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LATE TESTIMONY

January 28, 2009

TESTIMONY

House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

RE: HB 609 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO PLAN, DESIGN, AND CONSTRUCT A TEST WELL IN UPCOUNTRY MAUI TO SERVE AS THE FIRST PHASE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GROUNDWATER WELL TO SUPPLEMENT THE UPCOUNTRY MAUI SURFACE WATER SYSTEM

Chair Ito and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Bureau Federation representing Hawaii's farm and ranch families and organizations supports HB609 providing the foundation for a supplementary groundwater source for Upcountry Maui.

Maui has faced multiple years of drought. While farmers have not faced mandatory restrictions, self imposed limitations on water use has limited crop production in this district. Livestock owners have had to sell animals ahead of their targeted market dates since feed and water availability was limited. Currently a potable water systems and agricultural needs share a common system. Groundwater resources will provide a stable water source through droughts to meet public safety needs, alleviating the requirements of the surface water system.

We respectfully request your support of this measure, to reduce the island's dependence on surface water. Thank you for your consideration of this matter



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