



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Support of HB502
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Monday, 02-08-16 9:00AM in House conference room 325.

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 HB502.

Efficient irrigation systems and techniques play a vital role in Hawaii's agricultural sector, given the unpredictable weather conditions like drought. It is therefore, imperative that irrigation systems throughout the state be properly maintained at all times. This bill will provide the State with the resources to achieve this objective and we assert that it will definitely benefit all of Hawaii's farming communities.

We humbly ask for the Committee's support of HB502.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

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February 8, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 502
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 325
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, 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.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 502, authorizing the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to various irrigations systems.

Since the demise of sugar operations across the islands, we have seen the erosion of irrigation systems. Ditches that carried water fell into disrepair with major leaks in the system, and in cases such as Ka'u, cracks in tunnels created enough losses that there is no longer significant flow of water. The Legislature continues to advocate for increased self-sufficiency and sustainability. Agriculture must play a key role in the process and for there to be agriculture, water is important.

As time passes, these systems continue to degrade. Timely funding is needed to restore these systems to increase the opportunities for viable farm and ranch operations.

For these reasons, Hawaii Farm Bureau respectfully requests your **strong support of HB 502**, authorizing general obligation bonds to finance the restoration of irrigation systems. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 7:34 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: jkimof@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB502 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

HB502

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james Kimo Falconer	MauiGrown Coffee, Inc	Support	No

Comments: Please support. The State needs to step up it's support of Ag by putting money toward maintaining existing it's aging water resource infrastructure. This should not be left up to the land owner as in many cases these lands get sold or transferred and the knowledge and motive to maintain goes with it. Thank you James Kimo Falconer President MauiGrown Coffee, Inc.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 11:34 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB502 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

HB502

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 06, 2016 7:07 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB502 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM

HB502

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: The funding for irrigation systems is critical to the future of Agriculture in Hawaii. Without water, there is no agriculture.

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February 5, 2016

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
House Committee on Water and Land

Comments in Support of HB 502 Relating to Irrigation. (Authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to various irrigation systems.)

Monday, February 8, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in CR 325

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 express its **support of HB 502**, and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

HB 502. This bill authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to various irrigation systems throughout the State to ensure a dependable supply of water for Hawaii's crops.

LURF's Position. The purpose of this measure is to provide additional funding needed for improvements to irrigation systems State-wide. Since large amounts of prime agricultural lands and irrigation systems became available for conversion to diversified agriculture as a result of the plantation closures in the 1990s, the State has had the opportunity to strengthen and expand Hawaii's diversified agriculture industry. Agricultural lands, however, require significant quantities of water to support and maintain productivity. In order to ensure that local agricultural producers may continue to receive a dependable supply of water for crops, as well as research and development operations, sufficient funding is necessary to improve, repair and maintain Hawaii's irrigation systems.

Local farmers and ranchers who rely on irrigation 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 502 will greatly assist by providing funding necessary to make improvements to irrigation systems for the long-term betterment of the State's agricultural industry, and depend 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 HB 502**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 11:37 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: diamondbranchhi@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB502 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

HB502

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brendan Balthazar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 7:06 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB502 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

HB502

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 12:00 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: jonikamiya@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB502 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

HB502

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 1:04 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: mnakahata@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB502 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

HB502

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

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DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

February 8, 2016
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE BILL NO 502
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Chairperson Yamane and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 502. The purpose of this measure is to authorize the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to various irrigation systems. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this bill and respectfully offers the following projects for consideration.

1. Molokai Irrigation System Improvements - \$3,500,000 (\$300,000 Design / \$3,200,000 Construction)
2. Lower Hamakua Ditch Improvements, Hawaii – \$2,000,000 (\$250,000 Design / \$1,750,000 Construction)
3. Kahuku Ag Park Improvements, Oahu - \$1,000,000 (\$200,000 Design / \$800,000 Construction)
4. Waimanalo Irrigation System Improvements, Oahu - \$3,200,000 (\$400,000 Design / \$2,800,000 Construction)
5. Waimea Irrigation Improvements, Hawaii - \$500,000 (\$100,000 Design / \$400,000 Construction)
6. State Irrigation Reservoir Safety Improvements, Statewide - \$1,000,000 (\$999,000 Design / \$1,000 Construction)

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 6:50 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: Robelloj@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB502 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

HB502

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
JAMES ROBELLO	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 6:04 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: gregf@haleakalaranch.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB502 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

LATE

HB502

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Friel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, February 07, 2016 9:49 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: wmitno@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB502 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

HB502

Submitted on: 2/7/2016
Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wesley M Nohara	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:30 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: mck0714@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB502 on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM*

HB502

Submitted on: 2/8/2016
Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maggie Kramp	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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