

**HB 975**



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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**APRIL 2, 2009  
9:30 AM  
ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 975, H.D. 1, S.D. 1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL WATER SYSTEMS**

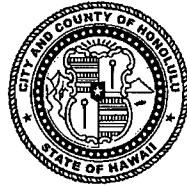
Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 975, H.D. 1, S.D. 1. The Agribusiness Development Corporation's (ADC) mission is to facilitate the transition of the State of Hawaii's former plantation land and water systems to diversified agriculture. In doing so our primary focus has been the acquisition and management of large scale agricultural land and water systems, for the benefit of local farmers and agribusinesses.

HB 975, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 supports the ADC's mission by making it easier for us to acquire agricultural water systems via gifting in addition to grant or purchase, and via an exemption from county ordinances subdivision requirements for such transactions. This can only serve to further benefit diversified agriculture in Hawaii.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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MUFI HANNEMANN  
MAYOR

DAVID K. TANOUE  
DIRECTOR

ROBERT M. SUMITOMO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 2, 2009

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means  
State Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kim and Members:

**Subject: HOUSE BILL 975, HD1, SD1  
Relating to Agricultural Water Systems**

The Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP) has **no objections** to House Bill 975, HD1, SD1, relating to agricultural water systems.

In as much as the SD1 amendment to this measure clarifies that the exemption from county subdivision requirements applies only where no new lots are created by the acquisition of an agricultural water system by the Agribusiness Development Corporation, the department's concerns previously expressed in testimony of opposition have been adequately addressed.

We appreciate the attention given to our concerns regarding this bill, and can now recommend that House Bill 975, HD1, SD1, be approved. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David K. Tanoue", is written over a horizontal line.

David K. Tanoue, Director  
Department of Planning and Permitting

DKT: jmf  
hb975hd1sd1-mst.doc



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

April 2, 2009

### COMMENTS TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

By Kapu C. Smith  
Senior Land Asset Manager  
Kawailoa Plantaion

Hearing Date: Thursday, April 2, 2009  
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211

Dear Chair Kim, Vice Chair Tsutsui and Committee Members:

#### **Comments in Support of House Bill No. 975 HD1 SD1- Relating to Agricultural Water Systems**

Kamehameha Schools' supports H.B. 975 HD1 SD1 which will enable the Agricultural Development Corporation (ADC) to accept ownership of Wahiawa Irrigation System (WIS) without the requirement of county subdivision. Passage of this bill will do the following:

- Remove a roadblock to the potential conveyance of WIS to ADC - The cost and time of completing subdivision for each parcel over which WIS runs would make the conveyance unlikely (the system consists of over 25 miles of open ditches, tunnels and 14 siphons).
- Recognize the need to preserve the operation of WIS as the primary irrigation source for agricultural lands on the North Shore - In 1906, the Wahiawa Irrigation System was built to provide irrigation water to 12,000 acres of sugarcane and 5,000 acres of pineapple by Waiialua Sugar Company with a 50 million gallon per day capacity. It currently supplies an estimated 10 million gallons per day of irrigation water to 6,400 acres of diversified crops and the remaining pineapple crops. Of the 22 farmers who currently use WIS, 18 have no backup irrigation source (rainfall is inadequate) and cannot continue farming without the continued operation of WIS (Source: Wahiawa Irrigation System Impact Study by Hawaii Department of Agriculture dated November 21, 2008).
- Acknowledge the value of WIS to agricultural production on Oahu - It was estimated by DOA that during 2007, \$37.66 million of agricultural crops were produced and sold from the lands serviced by WIS and provided jobs for 569 full-time and part time workers (Source: Wahiawa Irrigation System Impact Study by Hawaii Department of Agriculture dated November 21, 2008).

As such, we hope that you too will support H.B. 975 HD1 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to express our views.

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