

Testimony

House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources and Committee on Agriculture

Re: HB 975 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL WATER SYSTEMS

Chair Ito, Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, on behalf of its' member farmers and ranchers is in **strong support of HB975** authorizing the ADC to acquire and manage agricultural water systems.

Since the closure of plantations irrigation infrastructure across the state has fallen into disrepair. The original intent of the Agribusiness Development Corporation was to perform functions such as those intended in this measure.

Assistance has been provided to farmers in the Waihole system and on Kauai. Most recently a need for assistance in Kau was demonstrated and renovation of that system has commenced.

HFBF strongly requests your support of this measure as without water there will be no agriculture. Thank you.