

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 & LAND

FEBRUARY 8, 2017  
9:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 632  
RELATING TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE LOANS.

Chairperson Yamane and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 632, which broadens the Water Infrastructure Loan Program. The Department supports this bill.

This bill broadens the water infrastructure loan program to include water utilities. The bill amends the definition of water infrastructure charge to include on-bill charges for loan repayments and other charges that may be imposed on the water utility. The bill also amends the definition of water infrastructure equipment, water infrastructure loans and loan program to include water tanks.

Water is a vital resource for the state, its citizens and the agricultural industry. The water infrastructure loan program will provide funding to help ensure efficient use and management of private and public water resources. Expansion of the program will allow it to assist more entities and make it more useful.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96843  
www.boardofwatersupply.com




February 8, 2017

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ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.  
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer 

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Water and Land  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 420  
415 Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

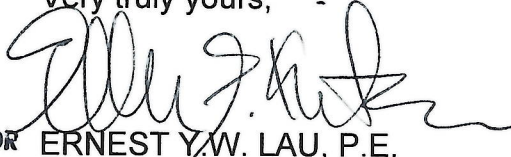
Dear Chair Yamane and Members:

Subject: House Bill 632 Relating to Water Infrastructure Loans

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports House Bill 632. This measure expands the Water Infrastructure Loan Program, administered by the Department of Agriculture, to include loans made to water utilities and amends various corresponding definitions to include water tanks. House Bill 632 will provide BWS with an additional option to finance waterworks projects. The savings realized from lower interest rates will ultimately help keep water rates affordable for BWS customers.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on House Bill 632.

Very truly yours,

  
FOR ERNEST Y.W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

**waltestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 8:35 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** warrenmcfb@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB632 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB632**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>     | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Warren Watanabe     | Maui County 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.

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P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 8, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**TESTIMONY ON HB 632**  
RELATING TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE LOANS

Room 325  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice -Chair Kong, 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**, 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.