



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti

HB 1231 – Relating to Drought Mitigation
The House Committees on Agriculture and
Water, Land and Ocean Resources
Wednesday, February 1, 2011
Room 312, 8:00 a.m.

Position: Strongly Support

Aloha Chairs Tsuji and Chang, Vice Chairs Hashem Har, and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing the seed industry in Hawaii. HCIA strongly supports HB 1231.

The Hawaii seed industry is an important and contributing member of Hawaii's agricultural community with operations on Oahu, Maui, Molokai and Kauai. We – along with other farmers – have faced great challenges from the recent drought conditions on our islands. Disruption in accessing water due to extreme drought conditions or delivering water to farmers through failing irrigation system severely impacts the viability of all farmers and contributes to Hawaii's food security challenges. The counties are in best positioned to address many of these unique and specific water issues on their respective islands as they work in collaboration with farmers as well as the county farm bureaus. We believe an appropriation to assist them in dealing with these challenges is important not only for farmers and their islands, but for the entire state.

We ask you to please pass HB 1231. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

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Alicia Maluafiti

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

February 1, 2011

TESTIMONY

HB 1231: RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION

Dear Chair Tsuji and other member of the Ag. Committee

My name is Doug MacCluer and I am the Chairman of the Drought Committee on Maui.

I support HB 1228 Relating to Water, because as a farmer most of my life on Maui , I realize how important water is to the self sustainability of our Islands. Without irrigation water we are dependent on the importation or most of our food. This we can turn around if only we have the will to do so.

Therefore, I urge the passage of this Bill.

Sincerely,

Doug MacCluer
360 Hoopalua Dr.
Puklanai, Maui, Hi. , 96768
Phone- 572-7336