

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2011
12:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 1277, H.D. 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURE WATER
DEVELOPMENT STUDY

Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1277, H.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to make an appropriation out of the agricultural development and food security special fund for the statewide agriculture water use and development plan (AWUDP). The Department supports the intent of this bill.

The Department of Agriculture has been statutorily mandated to develop the AWUDP. In recognition of this need, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has been providing matching federal funds to assist in the research necessary to continue the study. We have been informed by the BOR that another request has been submitted in their current budget. To complete this plan, in-depth studies of irrigation systems throughout the state are being conducted. As the State currently has no long-term agricultural water use plan, it is unclear how much of the abandoned sugar cane and pineapple plantation land is suitable for diversified agriculture and what the current and future water demands may be. Additionally, capital improvement projects for the aging irrigation systems need to be identified so the State can take proactive measures to prevent a catastrophic failure of an irrigation system.



The AWUDP identifies projected water uses and demand for various crops which will be instrumental in long-term planning of the systems. It will also eventually inventory all known systems identified in the first phase of the plan as well as other systems that have come to our attention, and create a capital improvement plan as needed. Work will additionally include a historic description of the original infrastructure, existing conditions, assessment of the current concerns and needs, proposed maintenance improvements, estimated costs, identification of each system's sources and water use requirements for Hawaii's expanding diversified agriculture industry, and development of long-term water use projections. The study will potentially identify which systems can be restored versus which systems may be abandoned as well as possible water source planning and development.

The Department supports the request of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation that \$400,000 in State funds be appropriated for fiscal year 2012.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaii Farm Bureau

F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921

March 2, 2011

TESTIMONY

Re: HB1277HD1 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURE WATER DEVELOPMENT STUDY

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of commercial farm and ranch families and organizations in the State **strongly supports** HB1277 HD1, funding the completion of Hawaii's Ag Water Use and Development Plan.

The State Water Code requires a Hawaii Water Plan that addresses current and future needs of water in the State. In 1998, as large water systems were abandoned with the closure of plantations, the Legislature included the Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan as part of the State Water Plan. The intent of the measure was "to develop a long-range management plan that assesses **state and private** agricultural water use, supply and irrigation water systems." (quote from Commission on Water Resource and Management with emphasis added).

Since passage, attempts have been made to complete the Plan. To date, it remains incomplete and the Water Commission is faced with decision making responsibilities that need this information. Past reports emphasized State systems and while they are important, they are not the only systems in the State. Many areas depend on private systems.

Funding to complete the Plan as defined in HRS 174C-31 (e) 3 and 4 is needed. **This information will assist the Commission in making decisions on the various needs identified in the Water Code.**

SECTION 1. There is appropriated out of the agricultural development and food security special fund the sum of \$ _____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the department of agriculture to complete the statewide agriculture water use and development study plan as defined in HRS 174c-31 (e)3 and HRS 174c-31 (e)4.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

We respectfully request your passage of this measure, amending it to address funding for HRS174c-31(e)3 and 4. (attached) We appreciate this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter. If there are any questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at 2819718.

Kauai County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation

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The Voice of Kauai's Agriculture



March 1, 2011

ATTN: Committee on Finance
 Rep. Marcus R. Oshiro Chair
 Rep. Marilyn B. Lee, Vice Chair
 and Members of the Committee

RE: HB1277 HD1 Relating to Ag Water Study
 Testimony of Kauai County Farm Bureau in SUPPORT
 Roy Oyama, President

HEARING DATE: March 2, 2011, noon, Rm 308 – House Finance Committee

Kauai County Farm Bureau on behalf of our member farm and ranch families, and affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, **requests your support of HB1277 HD1**, funding the completion of Hawaii's Ag Water Use and Development Plan.

The State Water Code requires a Hawaii Water Plan that addresses current and future needs of water in the State. In 1998, as large water systems were abandoned with the closure of plantations, the Legislature included the Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan as part of the State Water Plan. The intent of the measure was "to develop a long-range management plan that assesses **state and private** agricultural water use, supply and irrigation water systems." (quote from Commission on Water Resource and Management with emphasis added).

Since passage, attempts have been made to complete the Plan. To date, it remains incomplete and the Water Commission is faced with decision making responsibilities that need this information. Past reports emphasized State systems and while they are important, they are not the only systems in the State. Many areas depend on private systems.

Funding to complete the Plan as defined in HRS 174C-31 (e) 3 and 4 is needed. This information will assist the Commission in making decisions on the various needs identified in the Water Code.

We respectfully request your passage of this measure, amending it to address funding for HRS174c-31(e)3 and 4. (below)

SECTION 1. There is appropriated out of the agricultural development and food security special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the department of agriculture to complete the statewide agriculture water use and development study plan as defined in HRS 174c-31 (e)3 and HRS 174c-31 (e)4.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.

Please lend your support to HB1277 HD1. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Roy Oyama
President - Kauai County Farm Bureau
Oyama_farm@yahoo.com

CC: Melissa McFerrin
Executive Administrator - Kauai County Farm Bureau
kcfb@hawaiiantel.net