

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 COMMITTEE
ON
FINANCE

FEBRUARY 6, 2008, 1:30 P.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2737
RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES

Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 2737. This bill makes an appropriation to the department of agriculture (DOA) for \$3,750,000 to plan and design a 300,000,000 gallon reservoir 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

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
HOUSE BILL NO. 2737
FEBRUARY 6, 2008, 1:30 P.M.
PAGE 2

some time now, this storm water capture could provide a great benefit to the
community.



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 RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Chair Oshiro 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**, providing 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 of this Bill 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.

P.O. Box 148
Kula, HI 96790

ph: 808 2819718
email:mauicountyfb@hotmail.com



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

FEBRUARY 6, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

AGENDA #1

TESTIMONY ON HB 2737
RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES

Chair Oshiro 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.

Kula Community Association
P.O. Box 417 - Kula, HI 96790
<http://kulamaui.com>

The vision of the Kula Community Association is to preserve open space, support agriculture, maintain a rural residential atmosphere, and to work together as a community.
The specific purpose of this association is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Kula, to promote civic welfare, and generally to benefit the community of Kula.

Testimony before the House Finance Committee

DATE: Wednesday, February 6, 2008

TIME: 1:30 Conference Room 308

PLACE: Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony on behalf of **HB 2737 RELATING TO WATER RESOURCES.**

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for the planning and design of a reservoir in Upcountry Maui to serve both agricultural and residential water needs.

TO: The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chairman and the Honorable Marilyn Lee, Vice-Chair

The Kula Community Association thanks you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 2737. Our water position adopted in March, 2006 calls for the development of reservoirs upcountry to serve both agriculture and residential needs. This year a shortage of water in Upcountry Maui followed by mandatory cutbacks resulted in reduced production of agriculture and a hardship for many residents. Kula, Maui produces large quantities of the state's agriculture, including the Maui Onion, strawberries, Upcountry greens, as well as much of the world's protea flower supply. If the state of Hawaii is sincere in its efforts to preserve agriculture and maintain a consistent source of food it must provide reliable water to agricultural districts. This year's shortage of adequate water resulted in lost productivity of the fields Upcountry hurting not only farmers, but also wholesalers, retailers and consumers. A consistent source of water supply is sorely needed. The Kula Community Association is appreciative of the legislature for recognizing this basic need and requests that these funds be appropriated.

Contact: Gina Flammer, President
808-876-6284
Flammerfamily@aol.com

FINtestimony

From: Suellen [suellen@maui.net]
it: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 12:19 PM
ro: FINtestimony
Subject: 2/6/2008 HB2737 Agenda #1

Aloha Congressfolk

Upcountry Maui is in dire need of additional water sources particularly for agricultural purposes - I ahve been on a waiting list for a water meter for 10+ years - cathchment or whatever is a necessity

Mahal

Suellen Barton

Makawao, Maui

FINtestimony

From: Tim Fern [timfern@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 12:47 AM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: Olinda Communiyu Association
Subject: 2/6/2008 HB2737 Agenda

RE Emailed Testimony **FOR Support of HB2737** Upcountry Maui Reservoir Appropriation **DATE 020408**

Although I currently live on Oahu, my parents, my siblings, and I have been landowners of record since the mid-1960's. The property is located at **1101 Olinda Road or TMK 2-2-4-013-31 (and 33)**. My parents have passed on but my three children were gifted land ownership in this Olinda property hui. It is my goal to retire there soon.

Having lived there many times, I am well aware of both water quality issues and the ever-increasing demand for adequate water storage and it's delivery. Continuation of this project through **passage of HB2737** is important to members of the Upcountry Maui community. Sincerely and with aloha,

Timothy Fern
-54 year resident of Hawaii

Timothy E. Fern, MD
44-415 Kaneohe Bay Dr.
Kaneohe, HI 96744-2611
(808)-254-4956
timfern@hawaii.rr.com

FINtestimony

From: LEONARD HASSE [ldhase@msn.com]

Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 7:52 AM

To: FINtestimony

Subject: Support for Passage of HB2737, Upcounty Maui Water Reservoir Appropriation

Aloha,

I strongly recommend passage of HB2737.

I have owned my property on Piiholo Road, Makawao, Hawaii (TMK 2-2-4-014-005) since 1972 and owned and lived on my adjacent property (TMK 2-2-4-014-004) since 1985.

I purchased TMK 2-2-4-014-005 in 1972 with intentions of retiring around 1989 and building my retirement home on that parcel. That property did not have water service at that time but did have a distribution line across the street from the property. We were lucky in 1985 when we were able to obtain the adjacent property that did had water service as when I applied for water service for the older, adjacent property in 1997, I was informed that water was not available. We have never been able to obtain a water meter for the other property due to the shortage of water in Upcountry Maui. Our situation is shared by many property owners in Upcountry Maui - property owners without the benefit of water. Many of us have been on a water meter priority list in excess of 10 years.

Our area, which is also heavily wooded and subject to fire hazards in the dry season, has been plagued with water rationing and droughts for as long as I can remember. Building additional reservoirs has always been a catch-up situation and when a new reservoir was completed, it was already behind the "power curve" as new requirements exceeded the additional capacity provided. It's time to get even with and possibly ahead of the "power curve" as far as water resources are concerned. We need more water capacity not only to meet existing requirements to sustain ourselves but more capacity to keep up with the growth of our community.

I would like to be able to share our property with our growing family but am unable to do so with the water restrictions placed on us.

Therefore, I strongly encourage the passage of HB2737 so we can take at least a small step towards meeting our water needs.

Mahalo.

Leonard Hasse, Jr, PE
1733 Piiholo Road
Makawao, Hawaii 96768

FINtestimony

From: James Helton [mauihelton@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 7:49 AM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: Upcountry water situation

We strongly urge the development of more water supply for the Piiholo area of Maui. We have plenty of water available from rain, but it is wasted by just running off & not being conserved in more reservoirs. James & Jacqueline Helton, 65 Mahiai Pl., Makawao, HI 96768 (808) 572-0048

HB2737

FINtestimony

From: Ed Williams [ed@edwilliams.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 4:58 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: re HB2737



RAIN.pdf (48
KB)

I'm a homeowner in the region to be served by the proposed reservoir. It's desperately needed to provide a buffer capacity for our water needs. Our rainfall varies strongly from month-to-month and year-to-year (see enclosed data from W. Kleinwachter on Mahiai Place). A reservoir would allow us to bank water for those (non-) rainy days.

Ed Williams

21 Lumahai Place, Makawao HI 96768

Column1	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
JAN		8.1	3.2	5	8.9	1.9	15	8.25	0.6	12.75	4.2	5.5	6.9	6.4	1.30
FEB		8.5	2	9.7	5.9	5.2	11.25	0	9.25	10.2	12.2	2.75	9.25	10.1	4.50
MARCH	6.75	26.5	3.6	16.1	13.2	9.3	17.75	5	2.8	11.8	3.3	27.25	21.75	10.6	6.00
APRIL	7.4	7.9	6.2	4.1	11.3	20.7	3	7.1	3.5	2.3	2.4	11.75	4.5	4.1	3.75
MAY	4.8	0.4	1.5	2	2.7	5.9	0.75	0.3	1.5	4.5	0	10.2	1.1	5.3	0.50
JUNE	1.6	3.5	2.5	2	15.2	1.5	0.2	1.5	2.3	0.9	2.8	0.6	4	3.8	0.50
JULY	9.4	3.9	2	2.6	9.5	0.75	1.4	1.3	2	2	6.8	1.25	3.8	1.75	4.13
AUGUST	4.5	1.8	2.8	0.6	0.9	2.25	2.8	6	1.3	2.8	3	4.75	1.5	0.75	3.90
SEPT	0.8	1.6	1.7	1.6	2.5	0.75	0.75	1	0.6	1.7	0.5	2.5	8.7	1.75	1.75
OCT	6	0.9	5.7	0	2.1	1.8	1.6	5.9	8.9	6	2.5	3.6	10.5	5.1	3.60
NOV	9.3	4.9	1.6	9.9	17.9	9.5	5.5	8.1	5.8	0.9	10.1	8.7	2.6	2.7	5.60
DEC	7.5	5.2	2.7	18.9	15.8	4	7.1	1	13.1	4.4	7.8	7.8	1.25	1.8	17.00
TOTAL/YR	58.05	73.20	35.50	72.50	105.90	63.55	67.10	45.45	51.65	60.25	55.60	86.65	75.85	58.60	52.53
AVER/MON/YR	5.81	6.10	2.96	6.04	8.83	5.30	5.59	3.79	4.30	5.02	4.63	7.22	6.320833	4.883333	4.377083333

2008	MON AVER	Mon Aver
14.75	6.85	
	7.20	
	12.11	
	6.67	
	2.76	
	2.86	
	3.51	
	2.64	
	1.88	
	4.28	
	6.87	
	7.69	
	YR AVER	
14.75	64.59	
	1993/2005 Not included	

FINtestimony

From: Tim Fern [timfern@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 11:39 PM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: Jonathan E. Fern; Olinda Communiyu Association
Subject: HB2737

RE Emailed Testimony

FOR Support of HB2737 Upcountry Maui Reservoir Appropriation
DATE 020508

From Mr. Jonathan E, Fern

Part Owner The property is located at **1101 Olinda Road** or **TMK 2-2-4-013-31 (and 33)**.

I support HB2737.

Sincerely,

Jonathan E., Fern

2/6/2008

FINtestimony

From: Tim Fern [timfern@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 11:28 PM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: Olinda Communiyu Association
Subject: HB2327

RE Emailed Testimony
FOR Support of HB2737 Upcountry Maui Reservoir Appropriation
DATE 020508

From Miss Kiii'oe L.. Fern
Part Owner The property is located at **1101 Olinda Road** or **TMK 2-2-4-013-31 (and 33)**.

I support HB2737.

Sincerely,
Kili'oe L, Fern

FINtestimony

From: Tim Fern [timfern@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 11:25 PM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: Olinda Communiyu Association
Subject: HB2737

RE Emailed Testimony
FOR Support of HB2737 Upcountry Maui Reservoir Appropriation
DATE 020508

From Miss Denby K. Fern
Part Owner The property is located at **1101 Olinda Road** or **TMK 2-2-4-013-31 (and 33)**.

I support HB2737.

Sincerely,
Denby K, Fern

FINtestimony

From: Tim Fern [timfern@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 11:34 PM
To: FINtestimony
Cc: Olinda Communiyu Association
Subject: HB2737

RE Emailed Testimony
FOR Support of HB2737 Upcountry Maui Reservoir Appropriation
DATE 020508

From Mr. Nicholas S. Fern
Part Owner The property is located at **1101 Olinda Road** or **TMK 2-2-4-013-31 (and 33)**.

I support HB2737.

Sincerely,
Nicholas. S., Fern