

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 FINANCE

**FEBRUARY 24, 2017
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**SENATE BILL NO. 643
RELATING TO IRRIGATION**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 643 which authorizes general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to the Waiahole Irrigation System. The Department strongly supports this measure.

Water is the lifeblood of agriculture. Efficient and reliable irrigation systems transport this resource to where it can be effectively used best. The State's irrigation systems are called upon to provide billions of gallons of agricultural water every year. The Waiahole Irrigation System, run by the Agribusiness Development Corporation, services the many agriculturalists in Oahu's central plain. This measure seeks to provide vital infrastructure funding for the Waiahole Irrigation System, which was built over a century ago, to ensure water security for Hawaii's local farmers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

**TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Friday, February 24, 2017
2:00 p.m.

**HOUSE BILL NO. 643
RELATING TO IRRIGATION**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”). The ADC strongly supports House Bill No. 643 which provides additional funding for improvements to the Waiahole irrigation system.

The Waiahole irrigation system (“system”) was constructed in 1915 to irrigate thousands of acres of sugarcane. The system collects groundwater from the windward side of Oahu and transports the water via tunnels to the leeward side of Oahu, where it is conveyed through ditches and siphons by gravity flow. Currently, the system supplies vital irrigation water for lands between Waipio and Kunia.

The ADC seeks to improve the efficiency of the system to reduce water loss which can be attributed by several factors including seepage, leakage, soil

attributes, evaporation and transpiration, illegal withdraws, structure conditions, operational practices and climate patterns. The ADC's goal is to save 50 million gallons of fresh water annually and ensure water availability for farming.

The additional funding will go towards building more water storage capacity and a backup well system to ensure water security for farming in the central plains of Oahu should the system become temporarily inoperable. Constructing additional reservoirs at the upper end of the conveyance sections of the system will increase the capacity of the system without additional water allocation. The additional reservoirs will provide storage so the amount of water in the delivery portion of the system can be more efficiently controlled. Additionally, a back-up well used for emergency purposes to fulfill water demand should water be unavailable or curtailed will greatly increase the security and reliability of the system.

In closing, the funding provided in this bill will enhance the implementation of the improvements to the system. Making these investments will ensure the system can deliver a reliable source of water in Central Oahu for the next 100 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your consideration of this bill.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, February 24, 2017 – 2:00 PM - Room 308
Agenda #3

RE: HB 643 - Relating to Irrigation – In Support

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition is in strong support of HB 643, which authorizes the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to the Waiahole Irrigation System.

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.

The Waiahole Irrigation system is critical for many agricultural operations in central Oahu. There is a need to reduce water loss, increase water storage and secure a backup well in case of a failure in the system. The Agribusiness Development Corporation's Central Oahu Security Plan includes a reservoir and a backup well system that is estimated at \$8 million to \$10 million.

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

Lori Lum
808-544-8343
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
Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden
Network

Ulupono Initiative



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

February 24, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 643
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 308
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 643, which authorizes the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to the Waiahole Irrigation System.

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.

The Waiahole Irrigation System was built about 100 years ago and continues to be a critical infrastructure system that provides water to thousands of acres of prime agricultural lands in central Oahu. The central plains of Oahu are one of the most highly productive and diversified agricultural region in the State.

The State Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) recognized the importance of the system to the State's future sustainability and now owns and operates the Waiahole Irrigation system. Being that the system is aging and needs constant repairs and maintenance, additional funds will allow ADC to improve the irrigation system by adding more reservoirs that will increase storage capacity and a back-up well for emergency situations when and if the system is ever compromised during a natural disaster.

We appreciate the ADC's forward thinking approach to ensure the long term sustainability of agriculture in the central Oahu region. Farmers and their crops cannot afford to wait until there's a problem before trying to fix it.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 2:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: alan.takemoto@monsanto.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB643 on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM

HB643

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dan Clegg	Monsanto	Support	Yes

Comments: Chair Luke and committee members, My name is Dan Clegg. I am the Business Operations Lead for Monsanto Hawaii. We support HB 643 that issues capital improvement funds for the Waiahole Irrigation System. The Waiahole Irrigation System is a critical irrigation system that services many farm operations and thousands of acres of productive agricultural lands. We are collaborating with ADC on making lands available for a reservoir and back up to improve water storage and ensure ag water security for the central plains of Oahu. Please support the passage of HB 643. Thank you, Dan Clegg

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