

SB 233

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



DENISE ALBANO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF DENISE ALBANO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

JANUARY 30, 2019
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 233
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 233. This bill appropriates funds for capital improvement projects of the Department of Agriculture. The Department supports this bill.

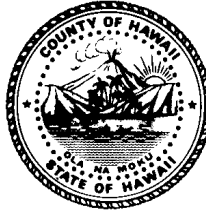
The projects contained in the bill address various needs of the Department including the repair of irrigation systems and other infrastructure, repair of kennels animal quarantine station and major repairs and improvements to departmental facilities.

We realize the budget will undergo further iterations before reaching its final form and look forward to working with the committees to craft a budget that is amenable to all of those involved.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



County of Hawai'i
Council District 9 -
North and South Kohala



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Chair: Committee on Agriculture,
Water, Energy, and Environmental
Management

Vice Chair: Committee on Finance

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 9
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

January 28, 2019

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Honorable Senator Russel E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Submission via online testimony

RE: **Support of SB 233**
Hearing Date/Time: January 30, 2019 at 1:15 p.m.

Dear Senators:

As the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Water, Energy, and Environmental Management for the Hawai'i County Council, I thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in SUPPORT of SB 233**. It is important that funds are appropriated for capital improvement projects of the Department of Agriculture.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
Hawai'i County Council, District 9



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 233 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 233 with particular emphasis on capital improvements for the animal quarantine holding facility and the detector dog kennels and training facility. We respectfully provide the following information to substantiate our position.

The proper care of animals, in quarantine, or in general is a measure of the level of civilization to which we ascribe. As the college at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa that houses the Animal Science program, we are very supportive of improving and maintaining the quality of the facility where animals must be kept under quarantine before entering the general population in Hawai'i.

Canines, as biosensors, are an important component of biosecurity in Hawai'i and their capacity could be increased in the future to the detection of more than brown tree snakes. We consider developing the capacity for housing of canines and a facility for training a responsible investment in the future of biosecurity for the state of Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testify in support of SB 233.



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January 30, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 223
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 224
1:15 pm

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, 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 1,900 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 223, which transfers operational authority over the portions of the east Kauai irrigation system operated and maintained by the east Kauai water users' cooperative to the department of agriculture, establishes positions within the agricultural resource management division, and authorizes GO bonds for plans, designs, land acquisition, and equipment.

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 East Kauai Irrigation System services more than 12,500 acres of agricultural land on Kauai. The repair and maintenance of this 21-mile irrigation systems is critical for Kauai's farmers who depend on the East Kauai Irrigation System for their operations. 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.

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

SB-233

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 12:51:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jean Brokish	Testifying for Oahu Resource Conservation & Development Council	Support	No

Comments:

SB-233

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:29:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/30/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
petra zoeller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: