumi.

Jennifer Waihee-Polk: There is the motion to approve.

Chair Watts: Yes.

Jennifer Waihee-Polk: The request? Okay, sorry, thank you.

Chair Watts: Any public testimony?

Ken Nakamoto: One.

Chair Watts: Sure.

Ken Nakamoto: Go ahead Fern.

Fern Holland: Hi guys, thanks so much. I'm sorry to be the only one testifying, but I just want to say strong support for this. This is really important, and I really hope Kauai can get something like this as well. I'm super excited about what that Central Ag Oahu facility is doing, and I'm really hoping that we got one. Thank you.

Chair Watts: Thank you, Fern.

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Chair Watts: Any board discussion? If not, is there any objections to moving forward?

Chair Watts: If not, measures adopted. (Unanimously approved: 9-0)

F. Adjourn

Chair Watts: This concludes our agenda for this meeting.

Chair Watts: Motion to adjourn? Have you done it?

Wendy Gady: You need a motion, to adjourn.

Member Cooke: Motion.

Member Trump: Second.

Chair Watts: Motion to adjourn by Board Member Cooke, seconded by Board Member Trump. If there's no objections.

Chair Watts: Any comments from the public?

Ken Nakamoto: Seeing none chair.

Ken Nakamoto: Board, this meeting is adjourned (at 11:58 a.m.). Board members, thank you for your time.

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