



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

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February 7, 2011

TESTIMONY

**Re: HB1277 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURE
WATER DEVELOPMENT STUDY**

Chair Tsuji, Chair Chang and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of commercial farm and ranch families and organizations in the State **strongly supports** HB1277, funding the completion of Hawaii's Ag Water Use and Development Plan.

The State Water Code requires a Hawaii Water Plan that addresses current and future needs of water in the State. In 1998, as large water systems were abandoned with the closure of plantations, the Legislature included the Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan as part of the State Water Plan. The intent of the measure was "to develop a long-range management plan that assesses **state and private** agricultural water use, supply and irrigation water systems." (quote from Commission on Water Resource and Management with emphasis added).

Since passage, attempts have been made to complete the Plan. Todate, it remains incomplete and the Water Commission is faced with decision making responsibilities that need this information. Past reports emphasized State systems and while they are important, they are not the only systems in the State. Many areas depend on private systems.

Funding to complete the Plan as defined in HRS 174C-31 (e) 3 and 4 is needed. This information will assist the Commission in making decisions on the various needs identified in the Water Code.

We respectfully request your passage of this measure, amending it to address funding for HRS174c-31(e)3 and 4. (attached) We appreciate this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter. If there are any questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at 2819718.

SECTION 1. There is appropriated out of the agricultural development and food security special fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2011-2012 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the department of agriculture to complete the statewide agriculture water use and development study plan as defined in HRS 174c-31 (e)3 and HRS 174c-31 (e)4.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2011.



February 7, 2011

Testimony

**RE: HB1277 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATEWIDE
AGRICULTURE WATER DEVELOPMENT STUDY**

Chair Tsuji, Chair Chang, and Members of the Committees:

Maui County Farm Bureau, on behalf of our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations **strongly supports HB1277**, seeking to complete the Agricultural Water Development Plan. We further support the amendments submitted by the Hawaii Farm Bureau.

Maui has been in the forefront of water challenges during the past two years. Our farmers and ranchers faced uncertainty associated with their access to water. During the deliberations it was clear that there were informational gaps. The Water Code requires an Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan to address current and future needs of water for agriculture.

We acknowledge that this study will not give agriculture any type of priority. Rather, it will provide the Water Commission with information needed so they can balance the various needs as identified in the Water Code.

We respectfully request your support in passing this measure with amendments suggested by HFBB. If there are any questions, please contact Warren Watanabe, MCFB Executive Director at 2819718.

Thank you.

hashem3 - Casey

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 05, 2011 11:23 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1277 on 2/7/2011 11:15:00 AM

Testimony for AGR/WLO 2/7/2011 11:15:00 AM HB1277

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marjorie Erway
Organization: Individual
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Phone: 324-4624
E-mail: merway@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/5/2011

Comments:

Please encourage a broader view of water use for ALL public trust purposes, including protection of natural resources and drinking water. This bill creates a fund for an Ag Water development study -- a first step and it's needed. Mahalo for your consideration.

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 & OCEAN RESOURCES**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2011
11:15 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1277
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE STATEWIDE AGRICULTURE WATER
DEVELOPMENT STUDY**

Chairpersons Tsuji and Chang, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1277. The purpose of this bill is to make an appropriation for the statewide agriculture water study. The Department supports the intent of this bill.

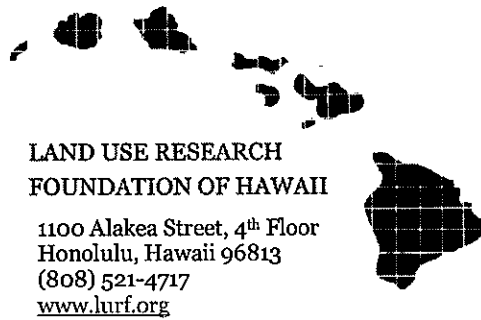
The Department of Agriculture has been statutorily mandated to develop the AWUDP. In recognition of this need, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) has been providing matching federal funds to assist in the research necessary to continue the study. We have been informed by 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.

The Department respectfully requests that \$3,000,000 and \$3,000,000 be appropriated for fiscal year 2012 and 2013 respectively. In addition, matching federal funds of \$1,350,000 be added to the \$4,350,000 for fiscal year 2012. These numbers match our executive budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LAND USE RESEARCH
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February 7, 2011

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair and Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture
Representative Jerry L. Chang, Chair and Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

**Testimony of the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii in support of HB 1277,
Making An Appropriation for the Statewide Agriculture Water Development
Study**

Monday, February 7, 2011 at 11:15 a.m. in CR 325

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 HB 1277**, and offer **comments**.

HB 1277. This bill proposes to make an appropriation out of the agricultural development and food security special fund for the statewide agriculture water development study to be performed by the State Department of Agriculture (DOA).

LURF's Position. The DOA is responsible for the preparation of the Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan (AWUDP), mandated by the State Legislature through Act 101, Session Laws of Hawaii (1998). The major objective of the AWUDP is to develop a long-range management plan that assesses state and private agricultural water use, supply and irrigation water systems.

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. Local farmers are thus relying on the AWUDP and studies conducted pursuant thereto, to be prepared and updated by the DOA, as required, to work toward expansion of diversified agriculture; promote the agricultural self-sufficiency of the State; and to protect water as an important resource.

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For the above reasons, LURF **supports** **HB 1277**, making an appropriation toward the statewide agriculture water development study. Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony regarding this matter.