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Statement of
LEO R. ASUNCION
Acting Director, Office of Planning
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Friday, February 6, 2015
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of
HB 443
**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO UPDATE AGRICULTURAL SOIL
CLASSIFICATIONS AND MAPS.**

Chair Evans, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land.

The Office of Planning (OP) supports the intent of HB 443, and respectfully offers the following comments. HB 443 would appropriate as much as \$2 million each fiscal year for Fiscal Years 2016 and 2017 for OP and the Land Use Commission (LUC) to update agricultural soil classifications and maps.

OP acknowledges long-standing concerns over the use of the Land Study Bureau (LSB) overall (master) productivity ratings in regulating land uses in the State Agricultural District. However, OP and the LUC lack the technical expertise or functional mandate with which to guide and implement this undertaking.

In view of the potentially significant expense of updating the agricultural soil productivity maps, it might be more cost-effective to examine how to better use the ongoing soils classification program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its National Farmland Inventory program in defining agricultural land capability in Hawaii. A less costly approach would be to examine whether there are alternative means to guiding and regulating use of agricultural lands than the use of the LSB rating system in Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 205.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lieutenant Governor

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director

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Acting Deputy Director



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Statement of
Daniel E. Orodener
Executive Officer
Land Use Commission

Before the
House Committee on Water & Land
February 6, 2015
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HB 443
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO UPDATE AGRICULTURAL
SOIL CLASSIFICATIONS AND MAPS

Chairs Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee on Water and Land:

The Land Use Commission supports the intent of HB 443 that seeks to update and modernize the soil classifications to make them a more accurate and better tool for decision makers. The Land Study Bureau (LSB) classifications that currently serve as a guide to regulating uses within the State Agricultural District were done decades ago and may benefit from a fresh look.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.