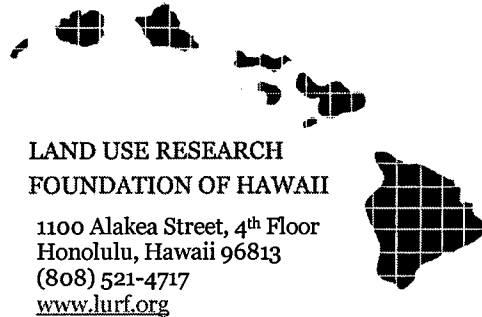


L A T E



February 23, 2011

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair and Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii in support of SB 145, SD 1 (authorizing issuance of general obligation bonds to make capital improvements to various irrigation systems).

Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in CR 211

My name is Dave Arakawa, and I am the Executive Director of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources and public health and safety.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our testimony **in support of SB 145, SD 1 and offer comments.**

SB 145, SD 1. This bill proposes to authorize the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds in the sum of \$9,960,000, and to appropriate the same sum for fiscal year 2011-2012; and to issue general obligation bonds in the sum of \$9,900,000, and to appropriate the same sum for fiscal year 2012-2013, to make capital improvements to various identified irrigation systems in each of those respective fiscal years.

LURF's Position. The purpose of this bill is to provide additional funding required for the repair and maintenance of irrigation systems throughout the State, which are essential to Hawaii's agricultural industry. With large amounts of prime agricultural lands and irrigation systems made available for conversion to diversified agriculture as a result of the plantation closures in the 1990s, the State presently has an opportunity to strengthen and expand Hawaii's diversified agriculture industry. Agricultural lands, however, require significant quantities of water to support and maintain productivity. In order to ensure that local agricultural producers may continue to receive a dependable supply of water for crops, as well as research and development operations, sufficient funding is necessary to improve, repair and maintain Hawaii's irrigation systems.

Local farmers and ranchers who rely on irrigation systems to service their agricultural lands consider such resources critical to conduct their agricultural operations and to sustain their businesses. These agricultural stakeholders believe SB 145, SD 1 will greatly assist by providing funding necessary to conduct preventative maintenance and make

Committee on Ways and Means
February 24, 2011
Page 2

infrastructure and other improvements to irrigation systems for the long term betterment of the State's agricultural industry.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 145, SD 1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

L A T E

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 9:04 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: hvtao@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB145 on 2/24/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/24/2011 9:00:00 AM SB145

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rodney Haraguchi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: hvtaro@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/24/2011

Comments:

Senate Ways and Means Committee members, There are 9 members of our organization that farm wetland taro in the Hanalei Valley totaling 190 acres, the largest area in the state. Our main water supply was damaged several times through floods and now has a breach 85 feet wide. They have tried to do the repairs but now we have a study through the Natural Resource Conservation Service that presented a draft report last week. It indicates that the cost will be about \$1.5 million. Please amend this bill to include the Hanalei Valley Irrigation Intake repair. Without this repair there will be no water for the entire valley of taro and 5 endangered birds. Mahala for your time and consideration.
Rodney Haraguchi
President