

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
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TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Monday, March 12, 2018
1:15 p.m.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1976 HD1
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”). The ADC supports House Bill No. 1976 HD1, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to finance capital improvements to the Waiahole Irrigation System.

The ADC is an agency attached to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture tasked with transitioning former plantation lands and water systems for diversified agriculture and providing solutions to certain bottleneck issues facing today’s agriculture industry.

The Waiahole Irrigation System (System) provides water to approximately 5,866 acres in the central plain that are in agricultural use. The system is of critical importance not only because of the impact on the production of crops but also because of the economic impact on the community.

Recognizing this, the ADC is taking steps to improve the efficiency of the System to reduce water loss, which can be attributed to several factors including operational practices, seepage, leakage, soil attributes, evaporation and transpiration, illegal withdraws, structure conditions, and climate patterns.

The funding will provide the capital to make the necessary upgrades and improvements to ensure the System can deliver a reliable source of water for agricultural use for another 100 years. We appreciate your consideration of this measure.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**MARCH 12, 2018
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1976 HD1
RELATING TO IRRIGATION**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1976 HD1 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 additional 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.





March 8, 2018

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Support of HB 1976, H.D. 1, Relating to Irrigation (Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to finance capital improvements to the Waiahole Irrigation System.)

Monday, March 12, 2018, 1:15 p.m., in Conference Room 224

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 1976, H.D. 1** and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

HB 1976, H.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to provide additional funding for improvements to the Waiahole irrigation system.

LURF's Position. Since large amounts of prime agricultural lands and irrigation systems became available for conversion to diversified agriculture due to the plantation closures in the 1990s, the State has had the opportunity to strengthen and expand Hawaii's diversified agriculture industry. Agricultural lands, however, require significant quantities of water to support and maintain productivity. To ensure that local agricultural producers may continue to receive a dependable supply of water for crops, as well as research and development operations, sufficient funding is necessary to improve, repair and maintain Hawaii's irrigation systems.

The Waiahole irrigation system, one of Hawaii's most important irrigation systems, is over a hundred years old, 23.5 miles long, and services thousands of acres of productive agricultural lands in central Oahu. The system is one of many irrigation systems throughout the State which are vital to Hawaii's agricultural industry.

Local farmers and ranchers who rely on irrigation systems to service their agricultural lands consider such resources critical to conduct their agricultural operations and to sustain their businesses. These agricultural stakeholders believe measures such as HB 1976, H.D. 1 will greatly assist by providing funding necessary to make improvements to the Waiahole irrigation system for the long-term betterment of the State's agricultural industry and look to legislation like this to help them work toward the expansion of diversified agriculture; promote the agricultural self-sufficiency of the State; and to protect water as an important resource.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HB 1976, H.D. 1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this matter.

HB-1976-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 9:57:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Testifying for Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:



Board of Directors

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

President

Alan Takemoto

IN SUPPORT OF HB 1976, HD1 RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Vice-President

Joshua Uyehara

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
March 12, 2018, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224

Secretary

Dawn Bicoy

Chair Gabbard and members of the committee:

Treasurer

Laurie Yoshida

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy.

Directors-at-Large

Adolf Helm

Mark Stoutemyer

Dan Clegg

Gene Harrington

HCIA is in **support of HB 1976, HD1**, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to finance capital improvements to the Waiahole Irrigation System.

President Emeritus

Kirby Kester

Sufficient funding is needed to improve, repair, and maintain Hawaii's irrigation systems. The Waiahole Irrigation System is one of Hawaii's most important irrigation systems, servicing thousands of acres of productive ag lands in central Oahu.

Executive Director

Bennette Misalucha

Local farmers who rely on irrigation systems to service their agricultural lands consider such resources critical to conduct their operations and sustain their businesses. Measures such as this will contribute to the long-term betterment of the industry, ensuring that local agricultural producers may continue to receive a dependable supply of water for crops and research and development operations.

Please pass this important bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bennette Misalucha

Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association



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

March 12, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 1976, HD 1
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair 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 HB 1976, HD 1, 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 provide our opinion on this important matter.

**LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892**

HB1976hd1, Relating to Irrigation
Senate AEN Hearing
Monday, March 12, 2018
1:15pm - Conference Room 224

Testimony by: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate AEN Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC, which is part of our family-run business of farms on Oahu and Molokai, under the administrative umbrella of Sugarland Growers, Inc. We have more than 35 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu.

Your support of additional funding for improvements to Waiahole Irrigation System is much needed and appreciated. As the State seeks to grow food production in the Central Plains of Oahu, farmers need to be assured of consistent water supply. ADC's plan to build water storage capacity and backup well system will help offset droughts or potential system failure. With the demise of the plantation system, it is up to government to maintain, repair and advance irrigation systems like Waiahole.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony

HB-1976-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 1:24:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Takemoto	Testifying for Monsanto	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-1976-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 7:07:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-1976-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2018 2:05:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE OF AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Monday, March 12, 2018
1:15 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224

RE: Testimony in Support of **HB1976 HD1** : RELATING TO IRRIGATION
To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair and
Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB1976 HD1** relating to the Waiahole Irrigation System; General Obligation Bonds; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB1976 HD1** and supports its passage.

HB1976 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to finance capital improvements to the Waiahole Irrigation System.

The Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, 2016, provides that "[a]griculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability.

This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the native Hawaiian concept of ahupua‘a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times. (Platform of DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-78, 82-86 (2016)).

To ensure wise use and equitable distribution of our precious water, we must stress water conservation and alternative patterns of water treatment and consumption such as the use of recycled water for irrigation, water storage reservoirs, and the use of catchment systems by the public.

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy sustainable, diversified local food production, and “Buy Local” strategies to assure greater food security and food safety.

We recognize the essential link between the availability of adequate and affordable water and low-cost electrical power as essential components of viable agricultural businesses. (Platform of DPH, P. 2, Lines 93-102 (2016)).

Given that **HB1976 HD1** authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to finance capital improvements to the Waiahole Irrigation System, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

HB-1976-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2018 10:05:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/12/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina Gregory	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

From: [Phil Becker](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: I SUPPORT HB 1976, HD 1.
Date: Friday, March 9, 2018 11:36:37 AM

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

I strongly support HB 1976, HD1, which authorizes the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to the Waiahole Irrigation System.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Mahalo!