



**LATE TESTIMONY**

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FEBRUARY 10, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2831  
RELATING TO IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

Room 312  
9:00 AM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF strongly supports HB 2831 appropriating funds for irrigation systems across the State. This measure is one of HFBF's priority measures and part of a systematic effort to increase access to water by our farmers and ranchers.

Many of these irrigation systems are old and some have been in disuse for a period of time. The repair and maintenance of these systems is critical because our farmers and ranchers depend on these irrigation systems for their operations. Water is a basic necessity for farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production. The reliability of water is a key factor for our farmers and ranchers when decided to expand their operations.

Several systems have been included in this measure. The funds are directed to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Resource Management Division. We will defer to them for final numbers of what is needed for the systems at this time.

We respectfully request your strong support of this measure.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Molokai Farm Bureau**



*An Affiliate of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation*

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 312  
9:00 AM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

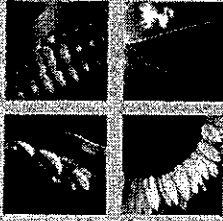
**The Molokai Farm Bureau Strongly supports HB 2831** and the appropriation of funds for the various irrigation systems identified in this bill. Each system represents the most critical juncture in Agriculture – the fundamental ability to have reliable access to water, and its continued flow. Many systems stand in serious need of repair and maintenance, as the system's users have consistently expressed.

For Molokai specifically, our Molokai Irrigation System (also known as the MIS) is in need of significant repair to simply achieve its meant capacity, and this resultant loss of needed revenue as well as reduced acres planted, is a valid concern. The inability of the only agricultural water source on Molokai to use its actual capacity, is an earnest reason to not only assess, but fund its much needed repairs.

Moreover, there is potential to increase Ag production on Molokai by further developing the MIS. If improvements can be made to support increased acreage, Molokai could increase employment in the Agricultural sector as well as create additional revenue for the system itself, which could be used for maintenance and/or improvements making the MIS less dependent on State funding. But none of this can be accomplished until we address the basic needed repairs.

To be sustainable, Agriculture needs responsible foresight and cooperative partnerships from all sectors. We have confidence in the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Resource Management Division to assess the final figures that will be needed to accomplish this.

We humbly ask that you support HB 2831.



**HCIA 2010-2012  
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Alicia Maluafiti

# LATE TESTIMONY

## Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

*Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii*

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti  
HB 2831 – Relating to Irrigation  
The House Committee on Agriculture  
Friday, February 10, 2012  
9:00 a.m., Room 312

### Position: Strong Support

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hasem, and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing Hawaii seed farmers. We are in strong support of HB 2831 authorizing the issue of general obligation bonds to finance various irrigation systems across the state.

HCIA's member seed companies maintain operations on the islands of Kauai, Maui, Molokai and Oahu. They are vested in the agricultural future of this state and have invested millions into improving the irrigation, buildings and other infrastructure. But our 100-year old irrigation systems owned and maintained by the state are in disrepair and facing serious maintenance issues. Any disruption in delivering water to farmers could severely impact their viability.

HCIA will continue to support bills that appropriate funds to fix Hawaii's failing irrigation systems critical to sustaining our farming and ranching operations statewide. We believe this bill offers a comprehensive approach to addressing these challenges.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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**hashem3 - Casey**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 09, 2012 11:40 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** glennmartinez@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2831 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2831

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Glenn Martinez  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [glennmartinez@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:glennmartinez@hawaii.rr.com)  
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

**Comments:**

We stand on previous testimony to support this core mission of the Department of AG

# LATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 10, 2012 8:40 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB2831 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2831

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Juanita Kawamoto Brown  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 2/10/2012

**Comments:**

Drought conditions seem to getting more and more apparent. Letting our legislators know and updating them will allow us to prepare and plan in a better way to help food security.