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 WAM Testimony

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Subject: Testimony in strong support of SB 112 SD1, WAM, Rm 211, 02/26/2014, 9:40am

Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 1:07:32 PM

Aloha WAM Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Ron Weidenbach, Co-Owner of Hawaii Fish Company, Hawaii's oldest commercial aquafarm located on the North Shore of Oahu. My wife, Estralita, and I strongly support SB 112 SD1 which establishes the Whitmore project facility revenue bond special fund into which proceeds from revenue bonds will be deposited for purchasing certain parcels of land from Dole Food Company, and appropriates funds to acquire certain Dole Food lands. As long-term Waialua residents my wife and I are very familiar with these valuable agricultural lands. And as Co-Chair of the Agriculture Committee of the community-driven North Shore Economic Vitality Initiative, I can say that these important planned Whitmore project facilities represent critical assets to the long-term sustainability of North Shore agriculture and aquaculture for farms from Kahuku to Kaena to Wahiawa. As such, my wife and I urge you to support this project and this important bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SV 112 SD1.

Ron Weidenbach