

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 COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE

MARCH 16, 2011
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

SENATE BILL NO. 145, S.D. 2
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 145, S.D. 2. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for State irrigation systems. The Department supports the intent of this bill and respectfully requests that should this bill move forward, the amounts identified in S.D.1 be reinserted.

The State's irrigation systems provide one of the essential resources to farm. The systems listed in this bill provide reliable irrigation water to over 22,000 acres of farm land. Most of these systems are approaching or are over 100 years old and are in need of significant improvements to reduce water losses and maintenance costs. These funds are necessary to help extend the life of these systems for many decades to come and to continue to move Hawaii toward a more sustainable future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921

February 11, 2011

TESTIMONY

Re: HB145 SD2 RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of commercial farm and ranch families and organizations in the State **strongly supports SB145 SD2, an omnibus measure authorizing GO Bonds for funding irrigation projects across the state.**

Sound irrigation systems are important to provide affordable and reliable water to farms and ranches. A systematic process to repair, maintain and build systems is critical as agriculture seeks to expand, and areas of the State are faced with long periods of drought.

We respectfully request your strong support in moving this measure forward. We appreciate this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter. If there are any questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at 2819718.

Thank you.

Suggested language for reference to the Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan

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.



March 16, 2011

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair and Representative Mark J. Hashem, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Support of SB 145, SD 2 (authorizing issuance of general obligation bonds to make capital improvements to various irrigation systems).

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. in CR 312

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 SB 145, SD 2 and offer comments.**

SB 145, SD 2. This bill proposes to authorize the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds, and to appropriate the sum of the issuance or a portion thereof for fiscal years 2011-2012 and 2012-2013, to make capital improvements to various identified irrigation systems in each of those respective fiscal years.

LURF's Position. The purpose of this bill is to provide additional funding required for the repair and maintenance of irrigation systems throughout the State, which are essential to Hawaii's agricultural industry. 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. In order to ensure that local agricultural producers may continue to receive a dependable supply of water for crops, as well as research and development operations, sufficient funding is necessary to improve, repair and maintain Hawaii's irrigation systems.

Local farmers and ranchers who rely on irrigation systems to service their agricultural lands consider such resources critical to conduct their agricultural operations and to sustain their businesses. These agricultural stakeholders believe SB 145, SD 2 will greatly assist by providing funding necessary to conduct preventative maintenance and make infrastructure and other capital improvements to irrigation systems for the long-term betterment of the State's agricultural industry.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 145, SD 2,** and respectfully urges your

Committee on Agriculture
March 16, 2011
Page 2

favorable consideration.

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2011

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 312

RE: RELATING TO IRRIGATION.

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice-Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mark Phillipson, General Manager for Syngenta Hawaii. **Syngenta Hawaii strongly supports SB 145 with amendments** which would provide funding for the continued maintenance and upkeep of various irrigation systems. **We respectfully request that SB 145 be amended to include funding for the repair and maintenance of the Waiahole irrigation system in the amount of \$500,000 for 2011/2012 and \$2.5 million for 2012/2013. We also support including other projects from the Department of Agriculture's CIP irrigation priorities like the Ka'u and Kekaha irrigation systems and the Kahuku ag park.** Syngenta Hawaii LLC is dependent on water from both the Waiahole and Kekaha irrigation systems to water our crops. To ensure the successful continuation of research and development operations at our facilities that employ over 350 people we rely on consistent water delivery from these systems.

These funds are critical to the continued success of existing farming operations. Without water and infrastructure to deliver water, farmers cannot survive.

We urge you to pass this legislation with the suggested amendments. It will provide funding to support the water feeding vibrant and economically impactful areas of Hawaii agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Mark Phillipson
General Manager
Syngenta Hawaii -LLC

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 11:00 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for SB145 on 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM SB145

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Blake Vance
Organization: Hawaii Agriculture Research Ctr.
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/14/2011

Comments:

Please add \$0.5M for 2011-12 and \$2.5M for 2012-13 for the Waiahole Ditch system. Thank you.

Form Letter:
Dan Clegg
Kae Sou
Ming Li Wang

Support

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 1:59 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for SB145 on 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM SB145

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dan Clegg
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/14/2011

Comments:
Please add \$0.5m for 2011-12 and \$2.5M for 2012-13 for the Waiahole system.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 9:47 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for SB145 on 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM SB145

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ALEC SOU
Organization: Aloun Farms
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/14/2011

Comments:

The Waiahole Ditch is the life line source of irrigation for us central Oahu farmers to continue to produce food. Global dynamics combined with the Japan Tragedy, we are to brace for the decades of food shortage. Setting funds aside to maintain and improved our century old irrigation system to assure food production capacity should be our State's Priority. We are in strong support of this bill and ask the state to fund the Waiahole system of \$0.5M for 2011-12 and \$2.5M for 2012-13. Mahalo. system'

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 9:26 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for SB145 on 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for AGR 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM SB145

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kathi Meechan
Organization: Halms Enterprise, Inc.
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/14/2011

Comments:

Please add \$0.5M for 2011-12 and \$2.5M for 2012-13 for the Waiahole System. This system is in dire need of repair, and our farming community is at great risk should this system fail. Thank you for your greatly needed consideration.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 10:51 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for SB145 on 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM SB145

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paul Moore
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/15/2011

Comments:
please add adequate funding for maintaining and upgrading the Waiahole system - I have seen estimates of \$0.5M for 2011-12 and \$2.5M for 2012-13

hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 4:00 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: leslie.poland@monsanto.com
Subject: Testimony for SB145 on 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM SB145

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Leslie Poland
Organization:
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: leslie.poland@monsanto.com
Submitted on: 3/15/2011

Comments:

Please add \$0.5M for 2011-12 and \$2.5M for 2012-13 for the Waiahole system. This system is the backbone of the farm fields in Kunia. If it fails, there will be no agriculture in this area.

Thank you

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 10:00 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for SB145 on 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for AGR 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM SB145

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mark Stoutemyer
Organization: Pioneer Hi-Bred Intl. Kunia Research Center
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/14/2011

Comments:

The upkeep of this system is critical for our business. Please consider adding \$0.5M for 2011-12 and \$2.5M for 2012-13 for the Waiahole system to maintain the vibrant agricultural base in the area.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 12:02 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for SB145 on 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for AGR 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM SB145

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lana Chu
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/14/2011

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2011 8:50 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for SB145 on 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/16/2011 9:00:00 AM SB145

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chifumi Nagai
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 3/15/2011

Comments: