

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

February 13, 2015
10:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

**HOUSE BILL NO. 608
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO
WAIMEA NUI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

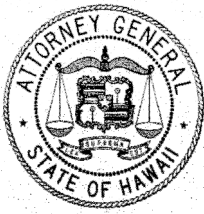
Chairperson Yamane and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 608. This bill authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds up to \$45,000,000 to the Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation for the planning, acquisition, and construction of agriculture, renewable energy, and educational facilities. The Department strongly supports this measure.

The Department is working closely with the Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation on the agricultural component of their plan to revitalize the Waimea community. They have already found success in the creation of a Farmers for the Working Class program that has helped numerous community members, under the tutelage of an experienced farmer, transition into becoming farmers themselves. To further support this initiative, the legislature appropriated \$3.5 million for the design and construction of a Waimea Agricultural Park that will provide plots for farmers and community members to transition into agricultural production. The Department looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with the Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.





**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2015**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 608, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO WAIMEA NUI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

DATE: Friday, February 13, 2015

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): WRITTEN COMMENTS ONLY. For more information, call Deputy Attorney General Diane Erickson (808) 586-0618

Chair Yamane and Members of the Committee:

The Attorney General has comments on this bill.

As introduced and passed by the Committee on Agriculture, this bill authorizes the issuance of \$45,000,000 in special purpose revenue bonds (SPRBs) for a myriad of projects of Waimea Nui Development Corporation. The bill does not currently specify which part of chapter 39A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), will be identified to authorize issuance of the bonds.

The projects are generally described in the bill as related to planning, acquisition, and construction of agriculture, renewable energy, and educational facilities, including bioenergy systems, micro-grid, agricultural processing facilities, water systems, agriculture infrastructure, equestrian and livestock facilities, aquaculture facilities, and agriculture-related education facilities.

Article VII, section 12, of the Hawaii State Constitution describes seven categories for which SPRBs may be issued: (1) manufacturing, processing, or industrial enterprises; (2) utilities serving the general public; (3) health care facilities provided to the general public by not-for-profit corporations; (4) early childhood education and care facilities provided to the general public by not-for-profit corporations; (5) low and moderate income government housing programs; (6) not-for-profit private nonsectarian and sectarian elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities; and (7) agricultural enterprises.

This constitutional provision is implemented by chapter 39A, HRS. Chapter 39A is divided into multiple parts describing the various types of SPRBs, and each type has its own specific requirements. For example, section 39A-191, HRS, defines a project party for the issuance of SPRBs to assist utilities serving the general public in providing electric energy or gas, in relevant part, as follows: "an electric or gas utility serving the general public and that is regulated by the public utilities commission under chapter 269." For purposes of SPRBs issued to assist agricultural enterprises, section 39A-311, HRS, defines a project as "any combination of land, buildings, and other improvements thereon, including without limitation irrigation system and infrastructure, for use of, or for, or to assist an agricultural enterprise." Section 39A-251, HRS, defines a project party for purposes of SPRBs to assist not-for-profit private nonsectarian and sectarian elementary schools, secondary schools, colleges and universities serving the general public as "a not-for-profit private nonsectarian and sectarian elementary school, secondary school, college, and university that serves the general public."

Thus, the Legislature needs to carefully consider the types of projects and the nature of the project party when making its determination on what type of SPRBs to authorize in order to satisfy the requirements of the Hawaii State Constitution and chapter 39A, HRS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

TESTIMONY BY WESLEY K. MACHIDA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 608

February 13, 2015
10:00 A.M.

AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO
WAIMEA NUI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

House Bill No. 608 authorizes the issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRB) up to \$45,000,000 to assist Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation, a private not-for-profit corporation, for the planning, acquisition, and construction of agriculture, renewable energy, and educational facilities.

The Department would like to advise the Legislature and prospective SPRB parties that should the legislation be approved, approval of SPRB issuance will require further discussion and satisfactory credit underwriting review of the financing components with respect to any proposed financing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

PHONE (808) 594-1888

FAX (808) 594-1865



STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
711 KAPI'OLANI BOULEVARD, SUITE 500
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

**TESTIMONY OF TRUSTEE ROBERT K. LINDSEY, JR. IN SUPPORT OF HB 608
AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO WAIMEA NUI
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

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

My name is Bob Lindsey, Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Trustee for Hawaii Island. Today, I wish to share my testimony in SUPPORT of HB 608 as an individual member of the OHA Board of Trustees. In my time of service to OHA's beneficiaries for the past 7 ½ years, I have always enjoyed and supported our beneficiaries who have "carried the ball" in their own communities and have strived to better the conditions of those whom they serve. In this particular case, the Waimea Nui Development Corporation has been reviving ideas left dormant from decades before. These ideas and very practical dreams of the Waimea community are slowly coming to life due to their efforts and the effort of those beneficiaries of that community and beyond. The realization of Waimea Nui, its ongoing projects and future projects are a result of public and private partnerships. These projects are successful and the future of Waimea Nui is bright. The issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds for this project will assist that community to create more agricultural and economically sustainable initiatives for itself and to move forward. This Waimea community is traditionally a paniolo and mahi`ai town, a town of cowboys and farmers. They are looking for a hand up not a hand out. I urge you to pass HB 608.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via my Honolulu office at 808-594-1882. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**HB 608: Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation
Special Purpose Revenue Bond Request Overview**

HOUSE Water & Land Committee:

Chair Ryan Yamane, Vice Chair Ty Cullen and Members of the Committee

NOTE:

Chair Clift Tsuji on the Committee on Agriculture noted that the applicable part of Chapter 39A was not identified. In the Bill, part "X" (Roman numeral 10) was not added in by the Committee on Agriculture as an amendment to the bill to identify the area of Chapter 39A, HRS. I am respectfully requesting the bill be amended to add in the part "X" to the Bill 608

The Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation (WNCDC) is a Native Hawaiian 501(c)3 operating in the South Kohala district of Hawai'i Island. WNCDC has developed a comprehensive agriculture and renewable energy enterprise, open to the entire Kohala region that directly contributes to the State's economy and security through local food and energy production. The enterprise is designed to be self-sufficient and to create small business opportunity for regional partners.

The Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation Agriculture and Energy Enterprise is designed to revitalize the South and North Kohala's long history of agriculture by developing a comprehensive complex encompassing all of the facilities needed to support a robust agriculture economy. The enterprise builds on a 3 year mentoring program which has, to date, established 34 new small farms to build agriculture related economic engines. Further WNCDC, in partnership with HDOA, will begin construction of a \$3.5M/30 acre Community Agriculture Park later this year.

The primary complex facilities are to be sited on Hawaiian Homelands as these lands are centrally located in the region, but are being constructed by the Homestead on behalf of all of the residents of the regions communities. The facilities will support existing farmers, ranchers and businesses as well as incentivizing new entrepreneurs to start businesses.

The enterprise will include the following facilities and components;

1. Renewable Energy Generation facilities to include an Anaerobic Digester
 - a. Creates low cost power for all of the facilities
 - b. Provides environmentally sound conversion of organic waste to energy and fertilizers.
2. Micro-grid
3. Renewable Energy Systems to create local fuel production
4. Additional greenhouses to support small farms at the Waimea Nui Community Agriculture Park
5. Post-Harvest Facility and Commercial Kitchen
6. Equestrian Center/County Livestock Fairgrounds
7. Health Center to support improving wellness and nutrition in the community
8. Agriculture and Energy UH-Hilo supported Education Center/Business Center
 - a. Inclusive of Distance Learning, Community Sustainability Science and Social Model, and Agriculture Field program facilities
9. Chill/Cut/Wrap Facility with Mobile Slaughter Support Dock
10. Water purification facility to support new Food Safety Certification requirements

11. Crushing/Feed Mill for fish, cattle, swine and poultry feeds
12. Agriculture/Aquaculture facilities coordinated with Kohala Institute
13. Irrigation and Water Infrastructure
14. Supporting Road and Parking Infrastructure

The enterprise has been designed through a 4 year process that began with a series of beneficiary consultations on the Waimea Homestead, and has built on this foundation through strong partnerships with USDA, HDOA, DHHL, OHA, UH and DLIR along with many private organizations and individuals from across the region.

The Waimea region has the land and resources to significantly impact the State's food and energy security through agriculture, aquaculture, ranching and energy production. In addition, the full complex will support at least 500 direct, 600 indirect living wage jobs, and over 250 new small businesses and farms by 2020.

By 2020, the WNCDC Enterprise will create products to include

- 1) Aquaculture facility producing up to 6,400,000 lbs per year
- 2) Produce production of over by 1,000,000 lbs per year
- 3) 500,000 lbs per year of value added products
- 4) Process 1,000,000 lbs of specialty meats
- 5) Produce 175,000 kg/year of hydrogen
- 6) Rental/membership fees from all facilities
- 7) Revenue from a crushing mill that supports up to
 - a. 8,000,000 lbs per year of Feed production
 - b. 40,000 tons of energy biomass pellets for use in fuel and electricity generation
 - c. 100,000 gallons of sunflower cooking oil
 - d. 250,000 gallons of sunflower energy oil
- 8) Excess electricity sales of 4,500,000 kwh

Total Revenue Potential: \$31.5M per year by 2020 with expected margins of 18% and net revenues of no less than \$5.7M per year.

Debt Service: Bond issuance at 6.5% for 30 years would require annual repayment of \$3.5M. The conservative net revenues and can cover the debt service.

DBEDT and DOA have developed the "*Increase Food Security and Food Self-sufficiency Strategy*", which the enterprise directly supports the strategies pillars of;

1. "Support multi-functional food hub facilities to handle aggregation, processing, treatment and distribution."
2. "To increase production of locally grown foods, improve agricultural infrastructure including agricultural parks, irrigation systems and distribution systems/facilities."
3. "Build partnerships with the increasing number of organizations involved in food self-sufficiency/food security."

HB 608
Capital Cost Breakdown

1. Planning, Design, Engineering, Construction Management - \$3.6M
2. Renewable Energy Generation facilities to include an Anaerobic Digester - \$4.8M
3. Micro-grid - \$1.7M
4. Renewable Energy Systems to create local fuel production - \$1.0M
5. Additional greenhouses to support small farms at the Community Agriculture Park - \$0.8M
6. Post-Harvest Facility and Commercial Kitchen - \$2.5M
7. Equestrian Center/County Livestock Fairgrounds - \$6.0M
8. Health Center to support improving wellness and nutrition in the community - \$4.5M
9. Agriculture and Energy UH-Hilo supported Education Center/Business Center - \$7.5M
10. Chill/Cut/Wrap Facility with Mobile Slaughter Support Dock - \$1.0M
11. Water purification facility to support new Food Safety Certification requirements - \$1.6M
12. Crushing/Feed Mill for fish, cattle, swine and poultry feeds - \$1.3M
13. Agriculture/Aquaculture facilities coordinated with Kohala Institute - \$5.0M
14. Irrigation and Water Infrastructure - \$1.6M
15. Supporting Road and Parking Infrastructure - \$2.1M

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 10:16 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: ktk@biodiesel.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB608 on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM

HB608

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for WAL on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly King	Pacific Biodiesel Technologies	Support	No

Comments: Dear Committee Members: Pacific Biodiesel Technologies has been privileged to be a collaborator on the Waimea Community Development initiative and wholeheartedly supports HB608. This is much more than a project and we believe that all the components are coming together to create an amazing model for other communities. The WCD plan encompasses all important aspects of a sustainable community, including water system development, farming for food and fuel, renewable energy production, ag processing for livestock and biofuel feedstock, anaerobic digestion for waste conversion and an ag center for value-added product development. The initiative will truly prove what a caring, coherent community can achieve when the priority is to support thriving local business rather than selling out to mainland or multi-national corporations. Please join us in this effort and support HB608!

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

cullen4-Rachele

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 5:42 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: micah@hfbf.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB608 on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM*

HB608

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for WAL on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Manfredi	Hawaii Farm Bureau	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

cullen4-Rachele

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 4:41 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB608 on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM

HB608

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for WAL on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill is nothing more than a "give away" of tax payer dollars to private individuals whose connections to the author/supporters of this bill in the State Legislature is still unclear. Our economy cannot afford a 45 million dollar give away for something that will only benefit a small portion of one island, that has access to more millionaires than any other community in Hawaii. How about spending that same amount for impoverished communities like Kalihi, Waianae, Kekaha? This bill will haunt the politicians who support it!

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

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Water & Land
February 13, 2015 at 10:00am

by

Bruce Mathews
284 Olu Street
Hilo, HI 96720-5629
(808) 959-2139
bmathews@hawaii.edu

HB 608 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS
TO WAIMEA NUI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bruce Mathews, and I am presenting this testimony on HB 608 in my capacity as a citizen of the County of Hawaii.

Funds from this bill will contribute to the ability of Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation, a non-profit and partnering organization, to expand farmer training to anyone in the Waimea region using the models developed by Mike and Tricia Hodson in the Hawaiian Homestead. Furthermore, it will facilitate direct ties between state agencies and the new farmers to provide educational and technical support. The direct benefits will be rebuilding the farming capacity of this region of proven high agricultural production potential and rural economic revitalization through the increased volume and variety of marketable produce grown.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Water & Land
February 13, 2015 at 10:00am

by

Donald O. Straney, Ph.D
995 Ainalako Rd.
Hilo, Hawaii 96720
(808) 333-1972
dstraney@hawaii.edu

HB 608 AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS
TO WAIMEA NUI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Straney, and I am presenting this testimony on HB 608 in my capacity as a citizen of the County of Hawaii.

This bill would authorize issuance of \$45 million in special revenue bonds to assist the Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation in planning and financing of agricultural, energy, and educational facilities in Waimea on Hawaii Island. These facilities would permit the Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation, a non-profit corporation, to extend significant educational and programmatic activities to help communities on the Island of Hawaii to establish sustainable practices.

The facilities these funds would help establish are located in one of the most productive agricultural areas in the state, and a region where several sustainable energy practices can be perfected. There are a significant number of other organizations partnering with Waimea Nui, which should help ensure that its efforts have a long-lasting impact in the county and in the state.

I add my voice to those offering strong support for this bill.

cullen4-Rachele

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 9:32 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: kamakane73@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB608 on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM

HB608

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for WAL on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Water and Land: My name is Kama Hopkins and I write in SUPPORT of HB 608. This Bill will assist in bringing the Waimea Nui project to life and will create agricultural and economically sustainable opportunities for the community members of Waimea, Hi. and many who call Hawaii Island their home. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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

HB 608 - AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO WAIMEA NUI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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

My name is Vincent Paul Ponthieux, and I am presenting this testimony on HB 608 in my capacity as a citizen of the County of Hawaii.

This bill would authorize issuance of \$45 million in special revenue bonds to assist the Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation in planning and financing of a model for agricultural, cultural, energy, and educational facilities in Waimea on Hawaii Island.

This development would serve as a model to be replicated in other communities around the state, and the globe with particular significance to other island nations.

The holistic approach to creating solutions for energy, transportation, and agriculture that this bill would fund would be invaluable to the communities around the world, and showcase Hawaii as the leader in distributed sustainability.

I add my voice to those offering strong support for this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 11:01 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: bruce.lindsey5contracting@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB608 on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM

HB608

Submitted on: 2/12/2015

Testimony for WAL on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bruce Lindsey	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: HB 608: Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation
Special Purpose Revenue Bond Request Overview HOUSE Water & Land Committee: Chair Ryan Yamane, Vice Chair Ty Cullen and Members of the Committee I strongly SUPPORT HB 608 which would authorizing the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation. I believe that WNCDC, a HHCA Beneficiary Organization is leading the way for the native Hawaiian people in the development of their self-sufficiency and self-determination efforts and has created an outstanding model of sustainability, starting with projects that build and support agriculture sustainability for the entire South Kohala Community. The inclusiveness of the community at large is an example of the host peoples ALOHA for all that live here in Hawaii. I urge the committee to PASS this bill. Mahalo for your support! Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair Rep. Cindy Evans Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto Rep. Kaniela Ing Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say Rep. Chris Lee Rep. Feki Pouha Rep. Nicole E. Lowen Rep. Cynthia Thielen

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
Sent: Wednesday, February 11, 2015 4:23 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: leeydao@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB608 on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM

HB608

Submitted on: 2/11/2015

Testimony for WAL on Feb 13, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
E Yadao	Individual	Oppose	No

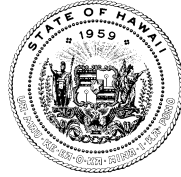
Comments: HB608 I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS. "...the issuance of up to \$45,000,000 in special purpose revenue bonds to assist Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation and its not-for-profit affiliates to finance, refinance, and reimburse costs related to the planning, acquisition, and construction of its agriculture, renewable energy, and educational facilities." It is no wonder this is a not-for-profit when apparently the profit is derived from our tax dollars to be distributed to: "...The Department of Agriculture, the member of the Hawaii County Council District 9, Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, and 'several concerned individuals' [emphasis added]..." It is not necessary, the state is in financial downturn and there are far more critical designations than mysterious cash drops that promise great accomplishments and end up doing nothing. It is really unclear how the residents of Waimea community will benefit from this huge infusion of funds as opposed to the few directly vested individuals/organizations. It is not a best use for the overall benefit of the public.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



JOB
HAW

LATE

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 WATER AND LAND
IN SUPPORT OF

**HB 608, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO
WAIMEA NUI COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

February 13, 2015

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is in strong support on this bill which authorizes the issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds to Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation.

The Waimea Nui project is on Hawaiian Home Lands and is an excellent example of a native Hawaiian beneficiary organization working in collaboration with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands as well as other Federal and State agencies to bring their community vision to reality. The Waimea Hawaiian Homestead Association (WHHA) is responsible for the project build-out and, in addition to this request for Special Purpose Revenue Bonds, has already begun the task of securing various other funding mechanisms for the project including private financing, private and public grants, and on-site revenue generating activities. The DHHL is supporting this community endeavor by undertaking the pre-planning and Environmental Assessment process for the project.

Department of Hawaiian Home Lands

HB 608

WAL, 2-13-2015

Page 2

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony, and we request that your committee pass this bill.



Board Members

President
Jason Okuhama
Managing Partner,
Commercial & Business Lending

Vice President
Rian Dubach
Vice President, Corporate Banking
American Savings Bank

Secretary/Treasurer
Wayne Tanna
Asset Building Coalition &
Chaminade University

HACBED Staff

Brent N. Kakesako
Executive Director

Keoki Noji
Chief Operating Officer

Susan Tamanaha
*Family & Individual Self-
Sufficiency Program Director*

Athena T. Esene
Bookkeeper & Office Manager

Ben Costigan
Asset Development Specialist

Malachi Krishok
AmeriCorps VISTA Member

Date: February 12, 2015

To: Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair, Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice
Chair, and members of the Committee on Water & Land

From: Brent Kakesako, Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development

Re: Strong Support for HB 608, Relating to Authorizing the Issuance of Special
Purpose Revenue Bonds to Waimea Nui Community Development
Corporation

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED) strongly supports HB 608, which authorizes the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds up to \$45,000,000 to Waimea Nui Community Development Corporation (WNCDC).

HACBED was established in 1992 as a nonprofit statewide intermediary to address social, economic, and environmental justice concerns through community-based economic development and asset building strategies. HACBED has been fortunate to work with Hawaiian homestead associations and organizations across the state in partnership with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to provide capacity building support, such as part of the *Kūlia i ka Nu'u* program. Over time we have worked with WNCDC who greatly contributed to our efforts to develop an economic development strategy that would lead to further investments on and adjacent to Hawaiian homestead communities for the Hawai'i State Office of Planning and the Economic Development Administration. WNCDC is working with a clear vision to carry out economic development projects that are place-based and culturally-grounded to benefit the entire South Kohala community. As such, HACBED strongly supports the proposed bill, which would support the planning, acquisition, and construction of agriculture, renewable energy, and educational facilities.

HB 608 supports a homestead beneficiary organization that is leading the way for the native Hawaiian people in the development of their self-sufficiency and self-determination efforts and has created an outstanding model of sustainability. WNCDC's project will serve as a catalyst for economic development that is culturally grounded and based in the values of this place -- Hawai'i.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

Brent N. Kakesako
Executive Director
Hawai'i Alliance for Community-Based Economic Development (HACBED)