

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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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 AGRICULTURE

**FEBRUARY 3, 2017
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 485
RELATING TO IRRIGATION**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 485 relating to irrigation. The department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the priorities identified in the department's executive biennium budget.

Many of the State's irrigation systems are approaching or have been in operation for over a century. These systems, when operated by the plantations, were labor intensive. Upon the demise of the plantations and the subsequent transfer of some of the irrigation systems to the State, years of neglect must be addressed. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) continues to make improvements on these systems by making them more efficient transporters of water and reducing the daily maintenance requirements; however, much more continues to be necessary. The HDOA respectfully requests that \$13,200,000 be inserted into section 2, line 12 to address the department's expected needs for the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 9:54 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: swhalen@harc-hspa.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB485 on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM

HB485

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: HARC strongly supports HB485 providing for support for irrigation infrastructure. We appreciate the legislature for its previous recognition of this important need for agriculture and encourage it to continue that support through passage of this bill.

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: Thursday, February 2, 2017 8:44 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB485 on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM*

HB485

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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February 3, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 485
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Cregan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 485, authorizing the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to various irrigations systems.

Since the demise of plantation 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 Kau, 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 485**, authorizing general obligation bonds to finance the restoration of irrigation systems.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 12:40 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mnakahata@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB485 on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM*

HB485

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 2, 2017 11:07 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lorie.farrell@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB485 on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM*

LATE

HB485

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for AGR on Feb 3, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorie Farrell	Hawaii Farmers & Ranchers United	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Friday, February 3, 2017 – 8:30 AM - Room 312

RE: HB 485 - Relating to Irrigation – In Support

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition supports HB 485, which authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to various irrigation systems.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

Hawaii's irrigation systems are vital to agriculture. These systems continue to degrade and timely funding is needed to restore them to ensure the sustainability of the agricultural industry. HB 485 will provide needed funds to maintain and improve these systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We ask for your favorable consideration of this measure.

Lori Lum
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llum@wik.com

4 Ag Hawai'i
Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association
Hawai'i Association of
Independent Schools
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council
Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation
Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United
Hawai'i Food Industry
Association
Hawai'i Food
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Network
Ulupono Initiative