

LATE TESTIMONY

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, AND
OCEAN RESOURCES
FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2011
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

SENATE BILL NO. 1393, SENATE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Tsuji and Chang and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1393, Senate Draft 2. The purpose of this measure is to provide support to aquacultural activities; provide tax credits for costs of capital investments in aquacultural facilities and remediation of dams and reservoirs in compliance with State law; and include areas in dams and reservoirs designated as Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) in the total area calculation for IAL, and not include the acreage in dams and reservoirs when a landowner is seeking to use the "85015" IAL incentive. The Department of Agriculture offers comments and one proposed amendment.

Section 2 creates a new section in Chapter 205 to allow the land area of dams and reservoirs designated as Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) to be "...eligible for inclusion in the total acreage calculation for important agricultural land..." and qualify for applicable IAL incentives. This presumes that dams and reservoirs, without any relationship to designated IAL for agricultural production, can be designated IAL. Notwithstanding IAL designations by the Land Use Commission to date, the IAL



identification criteria do not include dams and reservoirs as potential and eligible for IAL designation if they have no relationship to designated IAL lands.

The Department offers the following amendment to Section 2, "Dams and Reservoirs" (page 2 lines 1-10). The purpose of our amendment is to ensure that dams and reservoirs sought to be identified and designated as Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) are physically part of and provide irrigation water to identified and designated IAL agricultural lands. Without our proposed amendment, we believe Section 2 of this measure would be inconsistent with the eight IAL identification criteria (Section 205-44) that are limited to agricultural land quality and agricultural production and do not include dams and reservoirs as potential IAL. The amending language is double-underscored.

"§205- Dams and reservoirs. All dams and related reservoir areas designated as important agricultural lands shall be eligible for inclusion in the total acreage calculation for important agricultural lands and shall qualify for incentives pursuant to section 205-46; provided that the dams and reservoirs are located within property designated as important agricultural lands and provide irrigation water to agricultural lands the majority of which, excluding lands classified as conservation lands, are important agricultural lands; and provided that dams and reservoirs classified as important agricultural lands shall not be included in the total acreage calculation for a petition for declaratory order to designate important agricultural lands in combination with the

reclassification of agricultural lands to the rural, urban or
conservation district."

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB1393SD2_AGR_03-18-11_AGR,WLO-FIN



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

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March 15, 2011

TESTIMONY

Re: SB1393SD2 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Tsuji, Chair Chang and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of commercial farm and ranch families and organizations in the State **strongly supports SB1393SD2** .

Today, I have listened to people in hearings in both House and Senate advocating for the importance of agriculture to provide for Hawaii's increased self sufficiency. Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation has always believed this to be one of the missions of our organization – to grow and raise agricultural products so everyone can pursue careers of their choice without worry. The Important Agricultural Lands initiatives passed, Act 183 and Act 233 sought to grow farmers and ranchers so we could have viable farms and ranches and in so doing, preserve agricultural lands for future generations. And, to do this farmers and ranchers need water. Many of the farms and ranches rely on dams and reservoirs that need modifications to meet Dam Safety requirements. The incentives will be important to facilitate compliance with these legal requirements.

We respectfully request your support of this measure. We appreciate this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter. If there are questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at 2819718. Thank you.