

DAVID Y. IGE  
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DOUGLAS S. CHIN  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
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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 WAYS & MEANS**

**APRIL 5, 2018  
10:15 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2304 HD1 PROPOSED SD1  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2304 HD1 Proposed SD1. This bill amends the description of the CIP project for East Maui Water Systems. The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

Act 119, SLH 2015 provided capital improvements project funding for irrigation and water delivery systems for agricultural enterprises and/or agricultural purposes in East Maui and for plans, design and construction for water systems in East Maui. In order for these funds to be released, the legislature needs to declare that the appropriations are in the public's health, safety, and general welfare of the State. The Department suggests re-appropriating these projects into the current budget to allow for project encumbrance. The current funding will lapse June 30, 2018.

The Department has been working with the Department of Land and Natural Resources on how the funding should be utilized. The Department is willing to take the lead on both projects in a lump sum project should this measure move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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April 5, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2304, HD1, PROPOSED SD1**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211  
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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.

**Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 2304, HD1, Proposed SD1**, which appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture for capital improvement projects for the benefit of East Maui.

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 **supports HB 2304, HD1, Proposed SD1**, which appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture for capital improvement projects for the benefit of East Maui.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
Thursday, April 5, 2018, 10:15 AM, Conference Room 211  
House Bill 2304, Proposed SD 1, Relating to Agriculture

**TESTIMONY**

Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

If the Senate passes HB 2304, Proposed SD 1, the subject of the Proposed SD 1 will not have had 3 readings or a public hearing in the State House. Under Article III, Section 15 of the Hawaii Constitution, the Legislature is not authorized to enact a bill whose subject has not had three separate readings in the State House and three separate readings in the State Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**HB-2304-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2018 4:49:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB2304 HD1 SD2** relating to the State Budget; Agriculture; DOA; Capital Improvement Projects; East Maui Water Systems; and appropriations

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB2304 HD1 SD2** and supports its passage.

**HB2304 HD1 SD2**, is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), as it appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture for capital improvement projects for the benefit of East Maui.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "[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. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources in order to achieve sustainability of our marine resources, and ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

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.

We will promote ethical and safe production of livestock, dairy products, poultry and eggs. (Platform of DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-88 (2016)).

Recognizing the importance of the ocean as a life-sustaining resource, we must protect its ecological balance while promoting the cultivation of ocean resources as a step toward greater self-sufficiency.

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. (Platform of DPH, P. 2, Lines 90-95 (2016)).

As an island state, securing affordable food for all is a priority. We support healthy, sustainable, and 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.

We support land use planning and infrastructure development to support sustainable diversified agriculture, including low cost inter-island transportation of agricultural products. We likewise support publicly funded research and development for agricultural diversification and value-added products.

We support the designation of Important Agricultural Lands as a step towards preserving high-grade productive lands for current and future needs. (Platform of DPH, P. 2, Lines 97-110 (2016)).

Given that **HB2304 HD1 SD2** appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture for capital improvement projects for the benefit of East Maui, 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 on Legislative Priorities

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