

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

KEN H. KAKESAKO
Deputy to the Chairperson

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 COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014, 9:30 A.M.
ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2294, SD 2
RELATING TO IRRIGATION**

Chair Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2294, SD 2. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds to make improvements to various irrigation systems. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this bill and respectfully suggests the following changes.

The Department respectfully request that \$19,000,000 be inserted into line twelve on page one to assist in the continued improvements to irrigation systems and agricultural facilities. These funds are proposed to be used to complete the installation of the black pipe siphon on Kauai, four siphons for Waiahole, plan, design, and construct an irrigation system for the recently acquired ADC Wahiawa lands, and design and construct improvements to HDOA facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 13, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2294, SD2
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 312
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,832 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 SB 2294, SD2 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 for our farmers and ranchers.

Many of these irrigation systems are antiquated and have atrophied over 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 availability is a basic necessity for farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production, particularly in times of drought manifested on many islands as a result of a changing climate. Moreover the reliability of water is a key factor for our farmers and ranchers when deciding to expand their operations.

The funds for Hawaii's irrigation systems are directed to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Resource Management (ARM) Division. We will defer to them for final numbers of what is needed for the systems at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 4:18 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2294 on Mar 13, 2014 09:30AM*

SB2294

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

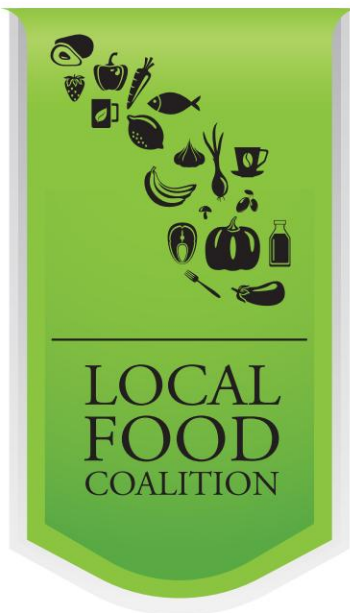
Testimony for AGR on Mar 13, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



4 Ag Hawai'i

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Association of
Independent Schools

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United

Hawai'i Food Industry
Association

Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden
Network

Ulupono Initiative

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Thursday, March 13, 2014 – 9:30 a.m. – Room 312

The Local Food Coalition Strongly Supports SB 2294 SD 2, Relating to Agriculture

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am general partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Honolulu-based impact investment firm, which is working to improve the quality of life for Hawai'i residents by investing in projects that create more locally grown food, increase renewable energy and reduce/recycle waste. We are representing on behalf of the Local Food Coalition, which is an organization comprising farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

The Local Food Coalition strongly supports SB 2294 SD 2, which appropriates funding for capital improvement projects to various irrigation systems statewide, providing the much-needed water to help diversified agriculture and local food production to continue to grow.

This bill recognizes that all agriculture needs a reliable and water supply for consistent production, as evidenced by prolonged drought conditions and their devastating effects.

As part of the Local Food Coalition, Ulupono is very pleased to support proposals designed to help grow more local food. Our group's members came together last year with one common goal: to promote the local production of food in a sustainable and economically sound manner to benefit Hawai'i's people through the revitalization and expansion of our state's agricultural sector. This year the Coalition is continuing to pursue this comprehensive approach because it is the most effective way for Hawai'i to develop its resources for diversified food production, as well as lessen its dependence on importing that which can be grown, raised and processed locally.

The Coalition includes the Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation, the Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council, Inc., Hawai'i Famers' Union United, 4 Ag Hawai'i, the Hawai'i Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association, the Kohala Center, Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association, Hawai'i Food Industry Association, Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools, Maui School Garden Network, Malama Kaua'i, and Ulupono Initiative.

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.

The Local Food Coalition Supports All Forms of Agriculture.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner
Ulupono Initiative

Email: communications@ulupono.com



February 14, 2014

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Support of SB 2294, SD1 (Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to various irrigation systems).

Thursday, February 20, 2014, at 9:05 a.m., in Conference Room 211

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission 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.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of SB 2294, SD1**, and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii. The bill conveys the need for collaboration amongst diverse sectors of the community - business, government, and agricultural stakeholders - and the importance for them to work together cooperatively to improve the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry.

SB 2294, SD1. This bill proposes to authorize the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds for the purpose of making capital improvements to irrigation systems and associated agricultural management facilities throughout the State.

LURF's Position. The purpose of this bill is to provide funding to be expended by the Department of Agriculture for capital improvements to irrigation systems and associated agricultural management facilities 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 2294, SD1 will greatly assist by providing funding necessary to make improvements to irrigation systems as well as associated agricultural management facilities for the long-term betterment of the State's agricultural industry, and are relying on measures such as this to help them work toward the expansion of diversified agriculture; promote the agricultural self-sufficiency of the State; and to protect water as an important resource.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 2294, SD1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 8:39 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2294 on Mar 13, 2014 09:30AM*

SB2294

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 13, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov



**SB 2294sd2, Relating to Irrigation
House Agriculture Committee
Thursday, March 13, 2014
9:30 am
Conference Room 312**

**Written Testimony by: Larry Jefts
Position: Support**

Chair Wooley and Members of the House Agriculture Committee:

I am Larry Jefts, co-owner of Sugarland Growers, Inc., a family run farm with more than 35 years experience of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu.

Water is the lifeblood of farmers and ranchers. Without access to affordable water, Hawaii's agriculture industry will not flourish. This measure would provide funding to maintain and improve Hawaii's irrigation systems that have deteriorated with the closing of plantations. Well maintained irrigation systems and agricultural management systems are critical as extended droughts and uncertain weather conditions increasingly challenge farmers and ranchers.

Your support of this measure is appreciated. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony. I can be reached at (808) 688-2892 if there are any questions.