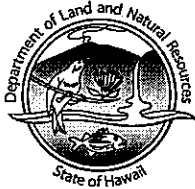


TESTIMONY
SB495

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2009
3:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 495
RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE REPAIR AND
MAINTENANCE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE STATE**

Senate Bill 495 proposes to appropriate funds for capital improvement projects for irrigation systems throughout the State. These funds would also support the development of the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan. While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) recognizes the importance of long range water planning for agriculture, which is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Hawaii Water Plan, the Department nonetheless defers to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) on whether this measure impacts their Executive Biennium Budget request.

In addition, the Department defers to DOA for comments regarding the capital improvements of the irrigation systems throughout the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING

FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Maui County Farm Bureau

An Affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation and Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation

Serving Maui's Farmers and Ranchers

P.O. Box 148

Kula, Hawaii 96790

TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Water, Land Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

RE: SB 495 RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE STATE.

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of its member farmers and ranchers is in **strong support** of SB495 which further clarifies the provisions associated with the Hawaii Biosecurity Plan.

Maui County Farm Bureau is Maui's general agriculture advocacy non-profit organization. Affiliated with the Hawaii Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation, we represent Maui's farm and ranch families and organizations.

Upcountry farming on Maui is totally dependent upon surface water supplies. Over the past years a systematic process, leveraging State with Federal resources has resulted in the construction of a Dual line to provide untreated water to farms and ranches on the Upper Kula Line. Every year, the Legislature provided funding to continue implementing the long term plans for the area. This measure continues this project as well as begins one to expand reservoir storage to expand the area's ability to endure drought conditions.

MCFB respectfully requests your strong support of SB 495. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.



TESTIMONY

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

**RE: SB 495 RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE
REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE STATE.**

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

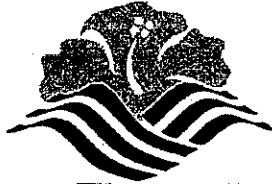
My name is Dean Okimoto, President of Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation. Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of its member farmers and ranchers is in **strong support of SB 495**, providing CIP funding for Irrigation Systems across the State.

The Agricultural industry's most important ingredient is reliable and affordable water. This Bill will provide the funding to repair, rehabilitate, and improve existing irrigation systems. These systems are situated in regions now under active agriculture. This Bill supports initiatives to grow and buy local produce and will sustain the farm employment by allowing existing farms to increase their production with adequate irrigation water availability. Increased "home grown" production will reduce threats of invasive species from places across the ocean and increase our level of biosecurity.

During the crafting of the measure, a section referencing additional staffing and positions was accidentally left in the final version. We request that it be deleted. Added information regarding the estimated cost of the systems was also developed. Attached is the amended version of the measure including the estimated costs.

We respectfully request your support of SB495 with the suggested amendments. If there are questions, please contact Paul Matsuo who is HFBF's advisor on Water Infrastructure matters. He can be contacted at 8395040.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our views on this matter.



KONA COUNTY FARM BUREAU
P.O. Box 2341 • Kealahou, Hawaii 96750
Phone: 324-6011

February 17, 2008

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Testimony on SB 495
(RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF IRRIGATION
SYSTEMS WITHIN THE STATE)

Chairman Clayton Hee and Committee Members:

The Kona County Farm Bureau respectfully submits testimony in support of SB 495.

The purpose of this SB 495 is to appropriate funds for capital improvement projects for irrigation systems throughout the State. A reliable irrigation system is the lifeblood of Hawaii's agricultural industry.

Working to increase the production of locally grown agricultural products is important to the State. Therefore, to ensure that Hawaii's crops receive a steady and dependable supply of water, sufficient funding is needed to maintain and improve Hawaii's irrigation systems.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to share with you the position of the Kona County Farm Bureau.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy Pisicchio
President



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

Administration: P.O. Box 100, Kunia, HI 96759

Ph: 808-621-1350/Fax: 808-621-1359

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

SB495

RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE STATE

February 18, 2009

Chairman Hee and Members of your Committee:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am Executive Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center and our research and support staff

HARC strongly supports SB 495 RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE STATE.

HARC is appreciative for this body's unfaltering support throughout the years in providing financial commitments to the state's irrigation infrastructure. Water is an essential element for successful agriculture and your actions demonstrate your awareness of that fact.

This proposal recognizes the importance of repairing and maintaining the irrigation systems to provide an adequate and reliable water supply to farmers throughout the islands.

No water; no agriculture; no agriculture; no local food; no landscaped (firebreaks) open space. The capital cost of these systems were incurred by the private sector contrary to the farming belts on the mainland. Now these systems need to be supported by the public sector who benefit from the food produced and the maintenance of an economically viable rural communities with local jobs and open space.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in **strong support for SB495**

From: Linda Kahana
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 9:29 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: FW: SB 495

From: norfolkldm@aol.com [mailto:norfolkldm@aol.com]
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2009 9:39 AM
To: testimony
Subject: SB 495

Senate Bill 495

Senator Hee and other members of the Senate Ag Committee

My name is Doug MacCluer and I am the Chairman of the Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation District and have served in that role for over 20 years.

I stand in support of Bill 495 as the Up Country Maui does not have enough water to serve the Ag needs of our community with all the new growth in our area. If we are going to be self sustainable in food production, we have to get the water to the farms. This Bill will help us do that for Maui.

Sincerely,
L. Douglas MacCluer
Phone 268-1544
360 Hoopalua Dr.
Pukalani, Maui, 96768

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**KEKAHA AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 940
WAIMEA, HAWAII, 96796**

TESTIMONY OF MEMBERS OF
THE KEKAHA AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATION

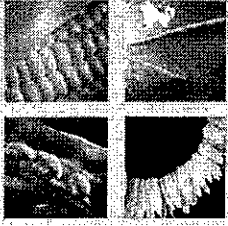
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**SENATE BILL 495
RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS
FOR THE REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF
IRRIGATION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE STATE**

Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony on behalf of Senate Bill 495. The members of the Kekaha Agriculture Association firmly support this legislation and urge swift, and appropriate passage. Many of the irrigation systems throughout the State of Hawaii was built over 100 years ago and remains the lifeblood of Hawaii's agriculture industry. As a matter of fact, a large percentage of families in Hawaii owe their gratitude and mere existence here in Hawaii, as a direct result of the development of these systems. We must continue to refine and improve what our forefathers have labored for years to accomplish. We must preserve and protect this valuable resource for generations to come. It is both our duty and obligation as stewards of this land to further improve upon the very foundation that our forefathers etched into stone. I urge you to pass this legislation along with the necessary funding to insure the continued existence of these heritage systems.

Respectfully submitted
Landis Ignacio
Manager, Kekaha Agriculture Association



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti

SB 495, Relating to CIP for the Repair and Maintenance of Irrigation
Systems Within the State
Senate WTL Committee
Wednesday, Feb.18, 2009
Room 229, 3:30 pm

Position: Strong Support

Chair Hee, and Members of the Senate WTL Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. 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.

Your strong support is needed for this appropriations request for the irrigation repair, maintenance and support of the specified statewide irrigation systems, additional staff, and the Agriculture Water Use Development Plan. Such an appropriation provides farmers with accessible and more consistent water flow. Without water, there will be no farms, even with the most fertile agriculture lands available.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HCIA 2008-2009
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Vice President
Fred Perlak

Treasurer
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Executive Director
Alicia Maluafiti

91-1012 Kahl'uka Street
Ewa Beach, HI 96706
Tel: (808) 224-3648
director@hciaonline.com
www.hciaonline.com

From: William and Anne Marie Jacintho [jacinthow001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2009 1:40 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: SB 495

THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 18, 2009

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

On Behalf of the Maui Cattlemen's Association,

Please accept this e-mail as SUPPORT IN FAVOR of SB 495

RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR THE REPAIR
AND MAINTENANCE OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS WITHIN THE STATE.

Appropriates funds for capital improvement projects to repair and maintain irrigation systems within the State.

Thank you for bringing the much needed support for this irrigation system forward.

William G. Jacintho

Maui Cattlemen's Association, President

TESTIMONY
SB495
(END)