

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



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

RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI  
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND  
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

FEBRUARY 2, 2011  
8:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1228  
RELATING TO WATER

Chairpersons Tsuji and Chang, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1228. The purpose of this bill is to prepare a water development study and establishes the Water Development Study Special Fund. The Department supports the intent of this bill, however, respectfully offers that this study is unnecessary as a majority of the issues identified in this bill are currently included in the ongoing Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan (AWUDP) or identified in the Commission on Water Resource Management's *Statewide Framework for Updating the Hawaii Water Plan* (2000) for future study in the AWUDP.

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.

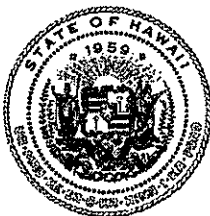


The AWUDP identifies projected water uses and demand for various crops which will be instrumental in long-term planning of the systems. It will also eventually inventory all known systems identified in the first phase of the plan as well as other systems that have come to our attention, and create a 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 would like to commend the legislature's recognition that studies of this nature are costly. The creation of a special fund to support the AWUDP is welcome; however, we feel it is ultimately unnecessary. The only source of funds for the special fund is via legislative appropriation and federal funding. Funding of this nature has been and can continue to be appropriated via the traditional budget bill, capital improvement process.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI  
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM  
INTERIM 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

**Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on  
AGRICULTURE  
and  
WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES**

**Wednesday, February 2, 2011  
8:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1228  
RELATING TO WATER**

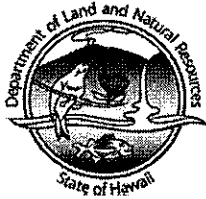
The purpose of House Bill 1228 is to amend the State Water Code, Chapter 174C, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to add two new sections which would establish a water development study and a special fund to prepare such a study. The Department of Land and Natural Resources' Commission on Water Resources Management recognizes and supports long-range water planning.

However, the proposed new sections are unnecessary. Section 174C-31(e), HRS, of the Hawaii Water Code already requires a comprehensive Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan (AWUDP).

Section 174C-31(e), HRS, requires the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (DOA) to prepare a State Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan. In addition, the Commission on Water Resource Management's *Statewide Framework for Updating the Hawaii Water Plan* (2000), recommends plan elements for the AWUDP that address many of the proposed new provisions in House Bill 1228, including water source planning and development.

Thus, the State Water Code and *Statewide Framework for Updating the Hawaii Water Plan* already give DOA ample latitude to incorporate the new provisions (as proposed in House Bill 1228).

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI  
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM  
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

**Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Testimony Transmittal Cover Sheet**

**Date Submitted: January 31, 2011**

**Testifier's Name/Title:** William M. Tam, Commission on Water Resource Management,  
Deputy Director

**Committee Name:** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES (AGR-WLO)

**Day and Date:** Wednesday, February 02, 2011  
**Time/Location:** 8:00 AM, Conference Room 312

**Measure Number:** HB 1228 – RELATING TO WATER.

**Requested Copies:** 5 (including original) to Room 424 in the State Capitol



February 1, 2011

**Testimony**

**RE: HB1228 RELATING TO WATER**

Chair Chang, Chair Tsuji, and Members of the Committees:

Maui County Farm Bureau, on behalf of our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations supports the intent of HB1228, developing an Agricultural Water Development Plan. We further support the amendments submitted by the Hawaii Farm Bureau.

Maui has been in the forefront of water challenges during the past two years. Our farmers and ranchers faced uncertainty associated with their access to water. During the deliberations it was clear that there were informational gaps. The Water Code requires an Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan to address current and future needs of water for agriculture.

We acknowledge that this study will not give agriculture any type of priority. Rather, it will provide the Water Commission with information needed so they can balance the various needs as identified in the Water Code.

We respectfully request your support in passing this measure with amendments suggested by HFBB. If there are any questions, please contact Warren Watanabe, MCFB Executive Director at 2819718.

Thank you.