

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, and HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Friday, January 31, 2020
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1780
RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN
AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWA, OAHU**

House Bill 1780 proposes to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount to \$3,000,000 to fund construction of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) in Wahiawa, Oahu surrounding the Kukaniloko Birthing Stones site. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided its enactment does not adversely affect the priorities reflected in the Executive Supplemental Budget request, and that it does not adversely impact the integrity and significance of the Kukaniloko Birthing Stones site.**

House Bill 1780 proposes to authorize the Director of Finance to issue \$3,000,000 in general obligation bonds for fiscal year 2020-2021 to fund construction of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by OHA in Wahiawa, Oahu. The proposed project includes water storage structures, site work, security fencing, piping, distribution pumps, and stub outs to feed an irrigation system.

The Department recognizes the importance of a water storage and distribution system on OHA-owned agricultural lands in Wahiawā, O‘ahu. The proposed project will be developed surrounding the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones site. The Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones site is an extremely important cultural site and historic property. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, acknowledging it as a historic place worthy of national recognition. The Department supports this measure but emphasizes that it must be designed and implemented so as to protect the physical and cultural integrity of the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones site, both during construction of the project, and during its operation.

The Department notes that OHA has developed a Draft Archaeological Preservation Plan (Plan) for the 5-acre Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones site, indicating both OHA’s acknowledgment of the

importance of this place as well as OHA's commitment to its protection. This draft Plan has not yet been reviewed or approved by the Department. The Department is confident that the Plan, once approved and implemented, will protect the Kukaniloko Birthing Stones site, and support OHA's mission of improving the condition of Native Hawaiians by facilitating the protection, interpretation, and appropriate cultural use of one of the most sacred cultural sites in the state of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



HB1780
RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN
AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWĀ, O‘AHU
House Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs

January 31, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1780**, a bill in OHA’s 2020 Legislative Package. This measure requests capital improvement project (CIP) funds to support the construction of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by OHA in Wahiawā, O‘ahu. This CIP will allow OHA to further the shared objectives of both OHA and the state in the development of these lands, by promoting diversified agriculture; enhancing our food security and climate resiliency; and protecting the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones, one of the most culturally significant sites in Hawai‘i.¹

In 2016, OHA engaged with Wahiawā community members and subject matter experts in cultural and natural resource management, agriculture, archaeology, business and marketing, education, Hawaiian culture, and other fields, in a three-year planning process to create a conceptual master plan for the 511 acres surrounding the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones. OHA received these 511 acres as part of a joint purchase agreement between OHA and various state, county, and private entities, for the acquisition of a larger, 1,732 acre tract² formerly owned by the Galbraith Estate; the agreement requires these lands to be used for cultural preservation and agricultural purposes. The conceptual master plan, which sets high-level goals for the property—including the exploration of diversified and culturally relevant agriculture, contributing to Hawai‘i’s food security, and the protection of the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones as well as adjacent watershed lands—is generally supported by the community and the OHA Board of Trustees.

With agriculture as a driving component of the conceptual master plan, access to sufficient water is crucial for the realization of its goals. To this end, OHA has secured an allocation of water from the state Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), which would provide OHA with one million gallons of water per week from its Bott Well. OHA has also committed \$500,000 of its own funds over the current and next fiscal years for the engineering and permitting of a system to store and distribute the allocated water. The CIP request under HB1780 would be used for the construction costs of this storage and

¹ For more information on Kūkaniloko and OHA’s Wahiawā lands, see <https://www.oha.org/aina/kukaniloko/>.

² The state Agribusiness Development Corporation received the other approximately 1,200 acres of the former Galbraith Estate.

distribution system, to include two water tanks with one million gallons capacity each; the installation of necessary pumps, pipes, and fencing; and the relocation or removal of old irrigation and other infrastructure currently on the property.

The water storage and distribution system envisioned in this CIP request will enable OHA to take a critical step forward in the development of its Wahiawā property, and would continue the long history of intergovernmental collaboration that began with the 2012 purchase of the Galbraith Estate's central O'ahu lands. With the state's support, OHA strongly believes that this CIP will advance diversified agriculture, food security, and cultural preservation in central O'ahu, not only furthering our shared goals for these lands, but also providing a model for sustainable agriculture that could inform agricultural development throughout the islands.

For the reasons set forth above, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1780. Mahalo ā nui for the opportunity to testify.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

January 31, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1780
RELATING TO RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWA, OAHU

Room 325
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 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 supports HB 1780, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the purpose of funding construction costs of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in Wahiawa, Oahu surrounding the Kukaniloko Birthing Stones site.

HFB strongly supports a robust water infrastructure development program. Water availability is a basic necessity needed by farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production, particularly in times of drought. Having a reliable water supply is a key factor when Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are making decisions to start new or to expand existing operations.

The OHA lands are part of one of the largest prime agricultural lands left on the island of Oahu. We believe this is an opportunity to further support and expand our opportunity to provide prime agricultural lands for farmers. As the land has remained idle, it will take resources to build the necessary irrigation infrastructure to support future agricultural operations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

HB1780
RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN
AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWĀ, O‘AHU

House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs

January 31, 2020

09:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** **HB1780**, a capital improvement project (CIP) funding request to support the construction of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by OHA in Wahiawā, O‘ahu. This CIP will allow OHA to further the shared objectives of both OHA and the state in the development of these lands, by promoting diversified agriculture; enhancing our food security and climate resiliency; and protecting the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones, one of the most culturally significant sites in Hawai‘i.¹

In 2016, OHA engaged with Wahiawā community members and subject matter experts, in cultural and natural resource management, agriculture, archaeology, business and marketing, education, Hawaiian culture, and other fields such as environmental property law, in a three-year planning process to create a conceptual master plan for the 511-acres surrounding the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones. OHA received these 511-acres as part of a joint purchase agreement between OHA and various state, county, and private entities, for the acquisition of a larger, 1,732-acre tract² formerly owned by the Galbraith Estate; the agreement requires these lands to be used for cultural preservation and agricultural purposes. The conceptual master plan, which sets high-level goals for the property—exploration of diversified and culturally relevant agriculture, contribution to Hawai‘i’s food security, and protection of the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones as well as adjacent watershed lands—is generally supported by the community and the OHA Board of Trustees.

With agriculture as a driving component of the conceptual master plan, access to sufficient water is crucial for the realization of its goals. To this end, OHA has secured an allocation of water from the state Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), which would provide OHA with one million gallons of water per week from its Bott Well. OHA has also committed \$500,000 of its own funds over the current and next fiscal years for the engineering and permitting of a system to store and distribute the allocated water. The CIP request under OHA-6 would be used for the construction costs of this storage and distribution system, to include two water tanks with one million gallons capacity each; the installation of necessary pumps, pipes, and fencing; and the relocation or removal of old irrigation and other infrastructure currently on the property.

The water storage and distribution system envisioned in this CIP request will enable OHA to take a critical step forward in the development of its Wahiawā property and would continue the long history of intergovernmental collaboration that began with the 2012 purchase

¹ For more information on Kūkaniloko and OHA’s Wahiawā lands, see <https://www.oha.org/aina/kukaniloko/>.

² The state Agribusiness Development Corporation received the other approximately 1,200 acres of the former Galbraith Estate.

of the Galbraith Estate's central O'ahu lands. With the state's support, OHA strongly believes that this CIP will advance diversified agriculture, food security, and cultural preservation in central O'ahu, not only furthering our shared goals for these lands, but also providing a model for sustainable agriculture that could inform agricultural development throughout the islands.

For the reasons set forth above, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS HB1780**. Mahalo ā nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 5:40:25 PM

Testimony for WLH on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Huntemer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB1780. It is important that we take care of freshwater resources. This bill provides a safe and cost effective way to provide culturally based agriculture and the protection of very significant culturalal sites in the Wahiawa area.

Thank you

HB-1780

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 8:06:09 PM

Testimony for WLH on 1/31/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexis Stubbs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read my testimony. I am a graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. My capstone project is designed to assist OHA in delivering certain components of the Kānailoko Master Plan, specifically the 'Vegetation Continuum'. In order to do many of the projects we seek to do (e.g. native reforestation, agroforestry, field crops, etc.) we need water. Access to water is currently our greatest barrier, and this water storage and distribution is integral for meeting every goal and expectation set for this sacred site. With your approval of this bill, we will be able to execute our various projects related to stewarding and revitalizing the 511-acre parcel of land.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexis Stubbs

Form Letter

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2191/HB1780, a capital improvement project (CIP) funding request to support the construction of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by OHA in Wahiawā, O’ahu. This CIP will further the shared objectives of both OHA and the state in the development of these lands by promoting diversified agriculture; enhancing our food security and climate resiliency; and protecting the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones, one of the most culturally significant sites in Hawai’i. I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS SB2191/HB1780. Mahalo ā nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Davie Brede	Individual
Carol Johnson	Individual
Rebecca Kamakawiwoole	Individual
Diane Kanealii	Individual
Tom Lindsey	Individual
Heather McVay	Individual
Jenifer Jenkins	Individual
Jayna Weatherwax	Individual
Georgette Stevens	Individual
Christine Anne Cook	Individual
Krystal-Lee Tabangcura	Individual
Lahea Salazar	Individual

Form Letter

LATE

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2191/HB1780, a capital improvement project (CIP) funding request to support the construction of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by OHA in Wahiawā, O’ahu. This CIP will further the shared objectives of both OHA and the state in the development of these lands by promoting diversified agriculture; enhancing our food security and climate resiliency; and protecting the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones, one of the most culturally significant sites in Hawai’i. I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS SB2191/HB1780. Mahalo ā nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Heide Kila	Individual
Kilia Purdy-Avelino	Individual