



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 10, 2012
9:00 A.M.
ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2832
RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

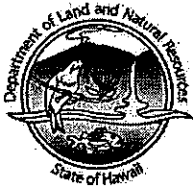
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2832. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the counties for drought mitigation purposes. It also requires the counties to report to the Legislature on the status of drought mitigation projects. The department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the initiatives set forth in our executive biennium budget.

The effects of drought on agriculture can be devastating. With the possibility of drought lasting for years, crop yields can fall dramatically and farms can close. Approximately eight years ago, the Commission on Water Resource Management assisted in the creation of drought committees in each county. The committees then came up with prioritized, potential projects, including reservoir construction, to implement in order to mitigate the effects of drought. This request represents recognition of the importance and need for these projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Friday, February 10, 2012
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In Consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2832
RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION**

The purpose of House Bill 2832 is to provide a grant-in-aid of an unspecified amount of general revenues for agricultural drought mitigation measures and projects in each county of the State for fiscal year 2012-2013. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure, however is not able to support it at this time because funding for these projects would negatively impact the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

The Department recognizes the need to mitigate the effects of drought and this need is acknowledged in the Hawaii Drought Plan. Droughts have severely affected Hawaii in the past, and as part of a natural climate cycle, droughts will impact the State in the future. In addition to agriculture and livestock industries, drought-induced impacts will also affect other sectors of the community, such as water supply, business, the environment, and public health and safety.

The Department concurs with the importance of drought planning and the effective implementation of mitigation measures and strategies. The Hawaii Drought Plan and the County Drought Mitigation Strategies identify and recommend implementation of drought mitigation actions, subject to available funding. These Drought Mitigation Strategies were developed in consultation with key stakeholders who participated as members of the respective local County Drought Committees to identify and prioritize projects to help reduce the impacts of drought in their communities.

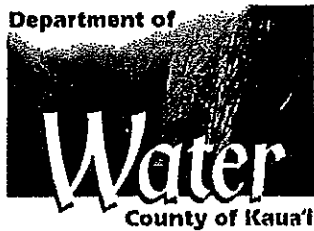
**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY**

**WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER**

**AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS**

Water has no substitute... Conserve It!



Testimony of
David R. Craddick, P.E., C.E.M.
Manager and Chief Engineer

Before the House Committee on Agriculture
Friday, February 10, 2012
9:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

House Bill 2832 Relating to Drought Mitigation

Honorable Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

I am writing to you in support of House Bill 2832 which will appropriate funds to the counties for drought mitigation purposes.

The grant-in-aid funding from this bill would greatly benefit the counties to implement drought mitigation measures developed to support local agriculture in our communities. Projects to repair, maintain and reestablish ditch systems and reservoirs, as well as to improve forecasting tools and data collection for farmers, and establishing emergency water supply measures for areas have been determined by the Kaua'i Drought Committee.

Your favorable consideration and support of HB 2832 would be appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

David R. Craddick, P.E., C.E.M.
fr Manager and Chief Engineer

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor



DAVID TAYLOR, P.E.
Director

PAUL J. MEYER
Deputy Director

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793-2155
www.mauiwater.org

Testimony of the Maui County Department of Water Supply

Supporting H.B. 2832 Relating to Drought Mitigation

House Committee on Agriculture

Friday, February 10, 2012, 9:00 a.m.
Conference Room 312

Drought, in its most severe form decimates crops and livestock, erodes the landscape, damages terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat, contributes to widespread wildfire, and results in hundreds of millions of dollars in damage. Drought can lead to tough decisions regarding the allocation water, stringent water use limitations, problems in ensuring safe drinking water and adequate water supplies for fire fighting efforts. Based on past experience, the most important lesson learned was that the best time to reduce the impacts of drought is before they occur. In 2004 Maui County completed a plan that advocates a proactive drought management approach, "The County of Maui Drought Mitigation Strategy."

Sufficient funding is necessary to address the many challenges posed by drought. The Maui County Department of Water Supply supports H.B. 2832 to appropriate funds to the Counties for drought mitigation purposes.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Taylor, P.E.
Director of Water Supply

"By Water All Things Find Life"

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843



February 10, 2012

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Manager and Chief Engineer

DEAN A. NAKANO
Deputy Manager

The Honorable Clift Tsuji
Chair and Members
Committee on Agriculture
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Conference Room 312
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tsuji:

Subject: House Bill 2832, Relating to Drought Mitigation

The Board of Water Supply, City and County of Honolulu supports House Bill 2832, relating to drought mitigation which makes a grant-in-aid appropriation to the Counties for agriculture drought mitigation projects and measures with emphasis on stormwater capture and reuse projects.

We have participated with the Commission on Water Resource Management and other Federal, State and County agencies and organizations in the development of the Hawaii Drought Plan. With the State's assistance, the County drought committees have developed drought mitigation strategies and proposed projects for three critical areas; wildland fires, water supply, and agriculture and commerce.

Implementation has started, but while these efforts have taken positive steps toward drought mitigation, more needs to be done. Adequate funding is needed to continue to implement these drought plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 2832, relating to drought mitigation project appropriations.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

P O Box 437199 Kamuela HI 96743

Phone (808) 885-5599 • Fax (808) 887-1607

e-mail: HCattlemens@hawaii.rr.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Friday February 10, 2012 9:00 a.m. Room 312

HB 2832 RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION

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

My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher and the Government Affairs Chair for the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **strongly supports** HB 2832.

A report from the University of Hawaii predicts reduced trade winds and increased storm events. This means Hawaii must reassess its water resources and prepare to face extended droughts interspersed with severe storm events.

Changing weather conditions make water one of the most important risks facing farmers and ranchers. As Hawaii moves towards increased self sufficiency and sustainability, efforts must be taken to reduce risks borne by farms and ranches. When borne alone, farm and ranch viability is reduced to points in which farmers and ranchers must make the hard decision of whether their enterprise can support their families or survive as a business. Having sound drought mitigation plans are essential if we are going to survive. We cannot have these plans and infrastructure in place without adequate funding. Please fund this bill.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify in favor of this very important issue.

Hawaii Cattlemen's Association

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Friday February 10, 2012 9:00 a.m. Room 312

HB 2832 RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION

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

Hawaii Cattlemen's Association **strongly supports** HB2832.

Hawaii Cattlemen's Association is an association of over 50 ranches and cattle industry related businesses on Hawaii island.

Drought is one of the most important long-term challenges that Hawaii agriculture faces and will continue to face in the coming decades. We must have strong support structures and risk management strategies to help farmers and ranchers to face the challenges of drought and other extreme weather events. If we want to increase local food sustainability we must together create the tools to support food producers who are the front line in this effort.

Please support and fund HB2832.

Kathy Kato

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 07, 2012 5:11 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: norfolkldm@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2832 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for AGR 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2832

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Doug MacCluer
Organization: Central Maui Soil and Conservation Dist.
E-mail: norfolkldm@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/7/2012

Comments:

As a 46 year Farmer on Maui, I feel that we can not compete with the Mainland produce with our high water cost. Any thing that can be done to improve Ag water would be welcomed.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 8:09 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jacintho@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB2832 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for AGR 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2832

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: William Jacintho
Organization: Individual
E-mail: jacintho@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/8/2012

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2012 3:09 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: trkahua@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2832 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2832

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Herbert M "Tim" Richards III, DVM
Organization: Individual
E-mail: trkahua@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/8/2012

Comments:

Council Chair
Danny A. Mateo

Vice-Chair
Joseph Pontanilla

Council Members
Gladys C. Baisa
Robert Carroll
Elle Cochran
Donald G. Couch, Jr.
G. Riki Hokama
Michael P. Victorino
Mike White



Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.maui-county.gov/council

February 9, 2012

TO: Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Joseph Pontanilla, Council Vice- Chair

DATE: Friday February 10, 2012

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Pontanilla".

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF HB 2832, RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure. The Purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the counties for drought mitigation projects and provide report of status to the legislature of such projects.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I provide this testimony as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support HB 2832** for the following reasons:

1. The implementation of the drought mitigation plan developed by the counties' drought committees is of vital importance to Maui County, which has been under the constant threat of drought for several years.
2. The lingering drought and near-drought conditions have affected Maui County's agricultural industry, from independent farmers to large agribusiness. Maui County's green environment has also suffered with native species put at risk. The efforts of those who have developed mitigation plans merit additional support to protect the economy and ecology.
3. While Maui County has been doing its best to provide for prudent conservation of the County's precious water supply, much remains to be done. The funds provided by this legislation would enhance contribution to the efforts supported by the county drought committees.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

hashem3 - Casey

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 09, 2012 10:02 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: sandrascar@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2832 on 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/10/2012 9:00:00 AM HB2832

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sandra Scarr
Organization: Individual
E-mail: sandrascar@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/9/2012

Comments:
Clift Tsuji, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Dear Rep. Tsuji and Committee Members,

As a coffee farmer on the Kona side of the Big Island, I experience devastating droughts that endanger my trees and reduce the productivity of my farm.

Farmers need drought assistance to improve ag water and to provide mitigation for drought conditions.

I support this bill.

Aloha,
Sandra Scarr

Council Chair
Danny A. Matéo

Vice-Chair
Joseph Pontanilla

Council Members
Gladys C. Baisa
Robert Carroll
Elle Cochran
Donald G. Couch, Jr.
G. Riki Hokama
Michael P. Victorino
Mike White



Director of Council Services
Ken Fukuoka

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov/council

February 9, 2012

TO: Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Robert Carroll
Council Member, East Maui *Robert Carroll*

DATE: February 10, 2012

Time: 9:00a

Place: State Capitol, room 312 415 S. Beretania Street.

SUBJECT: **HB 2832, RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION**

I SUPPORT HB 2832 for the reasons cited in testimony submitted by the COO of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Brian Miyamoto and urge you to pass this measure. Thank you for your kind consideration regarding this legislation.