

**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 COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND  
HIGHER EDUCATION**

**MARCH 23 , 2011  
10:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 83  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONDUCT A STUDY LAYING  
THE GROUNDWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGRICULTURE WATER  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, INCLUDING PERFORMING A STATEWIDE WATER  
DEVELOPMENT STUDY.**

Chairpersons Tsuji and Nishimoto, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution No. 83. The purpose of this resolution is to lay the groundwork for implementation of the agriculture water development program, including performing a statewide water development study. The Department respects the intent of this bill, however, 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.

We also recognize that this resolution is very similar to House Bill 1228. HB 1228 recognized that a study of this magnitude would require significant funds to complete it in that it also established the water development study special fund. HCR 83 maintains all of the requirements of study from HB 1228, without any recognition of the massive effort involved to perform the work. We respectfully stress that we believe efforts should be made to complete the AWUDP before additional studies are proposed as we believe the AWUDP should be the



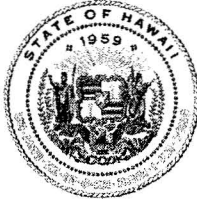
principle document for Hawaii's agricultural water needs. We estimate that pending appropriate funding, the completion of the AWUDP could be done in approximately five years.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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

**Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, March 23, 2011  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 83  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONDUCT A STUDY  
LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGRICULTURE  
WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, INCLUDING PERFORMING A STATEWIDE  
WATER DEVELOPMENT STUDY**

The purpose of House Concurrent Resolution 83 is to lay the groundwork for implementation of the agriculture water development program including performing a statewide water development study. The Department of Land and Natural Resources' Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) supports the intent of this resolution. However, the proposed study is unnecessary.

Section 174C-31(e), Hawaii Revised Statutes, of the State Water Code, requires the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (DOA) to prepare a State Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan (AWUDP). The Commission's *Statewide Framework for Updating the Hawaii Water Plan* (2000) recommends additional plan elements for the AWUDP. As such, the State Water Code and Statewide Framework for Updating the Hawaii Water Plan already includes and addresses the study elements proposed in House Concurrent Resolution 83.

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
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



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

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PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921

March 10, 2011

**TESTIMONY**

**RE HCR83: REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONDUCT A STUDY LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGRICULTURE WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, INCLUDING PERFORMING A STATEWIDE WATER DEVELOPMENT STUDY.**

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of commercial farm and ranch families and organizations in the State appreciates the intent of HCR83, requesting a study to lay the groundwork to implement the agricultural water development program. However, we **instead request your support of SB145** which includes funds to complete the AWUDP as it crosses over from the Senate.

First, we would appreciate the support by the House to pass HB1277 which provides funding to complete the Ag Water Use and Development Plan as required by the State Water Code. The Plan is an important document for the State Water Commission, Legislators in setting priorities for agricultural water development and Counties for their County Water Plans.

This resolution seeks to lay the groundwork for implementation of the Plan. The Plan must be completed before this can be done. The Department of Agriculture is struggling through loss of staff and other budget cuts. We need to allow them to focus on critical functions. We ask for your continued support of HB1277 and advocacy of SB145 which includes the AWUDP as it crosses over.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter. If there are questions, please contact

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**ent:** Thursday, March 10, 2011 4:49 AM  
**o:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR83 on 3/11/2011 11:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/11/2011 11:30:00 AM HCR83

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Olinda Aiwohi  
Organization: Individual  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail:  
Submitted on: 3/10/2011

Comments: