

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AND AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS**

February 10, 2015
8:30 A.M.
ROOM 312

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1345
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Tsuji and Kawakami and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1349. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the operation, repair, maintenance, and improvement of the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative irrigation systems. The department supports this bill.

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
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February 10, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1345
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, 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 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 or 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.

Kauai County Farm Bureau

Affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation

P.O. Box 3895, Lihue HI 96766-6895

808-855-5429

admin@kauaicontyfarmbureau.org

The Voice of Kauai's Agriculture



February 8, 2015

To: Committee On Agriculture

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair

Representative Richard Onishi, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Business

Representative Derek Kawakami, Chair

Representative Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

Re: Testimony on HB 1345 Relating to Agriculture

February 10, 2015, Conference Room 312

Aloha Chairpersons Tsuji and Kawakami and Members of the Committees!

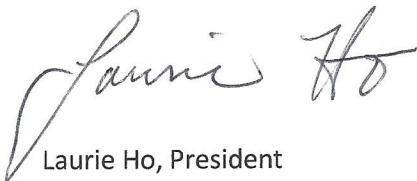
My name is Laurie Ho and I am writing to you in support of HB1345. I am the president of Kauai County Farm Bureau and we believe water is one of the most important components to a successful agricultural venture.

The State of Hawaii has invested in this system as well, most recently completing the renovation of Wailua Reservoir. We look forward to the State's continued assistance in renovating the Upper Kapahi and Ahoaka Reservoirs, slated to begin in 2015.

This bill supplies much needed monetary support to the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative who are the stewards of this legacy irrigation water system. The Cooperative's efforts exceed \$150,000 per year in volunteer labor, cooperative membership fees and donations. They have been successfully maintaining this system for the past 13 years.

Again, water is a critical element to our farmers and ranchers and homeowners in the Kapaa and Kalepa areas of Kauai County. I humbly ask that you consider passing this bill.

No water, no agriculture. No agriculture, no food.



Laurie Ho, President

"Kaua'i County Farm Bureau (KCFB) cultivates a thriving and prosperous agricultural sector, firmly rooted in the community, by working collaboratively to build long term support and providing a respected voice for Agriculture on Kauai " **adopted June 2012**



**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
Rep. Clft Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

February 8, 2015

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Chair
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

RE: **Testimony on HB 1345 Relating to Agriculture
February 10, 2015, Conference Room 312**

Chairpersons Tsuji and Kawakami 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



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Support of HB 1345

Appropriates funds as a grant pursuant to chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the operation, repair, maintenance, and improvement of the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative irrigation systems.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 10, 2015, 8:30 AM in House conference room 312

Aloha Chair Tsuji and members of the Committee,

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association and we are in support of the intent of HB 1345.

We understand the need to maintain, repair and improve irrigation systems in any agricultural endeavor. Setting aside the necessary resources towards this purpose would be appropriate to achieve this objective.

We humbly ask for the Committee's support of HB 1345.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

HCIA 2014-2016 Board of Directors

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onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 08, 2015 1:40 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1345 on Feb 10, 2015 08:30AM*

HB1345

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	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.

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Kalepa Koalition

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

TO: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

February 10, 2015

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS
Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Chair
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

**RE: Testimony on HB 1345 Relating to Agriculture
February 10, 2015, Conference Room 312**

Chairpersons Tsuji and Kawakami 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.

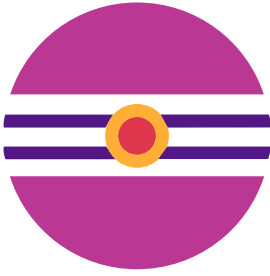
The East Kauai Water Cooperative System services a large portion of the Kalepa lands; most of the farmers, ranches and the huge Green Energy Team biomass project on a 1,000 acres utilize the system through Hanamaulu Ditch or off the Upper and Lower Aahoaka Reservoirs.

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



Saiva Siddhanta Church

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

February 10, 2015

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Clft Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS

Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Chair
Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

Testimony on HB 1345 Relating to Agriculture February 10, 2015, Conference Room 312

Chairpersons Tsuji and Kawakami 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

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 08, 2015 5:50 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1345 on Feb 10, 2015 08:30AM*

HB1345

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	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.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 5:36 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: swhalen@harc-hspa.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1345 on Feb 10, 2015 08:30AM



HB1345

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie A Whalen	HARC	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Representatives Please continue the support for the East Kauai irrigation system. It has been a successful public/private partnership for several years allowing the continuation of an important system on Kauai for the agricultural sector. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

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