

onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 7:56 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1263 on Feb 13, 2013 08:15AM*

HB1263

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

Testimony for AGR/WAL on Feb 13, 2013 08:15AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director

HB 1263 – Relating to Irrigation
The House Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture

Wednesday, February 13, 2013
8:14 a.m., Room 325

Position: Support

Aloha Chairs Evans and Wooley, Vice Chairs Lowen and Onishi, and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing Hawaii seed farmers. We are in strong support of HB 1263 which authorizes the director of finance to issue GO bonds to finance improvements to various irrigation systems.

HCIA's member seed companies maintain operations on the islands of Kauai, Maui, Molokai and Oahu. They are vested in the agricultural future of this state and have invested millions into improving the irrigation systems, buildings and other infrastructure. But our 100-year old irrigation systems owned and maintained by the state are in disrepair and facing serious maintenance issues. Any disruption in delivering water to farmers could severely impact their viability.

HCIA will continue to support bills that appropriate funds to fix Hawaii's failing irrigation systems critical to sustaining our farming and ranching operations statewide. We believe this bill offers another tool to addressing these challenges.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HCIA 2012-2014 Board of Directors

President

Mark Phillipson

Vice President

Kirby Kester

Secretary

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Directors At Large

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Cindy Goldstein

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Grant Manning

Fred Perlak

Mark Stoutemyer

Alan Takemoto

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Alicia Maluafiti

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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY BY KALBERT K. YOUNG
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1263

February 13, 2013

RELATING TO IRRIGATION.

House Bill No. 1263 authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance improvements to various irrigation systems throughout the State.

The Department has technical comments on this bill. Federal tax law requires, among other things, that tax-exempt general obligation bond proceeds be used to finance projects that serve public purposes. As it appears that private entities may derive the benefit from this legislation, tax-exempt general obligation bond proceeds cannot be used for this purpose. The State would need to issue taxable general obligation bonds at a higher cost in order to allow the department of agriculture to provide financing assistance to private entities.

In addition, as public funding for these projects are not in the proposed Executive Budget, the annual debt service of approximately \$470,000 should also be proposed in the Legislature's budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Hawaii Farm Bureau

F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
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Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

February 13, 2013

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1263
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 325
8:15 AM

Chair Evans, Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committees:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,950 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF strongly supports HB 1263 appropriating funds for irrigation systems across the State. This measure is one of HFBF's priority measures and part of a systematic effort to increase access to water by our farmers and ranchers.

Many of these irrigation systems are old and some have been in disuse for a period of time. The repair and maintenance of these systems is critical because our farmers and ranchers depend on these irrigation systems for their operations. Water is a basic necessity for farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production. The reliability of water is a key factor for our farmers and ranchers when decided to expand their operations.

Several systems have been included in this measure. The funds are directed to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Resource Management Division. We will defer to them for final numbers of what is needed for the systems at this time.

We respectfully request your strong support of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND
AND
AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 13, 2013
8:15 a.m.
Conference Room 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 1263
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Chairpersons Evans and Wooley and Members of the joint Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1263 relating to irrigation. This measure seeks to provide funding for improvements to various irrigation systems by allowing the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports this bill.

To ensure that Hawaii's agricultural crops receive a reliable source of water, it is imperative to provide sufficient funding to maintain and improve our State's irrigation systems. Further, ongoing droughts and deferred maintenance have only emphasized the need for the repair of the irrigation systems in Hawaii. This bill would provide the additional funding needed for enhancements and maintenance to certain irrigation systems. ADC respectfully requests that the Committee pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Email: communications@uluponoinitiative.com

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND/AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, February 13, 2013 — 8:15 a.m. — Room 325

Ulupono Initiative Supports HB 1263, Relating to Irrigation

Chairs Evans & Wooley, Vice Chairs Lowen & Onishi and Members of the Committees:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy, and reduce/recycle waste. Ulupono invests in projects that have the potential to create large-scale, innovative change.

Ulupono supports HB 1263, which appropriates funding for capital improvement projects to various irrigation systems statewide, providing the much-needed water to help diversified agriculture and local food production to continue to grow.

This bill recognizes that all agriculture needs a reliable and water supply for consistent production, as evidenced by prolonged drought conditions and their devastating effects.

This request represents a modest investment with a long-term community good: Kekaha Ditch System (Menehune Ditch), Waimea, Kaua'i = \$45,000; East Kaua'i Irrigation System, Kaua'i = \$75,000; Ka'u Irrigation System, Big Island = \$2.5 million. Wai'ahole Irrigation System, O'ahu = \$3 million

Ulupono has joined with a diverse group of organizations who have come together for the first time as the Local Food Coalition to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. The coalition brings together farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations. The idea is that putting more local food on local plates can best be accomplished by bringing people and organizations together who can work on the entire food value chain in a systematic way. We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Kyle Datta
General Partner

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND WATER AND LAND

**FEBRUARY 13, 2013, 8:15 A.M.
ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1263
RELATING TO IRRIGATION**

Chairs Wooley and Evans and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1263. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance improvements to various irrigation systems. The department supports the intent of this bill.

Irrigation systems are the backbone of Hawaii's agricultural industry. It is critical to ensure the viability of these systems as the push toward food security is made. Many of these aging systems are in need of significant improvements to modernize their collection and delivery systems to reduce water losses and maintenance costs. These funds are necessary to help extend the life of these systems for many decades to come and to continue to move Hawaii toward a more sustainable future.

The Department does wish to point out that general obligation bond funding cannot be used for operations and maintenance and suggests that the funding for the Kekaha ditch system and the East Kauai irrigation system be provided through general funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2013 8:09 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tabraham08@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1263 on Feb 13, 2013 08:15AM*

HB1263

Submitted on: 2/11/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Troy Abraham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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onishi1-Jerry

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 09, 2013 10:00 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1263 on Feb 13, 2013 08:15AM*

HB1263

Submitted on: 2/9/2013

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	MCFB	Support	No

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