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Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director

HB 1277 SD 1 – Making an Appropriation for the Statewide
Agriculture Water Development Study

The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, March 30, 2011
Room 211, 9:30 a.m.

L A T E

Position: Strong Support

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, 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 1277 SD 1 Making an Appropriation for the Statewide Agriculture Water Development Study.

During these tough economic times, it's apparent that there will continue to be competing uses for limited funds especially those from the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund. But water plays an obvious critical role in agricultural sustainability, so the request to use the special fund to pay for the study is legitimate and necessary.

Projected water use is instrumental in the long-term planning of Hawaii's irrigation system and we've seen a number of bills addressing the repair and maintenance of these systems. The study will be important in identifying which systems can be restored, which systems may be abandoned, and based on available land, assist the state and our farmers in water resource planning and development as it relates to agricultural viability.

HCIA respectfully requests your support of HB 1277 SD 1. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

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