

HAWAII COUNCIL OF MAYORS

LATE
Testimony

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Testimony of

Hawaii Council of Mayors

Bernard Carvalho, Jr., Mayor of Kauai County
Mufi Hannemann, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu
William P. Kenoi, Mayor of Hawaii County
Charmaine Tavares, Mayor of Maui County

Before a Hearing of the
House Committee on Agriculture
House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources

March 29, 2010

House Resolution 119 and House Concurrent Resolution 184
Requesting that the Legislature Convene an Investigatory Public Hearing to Evaluate
the Biosecurity Program by Examining State and County Policies and Practices that
Affect the Availability of Water for Agriculture and Maintenance of Agricultural
Irrigation Systems

The Hawaii Council of Mayors (HCOM) supports the Legislature's efforts to provide for discussions on the needs of our agricultural industry including calling for an "investigatory public hearing" on bio-security programs, the availability of water, and the maintenance of irrigation systems.



Mayor Billy Kenoi
County of Hawaii
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720



Mayor Mufi Hannemann
City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813



Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Jr.
County of Kauai
4444 Rice Street, Suite 235
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

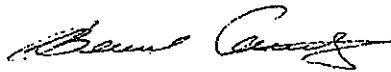


Mayor Charmaine Tavares
County of Maui
200 South High Street, 9th Floor
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

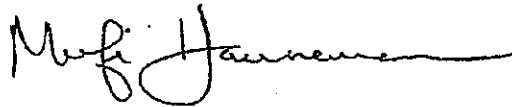
Agriculture's future is dependent on availability of affordable and reliable water supplies. Collaboration amongst all parties—public and private—is critical. Our commitment to these issues is reflected in our individual county efforts to comply with the planning requirement mandated by the State Water Code, Chapter 174-C, HRS. Convening the major policymakers, as envisioned by these resolutions, would complement and bolster our ongoing planning work with respect to a sustainable water supply and delivery system. We look forward to the discussions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

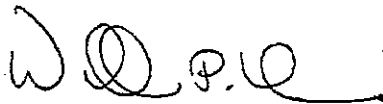
Aloha,



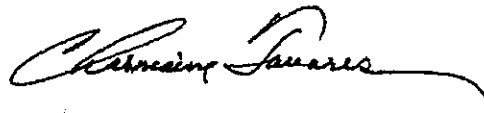
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor of Kauai



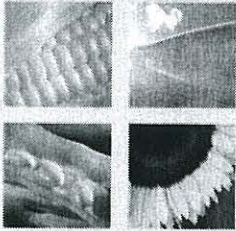
Mufi Hannemann
Mayor of Honolulu



William P. Kenoi
Mayor of Hawaii



Charmaine Tavares
Mayor of Maui



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

**HCIA 2008-2009
Board of Directors**

President
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Allka Napier

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Cindy Goldstein
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Martha Smith
Mark Stoutemyer
Jill Suga

Past President
Sarah Styan

Executive Director
Alicia Maluafiti

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti

HR 119 / HCR 184, Requesting an Investigatory Public Hearing
The House Committee on Agriculture and
Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources
Monday, March 29, 2010
Room 325, 10:30am

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Position: Support

Aloha Chair Tsuji and Ito, Vice Wooley and Har and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. HCIA is a nonprofit trade association representing the agricultural seed industry in Hawaii. Now the state's largest agricultural commodity, the seed industry contributes to the economic health and diversity of the islands by providing high quality jobs in rural communities, keeping important agricultural lands in agricultural use, and serving as responsible stewards of Hawaii's natural resources.

The Hawaii State Constitution recognizes the importance of agriculture and the state's duty to "conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." Balancing that decree is the dual obligation of the state "to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources for the benefit of its people."

HCIA supports HCR 184/HR 119 because for too many years, our state has lacked a cohesive and collaborative approach to addressing the competing uses for water, despite the tireless efforts of the Commission on Water Resource Management and their staff. If we are to ensure the availability of water for future generations, then we must collectively learn to balance those needs. For the agricultural community, sustainability and food security cannot be achieved without water, yet farmers must continue to fight for that right to have equal access to the resource.

This resolution appropriately brings together the many vested stakeholders to take an integrated and comprehensive look at the policies dictating water use and address possible legislative and other policy solutions to ensure the viability of agriculture in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.



LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII
700 Bishop Street, Ste. 1928
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone 521-4717
Fax 536-0132



**LATE
Testimony**

Via: WLOTestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

March 29, 2010

**House Committees on Agriculture and
Water, Land and Ocean Resources
Hearing Date: Monday, March 29, 2010 at 10:30 in CR 325**

Comments to HR119/HCR 184

**REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATURE CONVENE AN INVESTIGATORY PUBLIC
HEARING TO EVALUATE THE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM BY EXAMINING STATE
AND COUNTY POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT AFFECT THE
AVAILABILITY OF WATER FOR AGRICULTURE AND MAINTENANCE
OF AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.**

Honorable Chair Clift Tsuji, Vice Chair Jessica Wooley and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Honorable Chair Ken Ito, Vice Chair Sharon Har, and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources,

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

HR 119/HCR184. The purpose of these Resolutions are to ensure that the policies and practices of state and county agencies, including the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Commission on Water Resource Management, Public Utilities Commission, Agribusiness Development Corporation, each county department of water supply, and each county planning department (agencies), enable and promote the availability of water for agricultural production and the maintenance of agricultural systems.

These Resolutions are requesting that the legislature convene a joint investigatory public hearing for the purpose of:

- (1) Investigating the policies and practices of the various state and county agencies' permitting, approvals, and decisions that affect the availability of water for agricultural production and the maintenance of agricultural irrigation systems; and
- (2) Identifying any statutory or other amendments that may be necessary to promote and meet the objectives of the biosecurity program;

Background. In 2008, a biosecurity program was established by addition Part VI to Chapter 150A. Particularly, **§150A-51 Biosecurity program; establishment**, which required that the department of agriculture shall establish a biosecurity program authorized under this chapter that shall interface with other relevant state law; provided that the biosecurity program is not inconsistent with federal law.

LURF'S Position. LURF generally supports the intent of these Resolutions, but **respectfully requests that along with holding a public hearing the agencies offer solutions if water availability and irrigation deficiencies are at issue.** Access to water is necessary for successful agricultural operations. Moreover, sufficient quantities of water and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure are essential to support viable agricultural production on a scale necessary to meet the objectives of the biosecurity program. One of the actions identified to achieve the objectives of the biosecurity program is to promote the production of agricultural commodities in the State to reduce importation of goods into the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our **testimony in support of HR 119 and HCR184.**



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Neighbor Islands: 1-800-482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921; e-mail: info@hfbf.org

LATE
Testimony

TESTIMONY

RE: HR 119 Requesting that the legislature convene an investigatory public hearing to evaluate the biosecurity program by examining state and county policies and practices that affect the availability of water for agriculture and maintenance of agricultural irrigation systems.

Chair Tsuji, Chair Ito and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF) on behalf of our member commercial farm and ranch families and organizations is in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HR119 that seeks to have a public hearing before the Legislature regarding the availability of water for agriculture to support the growth of agriculture for Hawaii's biosecurity.

The Legislature has expended many hours and resources to advance the needs of Biosecurity in Hawaii. An effective Biosecurity Plan will go a long ways to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy and have the many things that make Hawaii special ...the variety of agriculture providing for increased self sufficiency supported by a thriving environment often unique to the islands.

HFBF, since its' inception has strongly supported the Hawaii Biosecurity Plan. While the initial efforts largely focused on the prevention and control of invasive species which would help our farmers and ranchers, last year, sections were added in recognition that a strong local agricultural industry will go a long ways to support invasive species prevention. Growing high risk agricultural products locally would reduce the chances of introduction of new invasive species. This means the support mechanisms to have that industry must be in place.

Last week Hawaii Farm Bureau participated in discussions of what are the critical aspects of food security. We joined the Civil Defense in addressing how agriculture would assist in times of catastrophes or pandemics. While we discussed details, the key point is that we need to have a strong, productive, resilient industry in place before the catastrophic events. Significant levels of production will need to be occurring, with immediate capacity to transition to other crops at times of emergency. As long as lands are in active production with working infrastructure this can happen. Hawaii did it before during the World Wars. Our population has grown but we can still do it. However, the infrastructure must be in place.

A productive and resilient system is critical. Resiliency means the ability to recover from downturns, including problems in production. One of Hawaii's greatest threats to agriculture at this time is water. Farmers and ranchers across the state have taken major setbacks due to lack of water during droughts. At the same time, the Water Commission is challenged with

making decisions of how to balance water. State and Counties are faced with irrigation systems that need repair while many other areas do not have systems and face major production declines during droughts.

Solving all of these problems will happen if we have a cohesive plan with a unified vision of what agriculture needs. This public hearing, involving the major policymakers will go a long ways to providing a network as well as building an awareness of the needs.

Last week the unemployment status across the nation was announced. The States with the least impacts through the economic downturn have been the agricultural states. Agriculture is also a base industry. It provides the feedstock for value added production by other small businesses while providing for increased self sufficiency. It can provide export products to bring in much needed general fund revenue. And, most important it can provide the products and experiences that make Hawaii unique and special to our residents and visitors.

We respectfully ask for your strong support of this measure to provide an important element to the Growth of Agriculture within the Hawaii Biosecurity Plan. We also **respectfully ask that the Mayors of the various Counties be included in the distribution of the resolution.** The Planning and Water Departments carry out water initiatives. However, agriculture's access to water and its' viability crosses over into the well being of the County best addressed by the Chief Administrator which is the Mayor.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our insight into this important measure. If there are any questions, please call Mae Nakahata at 2819716.

The Twenty-Fifth Legislature
Regular Session of 2010

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Committee on Agriculture

Rep. Cliff Tsuji, Chair

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Vice Chair

Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

LATE
Testimony

State Capitol, Conference Room 325
Monday, March 29, 2010; 10:30 a.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON H.R. 119 / H.C.R. 184
Requesting that the Legislature Convene an Investigatory Public Hearing
to Evaluate the Biosecurity Program by Examining State and County
Policies and Practices that Affect the Availability of Water for Agriculture
and Maintenance of Agricultural Irrigation Systems**

The ILWU Local 142 supports H.R. 119 / H.C.R. 184 in large part because of its intent to promote the availability of water for agricultural production and the maintenance of agricultural irrigation systems.

Currently on Maui, there exists a dispute between agricultural interests. On one hand, farmers in Hana want to have streams diverted for their crops. These farmers are small and mostly grow taro, a cultural asset and significant staple in Hawaii. On the other hand, a large agribusiness, Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar, needs an ongoing water source for its survival. Without water, this sugar company that employs more than 800 Maui residents will be shut down, further exacerbating the unemployment picture and damaging Maui's economy.

The State Commission on Water Resources is tasked with making the difficult decision about water allocation. There will be questions about equity and economics. However, for the ILWU, the bottom line is jobs and the economy. 2010 is not the time to be allowing hundreds of jobs to be lost. The economy is fragile enough as it is.

In addition to the jobs, closure of HC&S, which is a decidedly likely scenario if water is not available for production, will mean loss of hundreds of acres of lush, green fields. Maui residents recall what the landscape in Lahaina looked like when Pioneer Mill shut down. The arid environment in Lahaina caused fields to quickly dry up and become dusty reminders of lost jobs and economic activity. Just imagine what visitors to Maui will see if HC&S were to close.

The working group proposed under H.R. 119 / H.C.R. 184 will have a number of issues to consider, one of which will be to ensure that the policies and practices of state and county agencies will enable and promote the availability of water for agricultural production and the maintenance of agricultural systems. In their work, we trust that the working group and the agencies will seriously consider the economic and human impact of water allocation decisions.

The ILWU urges adoption of H.R. 119 / H.C.R. 184. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 11:34 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hvтаро@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR184 on 3/29/2010 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR/WLO 3/29/2010 10:30:00 AM HCR184

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rodney Haraguchi
Organization: Kauai Taro Growers Association
Address: P. O. Box 427 Hanalei, Hi 96714-0427
Phone: 808-826-6202
E-mail: hvtaro@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/28/2010

LATE
Testimony

Comments:

Members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Water, Land and Ocean Resources:

The members of the Kauai Taro Growers Association (KTGA) represent 80-90% of the taro acreage here on Kauai which totals approximately 250 acres. And Kauai supplies 80.9% of the total taro production in the state of Hawaii based on the 2008 statistics from the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Hanalei Valley taro farmers represent 60% of the Kauai production.

We support HCR No. 184 that will allow farmers to voice their concerns regarding the security for quantities of water and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure that are essential to support taro production on a scale necessary to meet the objectives of the biosecurity program.

At this time the #1 request for the Hanalei Valley taro farmers is the repair of their in-take. This in-take has been in need of repair for the past 15 years due to a small break that has now expanded to a length of 80 feet and the entire 8 feet high bank has eroded away. This past November the major flood diverted 100% of their water and the entire Hanalei Valley taro fields were without water. The taro farmers only have a temporary repair and the next flood will again divert their water from their fields.

With the tight budget and economy, we need to prioritize the needs and water is the lifeline and blood for the taro farmers. We ask for your assistance for this repair to keep the taro growing in the Hanalei Valley.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2010 1:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hvтаро@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HR119 on 3/29/2010 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR/WLO 3/29/2010 10:30:00 AM HR119

LATE
Testimony

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rodney Haraguchi
Organization: Kauai Taro Growers Association
Address: P. O. Box 427 Hanalei, Hi 96714-0427
Phone: 808-826-6202
E-mail: hvtaro@hawaiiantel.net
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With the tight budget and economy, we need to prioritize the needs and water is the lifeline and blood for the taro farmers. We ask for your assistance for this repair to keep the taro growing in the Hanalei Valley.

HUI O KA 'IKE

Group Seeking Understanding
75 Kawehi Place
Kula Hawaii 96790

LATE
Testimony

RE: HR 119 Requesting that the legislature convene an investigatory public hearing to evaluate the biosecurity program by examining state and county policies and practices that affect the availability of water for agriculture and maintenance of agricultural irrigation systems.

Chair Ito, Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committees

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HR 119. My name is Kelly Ruidas, employee of Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar on the island of Maui for the past 12 years. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of Hui O Ka 'Ike, an HC&S workforce volunteer group whose mission is to heighten awareness of the critical role HC&S plays in Maui's community.

The following are a number of the significant benefits that HC&S provides for Maui.

1. Employs roughly 800 full-time jobs for Maui residents.
2. Annually HC&S adds approximately \$100 million into Maui's economy by doing business with many local vendors on Maui and throughout this state. Another \$47 million is paid in wages and benefits to its employees and retirees.
3. Offers one of the largest apprenticeship programs in Hawaii with a wide range of opportunities to choose from: carpenter, plumber, welder, machinist, electrician, mechanic, power plant operator, etc.
4. Adds diversity to the economy by having agriculture in place. This is made abundantly clear when seeing the low occupancy rates in the hotel industry and the many workers on the bench in the construction field.
5. Generates renewable energy via hydroelectric and biomass, which is then transmitted to MECO (Maui Electric Company). Seven percent of MECO's total power deliveries are supplied by HC&S.
6. Aesthetically, HC&S's sugar cane keeps Maui green and is one of the main impressions when viewing central Maui from the plane, whether leaving or arriving.

Some of these benefiting factors that I have briefly described for you are just a few positive contributions that Maui residents have enjoyed for generations simply by HC&S being in business.

However, the future of our company and a lifestyle that this island has known for over a century are being threatened by two key decisions.

The State CWRM (Commission on Water Resource Management) is poised to take action by setting the IIFS (Interim Instream Flow Standards) for the East and West Maui Streams. The IIFS is the amount of water that must be left in the streams before water can be used for off stream purposes. Off stream users include ranchers, farmers, and the County of Maui. In essence, the scope of the State CWRM's decision stretches far beyond HC&S and has the potential to negatively impact (economically) Maui's community should the setting of the IIFS be too low for stream users.

HUI O KA 'IKE

Group Seeking Understanding

75 Kawehi Place

Kula Hawaii 96790

HC&S is not just another sugar plantation. If it was, it would have closed its doors a long time ago like many other plantations throughout the state. HC&S has provided employment for several generations in many families. For these families, whose roots run deep in this plantation, HC&S is not just a company but part of their extended family. My fellow workers and I can see the numerous possibilities this company has to offer. We look forward to seeing HC&S fulfill its potential. HC&S already has the land and infrastructure in place to sustain Maui with food crops should a pandemic or shipping crisis arise. In addition, our company is seriously looking at our sugar cane as an energy crop.

In closing, HC&S has given to Maui in the past and continues to do so today. This is an extremely pivotal point in time for Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar. Our company has the opportunity to continue to provide for Maui's community as it did in centuries past. This can only be realized through the strong public support that we have been receiving and, of course, water. Water is the core of HC&S's future and the determining factor for us to remain viable. This is the very reason that I respectfully ask for your support of HR 119.

On behalf of Hui O Ka 'Ike, I would like to thank you for your time and consideration.

If there are any comments or questions, I can be contacted at (808) 264-0739.

KELLY RUIDAS

Internal Combustion Engine Mechanic

Hawaiian Commercial & Sugar Company

TESTIMONY

RE: HR 119 requesting that the legislature convene an investigatory public hearing to evaluate the biosecurity program by examining state and county policies and practices that affect the availability of water for agriculture and maintenance of agricultural irrigation systems

We the undersigned, **STRONGLY** support this resolution. To have agriculture, you must have water. There have been numerous droughts throughout the State. On Maui, we have had 2 consecutive years of drought in 2007 and 2008 that has hurt agriculture significantly.

Policies and strategic directions to address agriculture's need of water is important to have agriculture in the future. We urge your support of this measure.

Name	Street Address	City, Zip
SHAYNE KAUHARUA	P.O. BOX 330316	KAHULUI, 96733
FREDERICK JASON KUKUA	406 AHO ST KAH 96732	
Jo Yamashita	679 Pohala St. Wai	Wailuku, 96793
Daniel K. Lippert	10 Kapuahu St	Maunaloa 96769
Ernest Longboy	51 W. Kawai St	Kah. 96732
Carl Nuhie	151 Puwao Dr	96790
Colin Mizuki	56 POLANI ST KAH	96732
DANNY BANAGA	3870 HONO, HWY HAKOH	
Juanito Domingo	923 Puuloa St Wai	96793
Tracy Yano	1015 Onaha St.	Wailuku 96793
JERARD TUMACDER	27 ALEHELA PLACE	KAHULUI, 96732
Rogelio Acoba	1136 Haha PL Waihan	96793

TESTIMONY

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Name	Street Address	City, Zip
Robert Elchias	Kalahe	
John W. Galacia	P.O. Box 791035	Paia, 96779
JOSEPH R. AVELLANA	841 MAHEALANI ST.	KIHEI HI. 96753
MOLY R CORPUZ	239 Hale Kai St	KIHEI HI 96753
BENJAMIN GARCIA	91 HOKU PUNIPAKA ST	KAHALUI 96732
DWD OPPZ	201 WAIKONA AKA	PAIA.
Expedito Castillo	480 PALANUA DR.	
Adam Trevino	411-A Kalua Rd.	Wailuku, HI 96793
DOMINGO PAET	254 ILIKA ST	KIHEI 96753
WILFREDO M. YASNEY	73 WAIKONA AKA	KAHALUI, MAUI 96732
Florencia Moya	35 Paia St/Huaila	
Warren Costa	35 Hololea St D-204	Kahului, HI 96732
Emiliano Aguiar	3406 Halekaia Hwy	Pu Kalani 96768
Fermín Domingo	46 Ani Street	Kahului 96732
Florencia Vally	116 Namana Pl.	Kihei
Benito Polanco	931 Puukoa St.	Wailuku, HI 96793
Bonnie Lopez	238 Hialani St	Pu Kalani
JOSE P. VILLANUEVA	703 Palenaka Pl	Maui

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Name	Street Address	City, Zip
Franklin Cook	151 W WALEA AVE	96732
Ernesto Symon	810 Olona St. Wailuku	96793
Burt L. VanFoss	655 HALUUA PL.	96793
Rudy Alquist	303 St - Papa	96732
Kelvin Prier	P.O. Box 1652	96768
Francis Cojudo	611 Pili'olaka St	96779
Clyde Leval	1039 MANAMA ST	96793
BENTTO TAGUPIN	386 HANALIE PK	96793
Michael Cabralle	180 MAKANI RD	96768
Miriam Brown	856 Makalii St	96732
NICANOR CASUMPAN	P-1 - Box 50 KAH	96733
AMELITO PANLASIGUI	1816 MILL ST.	96793
Clarence Moniz	53 AKILAKILA Pl. Pihai	96768
Roman Catchapuro	1061 Makalii St.	96732

TESTIMONY

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Name	Street Address	City, Zip
ANGELO JETTSSEPHAT	211 Kolu St	Kahului 96732
MARLON BARTOLOME	KAHULUI	
DEXIE RAEPAN	Pukalani	
Manuel Vena	Wailuku Maui Hawaii	
Antonio Bran	Kahului	96732
Marvin Murao	178 Haliimaile Rd.	96768
Jeff Oliver	738 Haliimaile Rd.	96768
Flavencia Moya	35 Poina Hiale	96768
Melisa Adams	49 ANOHOG ST PAHA	96779
Ruben Domingo	41 MAORI PL.	96732
Robinson Bubano	221-KAIWAHINE KITHEI	96753
Francisco P...	71 Kolu PI	96732
Marging Gaspar	54 Poina Cir Wailuku	96797
Fred ...	151 PUEO DR Kula	96790
Robert Williams	682 MALI MALI.	96753
John Galiza	75 Polani St. Kula	96730
Keddy ...	289 Waihanua Pl.	Kula
Carlo ...	879 Denny ST.	Wailuku
Rogelio ...	9 C. Waihanua Bldg Rd.	Wailuku

TESTIMONY

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Name	Street Address	City, Zip
Papa Altus	KIHEI	
Peter Alonzo	Kahului	96732
ROLANDO S. QUEA	KAHULUI	
Rolando Belson	KIHEI	96753
opralin	HAUIMAILE	96768
Alvin Kahala	WAILUKU	96793
Paul Kahala	HAUIMAILE	96768
Walter Kahala	Kahului	96732
Gilbert Caliva	Wailuku	96793
MARK SOWERS	HAIKU	96708
JOSEPH CABACCANG	KAHULUI	96732
JUE NATIVIDAD	KAHULUI	96732
Averno Castro	Kahului	96732
MANU GIBSON	HAIKU	96708

TESTIMONY

RE: HR 119 requesting that the legislature convene an investigatory public hearing to evaluate the biosecurity program by examining state and county policies and practices that affect the availability of water for agriculture and maintenance of agricultural irrigation systems

We the undersigned, **STRONGLY support** this resolution. To have agriculture, you must have water. There have been numerous droughts throughout the State. On Maui, we have had 2 consecutive years of drought in 2007 and 2008 that has hurt agriculture significantly.

Policies and strategic directions to address agriculture's need of water is important to have agriculture in the future. We urge your support of this measure.

Name	Street Address	City, Zip
Saml & R		Lahaina ca
V. Uechi	-	Waipahoehoe
Paul White		Kihei
Warren Costa	-	-
Zandra	Kahului	
Lina Sandi	Kihei	