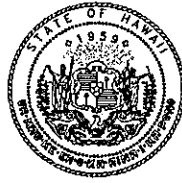


**SB 2362**

Late  
Testimony

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

LATE

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES  
ON  
AGRICULTURE  
&  
WATER, LAND, AND HOUSING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2012, 2:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

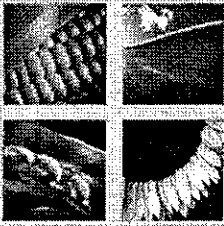
SENATE BILL NO. 2362  
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Chair Nishihara, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2362. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for various irrigation systems and agricultural parks. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not impact the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget.

The State's irrigation systems provide one of the essential resources to farm. The systems listed in this bill provide irrigation water to over 11,000 acres of farm land. Some 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.





# Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

*Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii*

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti  
SB 2362 – Relating to Irrigation  
The Senate Committees on Agriculture and  
Water, Land and Housing  
Thursday, Feb. 2, 2012  
2:45 p.m., Room 229

**LATE**

**HCIA 2010-2012  
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**Past President**  
Adolph Helm

**Executive Director**  
Alicia Maluafiti

**Position: Strong Support**

Aloha Chairs Nishihara and Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Kahele and Solomon, and members of the Committees:

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 SB 2362 authorizing the issue of general obligation bonds to make capital improvements to our 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 ensuring the viability of farmers and ranchers statewide. We believe this bill offers a comprehensive approach to addressing these challenges.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

91-1012 Kahi'uka Street  
'Ewa Beach, HI 96706  
Tel: (808) 224-3648  
director@hciaonline.com  
www.hciaonline.com



**Molokai Farm Bureau**



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

FEBRUARY 2, 2012

**LATE**

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2362  
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 229  
2:45 PM

Chair Nishihara, Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees:

**The Molokai Farm Bureau Strongly supports SB 2362** 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 SB 2362.

LATE

Committee of Agriculture, Chair Senator Clarence K. Nishihara and Vice  
Chair Gilbert Kahele

I am Glenn Martinez, President of Hawaii Farmers Union United and Board  
of Director of Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association and owner of  
Olomana Gardens, Certified Organic Farm.

Please accept my written testimony and I do intend to be present to testify  
in person at the hearing on Feb 2, 2012.

SB 2362

Relating to Irrigation...

SUPPORT with Suggested amendments.... Personally as a farmer in  
Waimanalo (Olomana Gardens) we have suffered for over 15 years  
with the Dept of Ag being unable to adequately maintain the  
agriculture water system for Waimanalo. Funding has been the stated  
handicap. This has resulted in crippling water rationing for the  
farmers of Waimanalo. With about 75% of the land in Waimanalo  
zoned agriculture, not having water is a financial disaster. The Dept  
of Ag needs the ability to fund projects. Waimanalo needs to be  
added to the list of allowable projects.

Once again I support the SB 2362 with amendments that the Dept of  
Ag needs the support for this project and that Waimanalo be included  
in the project. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.