

HB 2737 HD1

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 Fax: (808) 973-9613

LATE

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
AND
WATER AND LAND

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008, 2:45 P.M.
ROOM 224

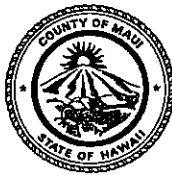
HOUSE BILL NO. 2737, H.D. 1
RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES

Chairpersons Tokuda and Hee and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 2737, H.D. 1. This bill makes an appropriation to the department of agriculture (DOA) for an unspecified amount to plan and design a reservoir(s) totaling 300,000,000 gallons for residential and agricultural use in Upcountry Maui. The DOA respectfully offers the following comments.

The DOA wishes to point out that the reservoir, if constructed, will be connected to the Maui Department of Water Supply (MDWS) system which we understand serves primarily **residential** customers. This reservoir has been under consideration for the last few years by the MDWS. The MDWS has recognized that there may be a substantial amount of water that could be captured during heavy rainfall events in the mountain areas of the district. Since the area has had significant water shortages for some time now, this storm water capture could provide a great benefit to the community.

CHARMAINE TAVARES
MAYOR



200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-2155
Telephone (808) 270-7855
Fax (808) 270-7870
E-mail: mayors.office@mauicounty.gov

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
County of Maui

March 11, 2008

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
and Members of the Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members of the Senate
Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HB 2737, HD 1 – RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES

Dear Chair Tokuda, Chair Hee, and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2737, HD 1, which would provide funding for planning and designing Upcountry Maui water reservoirs with minimum cumulative capacities of 300 million gallons.

The Upcountry Maui water system is unique because it is the only domestic water system in the state that is significantly reliant on surface water. Surface water comprises approximately 80% of the total Upcountry Maui water system sources. The key to addressing Upcountry Maui's ongoing drought and water shortage issues is to develop adequate storage capacity to store raw surface water to meet the needs of both the general and agricultural customers.

Upcountry Maui is the heart of the island's agriculture industry. Droughts and continual water use restrictions are barely adequate means to sustain current homeowners. Water restrictions that are often imposed as a result translate into inadequate and unreliable water flows for farmers to plan, plant and produce agricultural crops. The regular shortage of available water often results in lost productivity of the Upcountry fields, affecting not only the farmers, but also the wholesalers, retailers, and consumers. In addition, ranchers who are working diligently to support and expand their operations, find it difficult to do so without irrigating grazing lands. Without additional water storage, this is not possible.

Addressing the shortage of clean, reliable sources of water is the top priority of my administration. As such, my proposed FY09 budget includes \$3.75 million for this project. Together with \$3.75 million in State funding, we can leverage \$7.5 million in Federal funds, which my administration is currently working with our Congressional delegation to secure.

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Page 2
March 11, 2008

Given the urgency of this issue, I ask for your favorable consideration of HB 2737, HD 1.
Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,


CHARMAINE TAVARES
Mayor, County of Maui

CHARMAINE TAVARES
Mayor



JEFFREY K. ENG
Director
ERIC H. YAMASHIGE, P.E., L.S.
Deputy Director

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793-2155
www.mauiwater.org

March 12, 2008

The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
and Members of the Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members of the Senate
Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HB 2737, HD 1 – RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES

Dear Chair Tokuda, Chair Hee, and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2737, HD 1. For decades now, Upcountry Maui has suffered through yearly periods of drought and water shortages resulting in water restrictions, both voluntary and involuntary. Upcountry Maui is the center of the island's agriculture industry, which is an integral part of the island's identity and whose future depends on having reliable and sustainable sources of water. The Upcountry Maui water system is unique because it is the only domestic water system in the state that is mostly reliant on surface water. Surface water comprises approximately 80% of the total Upcountry Maui water system sources. The Upcountry system currently serves over 9,100 general customers and over 700 agricultural customers.

The key to managing Upcountry Maui's ongoing drought and water shortage issues is to develop adequate storage capacity to store raw surface water to meet the needs of both the general and agricultural customers. Funding in the amount of \$3.75 million from the State, along with matching funding from the County and federal government, will provide for initiating the planning and design of 300-million gallons of raw water storage capacity. This will help the County of Maui take the first big step towards solving its Upcountry water issues.

"By Water All Things Find Life"


The Department of Water Supply is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410. Or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD)



The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
and Members of the Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
The Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
and Members of the Senate
Committee on Water and Land
March 12, 2008
Page 2

Accordingly, the Department of Water Supply respectfully requests your support
of HB 2737, HD 1.

Sincerely,

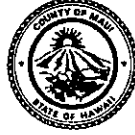
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey K. Eng". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized initial "J".

JEFFREY K. ENG
Director

Council Chair
G. Riki Hokama

Vice-Chair
Danny A. Mateo

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Michelle Anderson
Gladys C. Baisa
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Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

March 12, 2008

TO: Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Honorable Clayton Hee, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: G. Riki Hokama
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Riki Hokama", written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 2737, HD 1, RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the planning and design of water reservoirs with a combined minimum capacity of 300 million gallons to serve the agricultural and residential needs of Maui's Upcountry area.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Creating additional storage capacity for Maui's Upcountry water distribution systems has long been a priority for the County. The design of reservoirs will increase the viability of the agricultural and residential communities serviced by the Upcountry water distribution systems.
2. Currently, there is a waiting list of more than 1,200 County water meter reservations for properties serviced by the Upcountry water distribution systems. The design of Upcountry reservoirs will help to address the water availability needs of the Upcountry area.
3. Due to shortages in the County's Upcountry water systems, drought warnings are frequently issued by the Department of Water Supply. The design of Upcountry reservoirs will reduce mandatory conservation restrictions regularly placed on residents.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail hfbf@hfbf.org

MARCH 13, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 2737
RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES

Chair Tokuda and Chair Hee 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 2737, which appropriates funds to the DOA for the planning and design of reservoir in Upcountry Maui to serve both agricultural and residential water needs.

The Farm Bureau has been supporting, as part of its legislative package, millions of State funding for the dual line irrigation system for agricultural use for Upcountry Kula on Maui for many years. The main reason for a separate irrigation line was for the fact that the water pressure and availability of agricultural water was competing with residential use. As we are in favor of building a reservoir for additional capacity, we hope that this reservoir will allow farmers to have equal use of the water.

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 2737 HD1 RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES

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

Chair Tokuda, Chair Hee 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.

Maui County Farm Bureau, on behalf of its member farmers, ranchers and agricultural organizations **strongly supports HB2737 HD1 with restoration of funding**, to provide funds to the Department of Agriculture for planning and design of reservoirs in Upcountry Maui.

Maui's exponential growth has far exceeded water source development. As such we find competing uses for available water. High rainfall events in watershed areas indicate that there can be enough water for everyone if appropriate source development is done. Being rainfall dependent, this will mean storage in reservoirs during high rainfall periods for use during droughts.

Federal funding may be available. However, such funding will require a State match so authorization of funding at this time is necessary. The appropriation will allow our congressional delegation to leverage state funding to obtain Federal monies.

This reservoir will also be critical to tie into the newly constructed Dual line system. Provisions of farmers and ranchers on the dual line require them to relinquish their use of water during times of drought, providing first priority for public safety. There was no new source development associated with this transmission line. This Bill is important to keep farmers viable during drought periods.

We respectfully request your support in restoring funding for this Bill along with its passage for timely development of new water sources for Upcountry Maui. Time is of the urgency. We cannot lose any more farmers or ranchers due to losses during droughts.

testimony

From: Monnie Gay [mgbg@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2008 12:13 PM
To: testimony
Cc: Justin Gruenstein
Subject: HB2737

Aloha,

This is in support of HB2737 providing funds to the Department of Agriculture for planning and design of reservoirs with new water sources for Upcountry Maui.

We are unable to subdivide our Kula property due to the lack of an additional water meter for our lot. Although we were able to build a second house on the property, we have been on the waiting list for an additional water meter for 8 years. Kula continues to suffer in its quality of life and the ability to have affordable housing because we do not have sufficient water for homes or for farming.

I am a consultant to ranchers and farmers on Maui and know it is vital to have sufficient water for these industries to grow and thrive. The ranchers are working diligently to support and expand their operations and find it difficult to do so without irrigated grazing lands and no hope of additional water sources except during the rainy season. Our farmers continue to lose hope of expanding due to lack of water resources and many have given up farming. Generations of farmer's families are falling by the wayside and the upcoming "kids" see no value in trying to make a living where there is no infrastructure and very little profit made in farming.

Please take our plight seriously, in order to survive in a drought environment Kula must have more water resources. Please help in providing funds to the Department of Agriculture for planning and design of reservoirs in Upcountry Maui.

Mahalo,

Barry and Monnie Gay

*Monnie Gay
Kelly Consulting, LLC.
Aloha Sun Botanicals
Maui Keli Collection
PO Box 1037
Kula, Maui, HI 96790
808-876-1346
mgbg@hawaii.rr.com*

FAX to Chief Clerks
Senate 586-6719 and House of Representatives 586-6401

Submitted testimony from Warren S. Shibuya, Maui resident.
35 Kulamanu Circle, Kula Maui, HI 96790, telephone (808) 878-3778.

Joint Hearing of Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs and
Senate Committee on Water and Land. Thursday, March 13, 2008, 2:45PM.

Testimony supporting HB 2737, HD1, Upcountry water reservoir funding bill.

I fully support and ask you approve appropriation of general revenues for FY
2008-2009 for planning and designing Upcountry Maui water reservoirs with
minimum cumulative capacities of 400 million gallons.

Upcountry district is a higher elevation community of both critical agriculture,
rural homes and disbursed mixture of rural businesses. Upcountry district is
at the cloud-line and can catch moisture and rainfall, except it lacks means of
a developed high-elevation water aquifer, catchment, reservoir and adequate
distribution system. Droughts and continual water use restrictions are barely
adequate means to sustain homeowners. These water restrictions translate
into inadequate and unreliable water flows for farmers to plan, plant and
produce Ag crops. Plantings are limited and lands subdivided.

During my years in Kula, I do not believe I experienced plentiful water. I
experienced rainfall and downpours, but due to limited reservoir capacities, I
continually experienced water use restrictions. Population growth is
transforming fertile Upcountry Ag lands into urban homes. This is a serious
concern because we have not converted urban used lands into Ag production!
Please help ensure Upcountry Ag lands get reliable amounts of water stored in
Upcountry reservoirs and thus allow farmers to reliably provide more crops!

Pumping Central Maui water uphill to Upcountry users is not a smart nor an
economical alternative, just as towing Arctic glaciers for drinking water. But,
we can start today developing forests and systems to recharge our aquifers.

I am a Senior volunteer planting native plants and trees, restoring ancient
Auwahi Forest decimated during the 1700s. Today, Ulupalakua Ranch set
aside 13 acres at 3,700' elevation, which our group is restoring with A'ali'i,
Maui Koa, endangered Alani, rare Sandalwood and other native specie! Cloud
moisture waters our plantings, transforming dry land into a thriving young
forest and eventually recharging Maui's aquifer, after I pass.

Please expand scope of HB 2737 planning and design include: review and
identify potential aquifer and moisture catching methods and sites, provide
concept and systems to flow waters into reservoir systems and incorporate
hydroelectric power production, where possible, to supplement energy needed
for water processing and delivery.

FAX to Chief Clerks
Senate 586-6719 and House of Representatives 586-6401

As General Plan Advisor, I want to designate these lands in our General Plan for public benefit and sustaining. I volunteer to help study and design.

Appreciate your foresight and ensuring we "do the right thing," being more resourceful developers of our aquifers, building adequate water storing capacities, and keeping Ag lands in production in Upcountry Maui!

Mahalo for your dedication and hard work!

Respectfully submitted,

March 11, 2008



Warren S. Shibuya
35 Kulamanu Circle
Kula Maui, HI 96790
E-mail: Ob1Shibuya@Hawaiiantel.net>
Telephone: (808) 878-3778