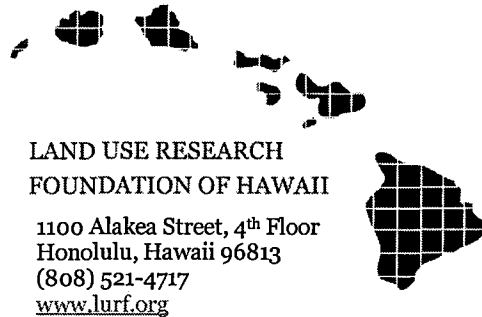


L A T E



LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

1100 Alakea Street, 4th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 521-4717
www.lurf.org

February 24, 2011

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

Support of SB 14, SD 1, Relating to Agricultural Development (Expands authorized uses of the agricultural development and food security special fund to include the improvement and investigative studies of dams and reservoirs.)

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.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to provide our testimony **in support of SB 14, SD 1**, which expands the authorized uses of the agricultural development and food security special fund to apply to **dams and reservoirs**, as well as investigative studies to identify and assess necessary improvements thereto.

SB 14, SD 1. This bill proposes to clarify the present language of Section 141-10(c)(3), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) to include **dams and reservoirs** amongst the "real property, irrigation systems and transportation networks," toward which agricultural development and food security special funds may be expended for purposes of necessary improvements. Language is also being added to the statutory provision to provide that investigative studies to identify and assess said necessary improvements be included as well.

LURF's Position. While HRS Section 141-10(c)(3), by its context, clearly contemplated the inclusion of dams and reservoirs as part of the "real property, irrigation systems, and transportation networks necessary to promote agricultural production or processing activity," it would be well to clarify the existing language by expressly adding the terms, "**dams and reservoirs**" as well as accompanying language which would include investigative studies to identify and assess necessary improvements thereto, to the statutory provision for purposes of clarification, and to make the intent of the statute explicitly clear so as to leave no doubt that special fund monies may be expended for such purposes.

LURF members include private property owners and farmers who own, maintain, or utilize dams and reservoirs and consider such resources critical to conduct their agricultural operations and to sustain their businesses. These land owners and farmers

believe SB 14, SD 1 will greatly assist with costs which must be incurred for maintenance and upgrade of dams and reservoirs in order to meet new safety requirements for regulated dams imposed by the State Department of Land and Natural Resources as part of its dam and reservoir safety program, and also for the preservation of these facilities as valuable water resources.

Additionally, to address concerns and potential issues relating to public health, food safety and security, funds for agricultural irrigation water systems should be authorized to include funding for water quality testing and improvements.

LURF is in **support of SB 14, SD 1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 7:48 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: dan.nellis@dole.com
Subject: Testimony for SB14 on 2/24/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 2/24/2011 9:00:00 AM SB14

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Daniel Nellis
Organization: Dole Food Company Hawaii
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: dan.nellis@dole.com
Submitted on: 2/24/2011

Comments:

Dole Food Co. Hawaii strongly supports this bill and the amended provisions which expands the use of the agricultural development and food security special fund to include improvement and investigative studies of dams and reservoirs. We feel it is imperative to food security that irrigation systems are improved and maintained and that this provision serves the ag. community and the general public good.