

SB 771

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**JANUARY 30, 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 771
RELATING TO IRRIGATION**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 771 relating to irrigation. The department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities submitted in the Executive Budget.

Many of the State's irrigation systems are approaching or have been in operation for ever 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: Thursday, January 26, 2017 4:57 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: swhalen@harc-hspa.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB771 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM

SB771

Submitted on: 1/26/2017

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

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

Comments: The legislature has been diligent in the past to provide funding for irrigation systems throughout the islands. This still remains a critical need.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 28, 2017 10:17 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB771 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM*

SB771

Submitted on: 1/28/2017

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dale Sandlin | Hawaii Cattlemens Council | Support | No |

Comments:

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January 30, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 771
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 224
1:15 pm

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Riviere, 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 SB 771, 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 SB 771**, authorizing general obligation bonds to finance the restoration of irrigation systems. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 29, 2017 2:29 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB771 on Jan 30, 2017 13:15PM*

SB771

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 |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Barry | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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