

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 17, 2015
2:45 P.M.
ROOM 414

HOUSE BILL NO. 1345, H.D. 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1345, H.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the operation, repair, maintenance, and improvement of the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative irrigation system. The department supports the intent of this bill and requests one amendment.

We respectfully request that Section 2 be amended with the underlined portion added for clarification:

“There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$_____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 for the operation, repair, maintenance, and improvement of the east Kauai irrigation system by the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative.”

Water is a vital component in order for agriculture to flourish. Well-kept irrigation systems are necessary to provide much needed water to agriculturalists across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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 17, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1345 HD 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 414
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 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.

HFB strongly supports HB 1345 HD 1, appropriating funds for the operation, repair, maintenance, and improvement of the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative irrigation systems.

The East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative, a volunteer group, has operated the East Kauai Irrigation System for more than eight years, servicing more than 12,500 acres of agricultural land. Without the volunteer effort of the cooperative, the 21-mile irrigation system would have been abandoned and Kauai farmers left without water.

The repair and maintenance of our irrigation 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, a reliable water supply is a key factor when Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are making decisions to start new or to expand existing operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: cindy.goldstein@pioneer.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1345 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Monday, March 16, 2015 2:41:24 PM

HB1345

Submitted on: 3/16/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cindy Goldstein	DuPont Pioneer	Support	No

Comments: DuPont Pioneer supports funding of East Kauai Irrigation systems to provide stable water availability for Kauai agriculture.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1345 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, March 14, 2015 1:29:04 PM

HB1345

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS HB 1345, HD1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE, which appropriates funds for the operation, repair, maintenance, and improvement of the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative irrigation systems. (HB 1345 HD1)

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



**East Kauai
Water Users' Cooperative**

4334 Rice Street, Suite 202
Lihue, Kauai Hawaii 96766
Phone: 808-246-6962
Fax: 808-245-3277

TO: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

March 14, 2015

RE: **Testimony on HB 1345 HD1 Relating to Agriculture
March 17, 2105, Conference Room 414**

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of Committees:

My name is Jerry Ornellas and I support HB1345. I am the president of the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative which has managed the State-owned reservoir and ditch system in the Kapaa/Kalepa area for the past 13 years.

The bill is intended to supply needed cash support to our system which receives more than \$150,000 per year in volunteer labor, fees and donations.

Over the last three years, the State has invested strategically in the system, most notably with the complete renovation and upgrade of Wailua Reservoir which is just now complete, the renovations of Upper Kapahi Reservoir and Aahoaka reservoirs which should begin in 2015.

There remain important repairs which must be tended to least they become major issues down the road. Our system provides irrigation water to a number of farmers, ranchers and householders in the Kapaa and Kalepa areas. It is critical to a dynamic homegrown agriculture industry on Kauai's East Side.

I respectfully ask that you pass this bill.

East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative

Jerry Ornellas, President



Kalepa Koalition

6277 Puuopai Place
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746
Phone/Fax: 808-822-3392

TO: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

March 14, 2015

**RE: Testimony on HB 1345 HD1 Relating to Agriculture
March 17, 2105, Conference Room 414**

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of Committees:

My name is Les Milnes and I support HB1345. I am the president of the Kalepa Koalition, an Hawaii agricultural cooperative of the farmers and ranchers who hold long-term licenses on 6,500 acres of State land behind Kalepa Ridge on Kauai and under the administration of ADC.

The East Kauai Water Cooperative System services a large portion of the Kalepa lands; most of the farmers, ranches and the huge Green Energy Team biomass project on a 1,000 acres utilize the system through Hanamaulu Ditch or off the Upper and Lower Aahoaka Reservoirs.

Last year, ADC received funding for the renovation of the Upper and Lower Aahoaka reservoirs, and this work should begin in 2015. The passage of bill HB 1345 will assure multiple parcel holders, including the island's largest banana farmer, with a reliable source of water year round.

I respectfully request that this bill be passed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Les Milnes".

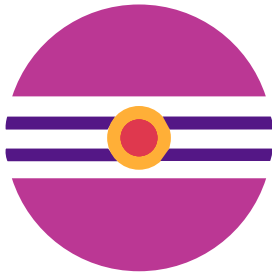
Leslie P. Milnes, President
Kalepa Koalition

House Bill 1345 - SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committee:

I am Mark Phillipson, Corporate Affairs Lead for Syngenta Hawaii. Syngenta Hawaii supports HB 1345 which appropriates for operation, repair, maintenance, and improvement of the East Kauai Water Users" Cooperative irrigation systems.

There are three items needed to farm: land, water, and people. Your passage and support of this bill insures the first two. Mahalo for your consideration on this measure before you today.



Saiva Siddhanta Church

Kauai's Hindu Monastery
107 Kaholalele Road
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746-9304•USA
Phone: (808) 822-3012

March 14, 2015

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Testimony on HB 1345 HD1 Relating to Agriculture March 17, 2105, Conference Room 414

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of Committees:

We are writing today in favor of HB1345. We are current users of this water system and a founder member of the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative Board of Directors. The water supplied by the system is very important to the Church for both its 70 acres of fee-simple land Wailua Homesteads and its 300+ acres on Kalepa lands now held by the Church under a 35-year license agreement with ADC.

The agriculture industry remains an essential component of Hawaii's economic landscape and is only possible with a reliable supply of water. The East Kauai system can irrigate 4,000 acres of productive farm land which has in past years produced millions of dollars worth of sugar cane. Its multiple reservoirs and 30 plus miles of ditch are an irreplaceable State-owned resource valued by experts at hundreds of millions of dollars.

The State is amply justified in providing partial support to the system which enjoys a strong volunteer effort.

We urge your committee to back the community's grass roots efforts to preserve and operate this system through the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative.

Saiva Siddhanta Church

Rev. Arumugam Katir
Farm Manager

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [AGL Testimony](#)
Cc: diane.ragone@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1345 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM*
Date: Friday, March 13, 2015 4:10:23 PM

HB1345

Submitted on: 3/13/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Ragone	Individual	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