

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES
ON
AGRICULTURE
AND
WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

JANUARY 30, 2008, 8:30 A.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2594
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Chairpersons Tsuji and Ito and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 2594. This bill makes an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for capital improvements and positions. The department supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Executive Biennium Budget; **however**, the department respectfully requests the following changes.

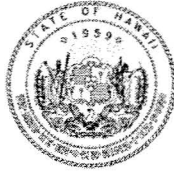
The DOA recommends that the positions be appropriated to AGR 141 in HB 2500 (Relating to the State Budget). Should the legislature add the positions into the budget bill, the DOA requests that: 1) the irrigation district manager, four irrigation

system service worker II's, one third of the engineer VI, and one third of the clerk-typist III's salaries be paid out of the irrigation system revolving fund; 2) one third of the engineer VI, and one third of the clerk-typist III's salaries be paid out of the agricultural park special fund; 3) one third of the engineer VI, and one third of the clerk-typist III's salaries be paid out of the non-agricultural park lands special fund; 4) the ceilings for the respective programs be increased accordingly; and 5) the grade of the four irrigation system service worker II's be corrected to "BC-7" rather than "WC-7". In addition to the ceiling increase for the irrigation system revolving fund, in order to remain solvent the department requests that the general fund supplement increase by \$300,000 and that the converted clerk-typist III position be made permanent. To create optimal program efficiency, we propose that all the position counts and salaries be allocated in this manner and language related to these positions be deleted from the irrigation repair and maintenance special fund.

If funds for the Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan are being appropriated, the name of the special fund may need to be broadened. In that case, the department respectfully requests the following revisions regarding the irrigation repair and maintenance special fund: 1) the name of the "irrigation repair and maintenance special fund" be changed to the "agricultural infrastructure improvement special fund" to allow agricultural land improvement projects access to this Act.; 2) revise §167-24 (b) to read "Moneys in the [~~irrigation repair and maintenance special fund~~] agricultural

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
HOUSE BILL NO. 2594
JANUARY 30, 2008, 8:30 A.M.
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infrastructure improvement special fund shall be used to fund ~~[repair and maintenance of the following irrigation systems:]~~ improvements for the following agricultural projects;
3) add paragraph "(18) Studies for agricultural water and land planning" to §167-24 (b);
and 4) change the wording where appropriate in this bill to reflect the revised name of the special fund.



STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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TESTIMONY OF ALFREDO LEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE HOUSE
COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND
WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES
AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

January 30, 2008

HOUSE BILL NO. 2594
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Chairpersons Tsuji and Ito and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2594. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities in the Executive Biennium budget.

The passage of this bill would help to ensure that irrigation water continues to be available to numerous farms throughout the state. Since the Legislature over the past several years has required the ADC to expend \$50,000 to \$100,000 to assist with routine maintenance of the East Kauai irrigation system, we are aware of major repairs that are badly needed to this system and others. Completion of major repairs such as those needed for East Kauai would

allow the systems throughout the state to optimize their potential to irrigate tens of thousands of acres of prime agricultural land.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



MICAH A. KĀNE
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

BEN HENDERSON
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

KAULANA H. PARK
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P.O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

Testimony of Micah A. Kane, Chairman
On H.B. 2594
Relating to Irrigation
Before the Joint House Committees On Agriculture and Water, Land, Ocean Resources and
Hawaiian Affairs

January 30, 2008

Co-Chair's Tsuji and Ito, and Members of the Joint Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2594 relating to Irrigation. The purpose of this bill is to authorize general obligation bond funds for the repair and maintenance of certain irrigation systems, and for additional personnel to improve irrigation system management.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports the intent of this bill provided it does not conflict with the Administration's priorities as reflected in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

DHHL has homestead farmers on Molokai and in West Hawaii who depend on water from the State's irrigation systems to support their farming operations. These farmers would benefit from improvements in the operations and management of these systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Legislative Testimony

HB 2594, RELATING TO IRRIGATION

House Committees on Agriculture and
Water, Land, Ocean & Hawaiian Affairs

January 30, 2007

8:30 a.m.

Room: 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** HB 2594, which would provide much-needed additional funding for the repair and maintenance of irrigation systems throughout the state.

OHA realizes that irrigation systems are managed statewide and that if there is a surplus of money from an individual system that money goes into the state irrigation fund and the localized system never reaps the benefit from its own profit. Not only is this unfair, it puts a burden on the profitable systems because they have to subsidize others, even on different islands. The Moloka'i Irrigation System (MIS), which may be the only one in the State running at a profit, currently has no control over that revenue stream, which is being spread thin across the islands. Meanwhile, MIS is in sore need of repair and has not been able to access its own funds.

OHA sees that this bill will help to remedy this unfortunate event from continuing or happening elsewhere, as well as flush some much needed funds into a vital and much needed infrastructure that has been neglected in the past.

As the Legislature knows, the State is also proposing to lessen its reliance on imported goods, and this bill is a positive step towards a more localized agricultural economy leading us toward that goal.

This bill also aids projects that are deemed necessary to qualify for federal aid financing or reimbursement. Because the State is anticipating a shortfall in revenue this tax season, we should use every opportunity we can to leverage outside funds.

OHA urges the Committees to SUPPORT HB 2594. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
2343 ROSE STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96819

JANUARY 30, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2594
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Chairs Tsuji and Ito and committee members:

My name is Alan Takemoto, Executive Director, of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, which is the largest non-profit general agriculture organization representing approximately 1,600 farm and ranch family members statewide.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation supports HB 2594, authorizes general obligation bond funds to be deposited into the irrigation repair and maintenance special fund for repair and maintenance of certain irrigation systems, and for additional personnel to improve irrigation system management.

Water is the basic necessity for farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production. In order for farmers to fully realize their production capabilities, the irrigation infrastructure needs to be constantly maintained by a team of well trained personnel. The DOA needs additional staff and funding for the repair and maintenance of the various irrigation systems statewide.

In addition to the repairs of the irrigation system, the State Agriculture Water Use Plan is a very important document that will study the existing and future needs of the agricultural industry. This Plan will provide guidance to policy makers of all of our irrigation systems that provide water for agriculture.

We respectfully ask that you support the passage of this measure.

Thank you.



Maui County Farm Bureau

*An Affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation and Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation
Serving Maui's Farmers and Ranchers*

TESTIMONY

HB 2594 RELATING TO IRRIGATION

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair Tsuji and Ito and Committee Members:

My name is Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau, a non-profit general agriculture organization and an affiliate of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

MCFB on behalf of our member farmers, ranchers and agricultural organizations, supports HB2594, authorizing general obligation bonds for use in a irrigation repair and maintenance special fund.

Closure of plantations have left agricultural irrigation infrastructure throughout the State in disrepair. Capacity within the Department of Agriculture has not increased accordingly. This measure seeks to address this need. Timely repair and maintenance of infrastructure will reduce future capital needs to replace infrastructure that has deteriorated beyond repair as we see in some of the systems today.

We respectfully request your support towards the passage of this measure as an investment to the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren K. Watanabe
Executive Director
MCFB



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

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**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES
ON AGRICULTURE
AND
WATER LAND OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

HOUSE BILL 2594

RELATING TO IRRIGATION

January 30, 2008

Chairmen Tsuji and Ito and Members of your respective Committees:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am President and Research Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center, our research and support staff, and our members and clients.

HARC strongly supports House Bill 2594 Relating to Irrigation which proposes measures to support irrigation systems throughout the islands.

HARC is appreciative for this body's unfaltering support throughout the years in providing financial commitments to the state's irrigation infrastructure. Water is an essential element for successful agriculture and your actions demonstrate your awareness of that fact.

HARC strongly supports funding, tax credits and other legislation to facilitate and expedite the repair and maintenance of the state's irrigation systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**Hawaii
Crop
Improvement
Association**

Adolph Helm, President-Elect
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Hoolehua, Hi 96729
Phone: 808-567-9421

HB2594, Irrigation
House AGR/WLH Committees
Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2008
Room 325: 8:30 am

Position: Support

Chairs Tsuji and Ito, and Members of the Hse AGR/WLH Committees:

My name is Adolph Helm. I am a Molokai resident, and Project Manager of Dow Agro-Science, an HCIA member company. The HCIA represents seed production and research facilities operating in Hawaii for nearly 40 years. The HCIA is comprised of five member companies that farm an estimated 8,000 acres on four islands, valued at \$97.6 million in operating budget (2006/2007 HASS). We are proud members of Hawaii's diversified agriculture and life sciences industries.

Your support is needed for this request for general obligation bonds to be deposited into the irrigation repair and maintenance special fund. With the closing of the large plantations, much of Hawaii's irrigation systems and infrastructure has fallen into disrepair. Yet, many farmers and residents are dependent on these systems for water use. Support for added personnel is also critical to make sure that repairs and maintenance can occur on a timely basis, to include a mobile disaster emergency response team.

We strongly support this measure and ask for your support. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.