



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

February 26, 2014, 10:30 A.M.
ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 3026 SD1
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS FOR THE
WAIMEA-PAAUULO WATERSHED PROJECT

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 3026 SD1. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate general obligation bonds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture for the Waimea-Paauilo Watershed Project.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports this bill, as it will provide funds for essential irrigation improvements to the Waimea-Paauilo watershed.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to testify.





SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Wednesday, February 26, 2014 – 10:30 a.m. – Room 211

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SB 3026 SD 1, Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds for the Waimea-Paauilo Watershed Project

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 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 SB 3026 SD 1, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the Waimea-Paauilo watershed project. In identifying the most successful regions for local food production, the north side of the Big Island stands out as one of the state's best. This area has numerous farmers and ranchers that are productively feeding our local population.

Ulupono sees tremendous potential in the region for developing grass-fed livestock, whose costs are less tied to volatile fossil fuel and imported feed prices. We believe this can make the local cattle industry thrive in a long-term economically sustainable way. Ulupono has and is currently working with agricultural entities in the region on projects to do so.

The key driver of successful grass-fed operations is the rancher's ability to grow the most nutritious grass at the fastest rate. This requires consistent access to water, be it for free from rainfall or through irrigation in drier times. However, much of the rainfall is not adequately captured in the region. The funding from this bill will provide our local farmers and ranchers with access to more water, as there is already a shortage. Currently, local farmers and ranchers in the region are already purchasing all available water from the Waimea irrigation system.

We believe that by 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



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: nanihawaii@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB3026 on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM
Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 1:42:36 PM



SB3026

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nani pogline	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: The "conservation" agenda has been going too far! Please stop the over kill fencing and eradication of our natural resources.

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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