

LATE



SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
Monday, January 30, 2017 - 1:15 PM - Room 224

**RE: SB 684 - Relating to Irrigation - In Support**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committee:

**The Local Food Coalition is in strong support of SB 684**, 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.

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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

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**AEN Testimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 29, 2017 11:16 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** legechair@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB684 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM\*

**SB684**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	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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**Rock Riggs**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** darakawa@lurf.org  
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HB.

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**SB684**

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS SB 684, which provides additional funding for improvements to the Waiahole Irrigation System, which is managed by the Agribusiness Development Corporation, an agency which is administratively attached to the Department of Agriculture. LURF understands that the ADC plans to build more water storage capacity and a backup well system to ensure water security for farming in the central plains of Oahu; and that these capital improvements will provide long-term benefits in improved system efficiency as well as in planning for natural disasters such as droughts or for potential system failure. Reliable irrigation is considered the lifeline of Hawaii's agricultural industry, and LURF understands that the Waiahole Irrigation System is one of the most important irrigation systems in the State, as it services many agricultural producers in Central Oahu, which has become the primary center of diversified crop farming covering approximately 5,866 acres of prime agricultural land. Given the increasing number of extended drought events caused by climate change, funding for timely repair and maintenance of the Hawaii's irrigation systems is necessary to ensure that Hawaii's agricultural crops receive a steady and dependable supply of water. LURF respectfully urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

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**AEN Testimony**

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**SB684**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

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**AEN Testimony**

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**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
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**SB684**

Submitted on: 1/29/2017

Testimony for AEN on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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