



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

SB3102 SD2

RELATING TO THE LAND CONSERVATION FUND

March 14, 2008

Chair Ito and Members of the Committee:

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 SB 3102 SD2 Relating to the Land Conservation Fund.

It is important to provide an opportunity for the public to provide funds for land conservation with or without having to specify a specific property. This will leverage the state's commitment to conserving agricultural, cultural, and conservation land.

Also providing for the operation, maintenance and management of lands acquired by way of this fund is important as long as it is restricted as in (h) (4) of the proposed language. This paragraph is very important to retain in the bill so that this fund is not used up by operational demands.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide SUPPORT for SB3102 SD1, helping to preserve land in Hawaii for the public interest.