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March 30, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 632, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE LOANS

Room 211
1:40 PM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, 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.

Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 632, HD1, SD1, expanding the scope of the Water Infrastructure Loan Program

HFB strongly supports a robust water infrastructure development program. Water is not only critical to the livelihood of farmers and ranchers but to the communities in which they live. This proposal expands the type of projects to include water tanks that are especially critical to storage capacity for those who live in systems dependent on surface waters or remote residential or farm systems dependent on catchment.

Additionally, the measure expands those qualifying for the loans to include water utilities. Many of our farmers and ranchers are dependent on the local utilities for service, making this a critical matter for them.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of this measure to strengthen Hawaii's water infrastructure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this important subject.