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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
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PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 4, 2016
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1539
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL WATER SUPPLY

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1539. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the department of agriculture for planning and engineering studies and designs for construction of water source development, renewable energy sources for agricultural development and delivery, and a reservoir to service the agricultural lands surrounding Waimea. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure provided that it does not impact the priorities submitted in the Department's executive budget.

The Department believes there is considerable potential in this region to expand diversified agriculture. The limiting factor in this case is not land availability, but adequate irrigation water. The existing Waimea Irrigation System has reached its service capacity; however, the department believes there is an opportunity to develop and store more water by integrating affordable, renewable energy with new water sources. New sources will not only allow the expansion of the irrigation district, but provide a significantly more reliable supply of water during times of drought or other natural disasters.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



JOBIE M. K.
MASAGATANI

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**TESTIMONY OF JOBIE M. K. MASAGATANI, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
IN SUPPORT OF**

HB 1539 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL WATER SUPPLY

February 4, 2016

Aloha Chair Tsuji and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) has beneficiaries and land in Lalamilo and Puukapu. An increase in the water supply in these areas and in the greater Waimea District would be extremely beneficial to farmers and residents, including DHHL beneficiaries that live in the area.

DHHL requests that the Committee on Agriculture pass HB 1539 out of Committee.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony



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February 4, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1539
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL WATER SUPPLY

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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 1539 appropriating funds to the Department of Agriculture for planning and engineering studies and designs for construction of water source development, renewable energy sources for agricultural development and delivery, and a reservoir to service the agricultural lands surrounding Waimea.

Water availability is a basic necessity needed by farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production, particularly in times of drought. Having 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.

Electrical costs are a significant expenditure for Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. Containment of variable costs are critical for long term viability. In order for farmers and ranchers to be competitive and self-sustaining, an environment in which agriculture can expand and succeed is critical to the long term viability of the agricultural sector.

Renewable energy sources that help to reduce energy costs and reliable and affordable water could help increase the agricultural production of our farmers in ranchers in South Kohala.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



February 2, 2016

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Comments in Support of HB 1539 Relating to Agricultural Water Supply (Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for planning and engineering studies and designs for construction of water source development, renewable energy sources, and reservoir to service the agricultural lands surrounding Waimea).

Thursday, February 4, 2016, 8:30 a.m., in Conference Room 312

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 provide testimony **in support of HB 1539**, and to offer comments.

HB 1539. As an advocate for the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands in Hawaii, LURF supports this measure which seeks to help meet the demand for food self-sufficiency, expand the agricultural economy, as well as address food security and drought mitigation.

This bill proposes to appropriate funds to the DOA for planning and engineering studies and designs for construction of water source development, renewable energy sources for agricultural development and delivery, and a reservoir to service the agricultural lands surrounding Waimea.

LURF's Position. The purpose of this measure is to support the farming and ranching industries in South Kohala on the island of Hawaii by appropriating moneys for planning and engineering studies and designs for construction of:

1. Water source development;
2. Renewable energy sources for agricultural development and delivery;
and
3. A reservoir to service the agricultural lands surrounding Waimea on the island of Hawaii.

By supporting the development of these resources, the State has an opportunity to strengthen and expand Hawaii's diversified agriculture industry. Agricultural lands require significant quantities of water to support and maintain productivity, and in order to ensure that local agricultural producers are able, and may continue to receive a dependable supply of water for crops, sufficient funding for planning development is necessary.

Local farmers and ranchers who rely on water systems to service their agricultural lands consider such resources critical to conduct their agricultural operations and to sustain their businesses. These agricultural stakeholders believe measures such as HB 1539 will greatly assist by providing funding necessary to develop and make improvements to water systems for the long-term betterment of the State's agricultural industry, and rely on legislation 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 HB1539**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this matter.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:35 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1539 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM*

HB1539

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	Yes

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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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 5:58 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1539 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM*

HB1539

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

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