

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

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

**Wednesday, March 11, 2020
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2191
RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN
AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWA, OAHU**

Senate Bill 2191 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 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 Budget proposal, and that it does not adversely impact the integrity and significance of the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones site.**

Senate Bill 2191 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 the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (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 Kukaniloko 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 Kukaniloko 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

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

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.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
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 PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**MARCH 11, 2020
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2191
RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN
AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWA, OAHU**

Chairperson Yamane and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony on Senate Bill 2191. This measure seeks authorization to issue general obligation bonds for the purpose of funding construction costs of a water storage and distribution system on 511 acres of agricultural lands owned by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to promote diversified and culturally relevant agriculture that would contribute to Hawaii's food security, and to protect the Kukalinoko Birthing Stones. The Department of Agriculture supports the agricultural development component of this measure that will also support increasing local food sufficiency which is a priority for both the Legislature and the Administration.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





SB2191
RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN
AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWĀ, O‘AHU
House Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs

March 11, 2020

9:00 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2191**, 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 SB2191 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** SB2191. Mahalo ā nui for the opportunity to testify.



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

March 11, 2020

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

TESTIMONY ON SB 2191
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 SB 2191, 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.

SB-2191

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 2:38:55 PM

Testimony for WLH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support.

SB-2191

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 9:46:34 PM

Testimony for WLH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2191, 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. Mahalo ā nui for the opportunity to testify. Sincerely,

Katherine Burke
Jason Lees

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2191, 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‘āhu. 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. Mahalo ā nui for the opportunity to testify. Sincerely,

Heather McVay

LATE

LATE

SB-2191

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 6:17:35 PM
Testimony for WLH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Constance Keoahunui Uale Warrington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I write in support of this Bill as it is essential to the preservation of this sacred place that we insure that future use of the area remain consistant with the Hawaiian Culture. Part of the future use plan requires approval for water; water that needs to be provided to support the beginning of sustainable, diversified agricultural farming on the 50 acres of land currently surrounding KÅ«kaniloko. In addition to approving the water needs of this area, I further encourage and support infrastructure construction to provide for water distribution and the removal of antiquated irrigation infrastructures. Please vote in support of this bill

Mahalo,

Constance Keoahunui Uale Warrington

SB-2191

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 6:38:44 PM

Testimony for WLH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB2191. This measure provides funding for infrastructure construction including water storage, water distribution/irrigation, and removal of old infrastructure. It will also ensure that future uses of the area are consistent with Hawaiian cultural values. Please pass SB2191.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

SB-2191

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 8:13:27 PM

Testimony for WLH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kepola kawaiala allen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

we deserve to have our history and culture respected!!!!

LATE

Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna
committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come
kupuna4moopuna@gmail.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Date: March 11, 2020

Time: 9:00AM

Place: Room 325

SB 2191 – RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWA, O'AHU. – **SUPPORT**

Aloha Representatives,

We, Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, a concerned group of kūpuna Hawaiian homestead farmers from Pana'ewa, Hawai'i, committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come, submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 2191.**

SB 2191 is a very significant bill that will ensure the future uses of Kūkaniloko are protected and are consistent with Hawaiian cultural values.

SB 2191 will provide the resources needed to promote and sustain agriculture on lands near Kūkaniloko on O'ahu. This bill appropriates funds for necessary construction of infrastructure to allow for water storage and water irrigation. As fellow farmers, we can appreciate the value of SB 2191 ensuring success of sustainable, diversified agriculture surrounding Kūkaniloko.

We, Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, ask that this committee **support and pass SB 2191.** Mahalo nui loa.

Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono.

SB-2191

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 9:52:34 PM

Testimony for WLH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marlene Kamuela Purdy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony of Carmen Hulu Lindsey

Before the House Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

9:00 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325



In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2191

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

Aloha e Chair Yamane and Vice Chair Todd:

My name is Carmen Hulu Lindsey and I am writing in SUPPORT of SB2191, 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 (OHA) in Wahiawā, O‘ahu surrounding the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones.

This capitol improvement project (CIP) allows 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. 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 tract 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 SB2191 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 of the Galbraith Estate's central O'ahu lands. This water will also assist in beginning sustainable, diversified agricultural farming on 50 acres at Kūkaniloko. Increased agricultural practices in this wahi pana will ensure that future uses of the area are consistent with Hawaiian cultural values. 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 **SUPPORT PASSAGE** of SB2191. Mahalo ā nui for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carmen Hulu Lindsey". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Carmen Hulu Lindsey

SB-2191

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 7:27:54 AM

Testimony for WLH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kalena Charlene Holani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

AS a centerpiece to Hawaiian culture KÅ«kaniloko is a staple to continued its legacy. KÅ«kaniloko is The epicenter of O‘ahualua, and known as te "birthing place" for Hawaiian’s. Please support this Bill as it ensure’s longterm sustainability to this place and space and in doing so endures sustainability for its people and culture. Please support Bill SB2191 to endure WATER Access and storage, and ensureing future use of this place remains consistent With Hawaiian cultural values.

for The future of your Keiki and mines,

Mahalo

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2191, 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. Mahalo ā nui for the opportunity to testify. Sincerely,

Jilleina Winchester
Kilia Purdy-Avelino
Fabian Kaulukukui-Heloca

LATE