

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
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

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON**  
**WATER AND LAND AND OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**FEBRUARY 12, 2014, 8:00 A.M.**  
**ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2385**  
**RELATING TO IRRIGATION**

Chairpersons Evans and Hanohano and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2385. The purpose of this bill is to provide that irrigation project water shall be used to irrigate agricultural land and pasture land and prioritize that agricultural land shall first be served with water in times of drought or short supply. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture believes we currently have the authority to fulfill the intent of this measure.

Where available, Departmental irrigation systems already serve agricultural and pastoral lands. Additionally, Section 4-157-4(h), Hawaii Admin Rules, states "The department reserves the right to allocate water use in the following order of priority as it may deem necessary to: (1) Preserve crops and harvests on agricultural and aquacultural lands; (2) Preserve animal life; and (3) Irrigate pasture."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





HOUSE COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND AND OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Wednesday, February 12, 2014 – 8:00 a.m. – Room 325

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2385, Relating to Irrigation**

Dear Chair Evans, Vice Chair Lowen, Chair Hanohano, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committees:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am general partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy, and reduce/recycle waste. Ulupono invests in projects that have the potential to create large-scale, innovative change.

**Ulupono strongly supports HB 2385**, which provides that irrigation project water shall be used for agricultural purposes, such as irrigating pasture land, in times of drought or short supply. Plants and animals need a continuous source of water to survive. When rainfall cannot fulfill all water needs, farmers and ranchers make large capital investments in irrigation infrastructure. For agriculture to be successful economically, Ulupono believes farmers and ranchers need to be secure in knowing that water will continuously be available even during times of drought or supply shortages. In particular, the Hamakua irrigation system on the Big Island has millions more gallons of water that could be used for agriculture every day.

We believe that working together we can help produce more local food, support an economically strong homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner

Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)



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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 4:18 PM  
To: waltestimony  
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Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2385 on Feb 12, 2014 08:00AM

**HB2385**

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for WAL on Feb 12, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council strongly supports this measure.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**lowen2-Lanaly**

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**HB2385**

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for WAL on Feb 12, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Manfredi	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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