

**HB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 4:57:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Faith Kahale Saito	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. I support this bill. Mahalo nui

**HB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 5:06:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kenichi Yabusaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Speaker Saiki: I fully support HB203 as it relates to helping preserve and maintaining Hawaiian Lands via water storage and distribution systems for the Hawaiian people..

Sincerely,

Kenichi Yabusaki, Ph.D.

Kaneohe, HI

**HB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 5:07:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ethan Porter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB203. This funding request will allow OHA to further its shared objectives with the state and Wahiawā community in the development of these lands through diversified agriculture, enhancing our food security and climate resiliency while also providing a buffer zone to continue the protection and preservation of the sacred and culturally irreplaceable Kākaniloko Birthing Stones. With culturally and ecologically compatible agriculture as a driving component of the conceptual master plan, access to sufficient water is crucial. I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB203!

**HB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:50:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joshua DeMello	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will help the economy and even better help to promote agriculture and make Hawaii less reliant on imported food. In light of COVID shutdowns, it's important Hawaii make sure it can sustain itself in the event it needs to be. Mahalo, please support this bill

**HB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 8:32:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Max Castanera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please consider passing HB203 to commit to increasing agricultural infrastructure to decrease our dependence on tourism and increase our ability to provide sustenance for our communities.

Mahalo for your time,

Max Pono Castanera

**HB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 8:43:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kahealani Peleras	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB203. This funding request will allow OHA to further its shared objectives with the state and Wahiawā community in the development of these lands through diversified agriculture, enhancing our food security and climate resiliency while also providing a buffer zone to continue the protection and preservation of the sacred and culturally irreplaceable Kākaniloko Birthing Stones. With culturally and ecologically compatible agriculture as a driving component of the conceptual master plan, access to sufficient water is crucial. I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB203!

**HB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 9:43:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
JoAnn Tsark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB203. This funding request will allow OHA to further its shared objectives with the state and Wahiawā community in the development of these lands through diversified agriculture, enhancing our food security and climate resiliency while also providing a buffer zone to continue the protection and preservation of the sacred and culturally irreplaceable Kākaniloko Birthing Stones. With culturally and ecologically compatible agriculture as a driving component of the conceptual master plan, access to sufficient water is crucial. I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB203!

Respectfully yours

J Tsark

**HB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:44:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Noalani Nakasone	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Aloha House Committees on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I strongly support HB203. This funding request will allow OHA to further its shared objectives with the state and Wahiawā community in the development of these lands through diversified agriculture, enhancing our food security and climate resiliency while also providing a buffer zone to continue the protection and preservation of the sacred and culturally irreplaceable Kākaniloko Birthing Stones. With culturally and ecologically compatible agriculture as a driving component of the conceptual master plan, access to sufficient water is crucial. I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB203!

With much appreciation,

Noalani Nakasone

Kaua`i, Hawai`i





COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, February 11, 2021      Time 2:00 PM      Place: Room 325

**Testimony of Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna**

HB 203 HD 1 - RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWA, OAHU.

**STRONG SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committee:

We, Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna, a group of kūpuna Hawaiian homestead farmers committed to the well-being of Hawai'i for the next generations to come, **are in strong support of HB 203 HD 1.**

This measure authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund construction costs of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs. Mahalo to OHA for supporting sustainable and compatible diversified agriculture with cultural protections that contribute to Hawai'i's responsible food self-sufficiency and resiliency.

**We urge this Committee to PASS HB 203 HD 1.** Mahalo.

*Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono!*



**HB203 HD1**  
**RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM**  
**FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWĀ, O‘AHU**  
Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘okolokolo a me ke Kuleana Hawai‘i

Pepeluali 11 , 2021

2:00 p.m.

Lumi 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB203 HD1, a measure in OHA’s 2021 Legislative Package, and respectfully requests that the original appropriation amount of \$3,000,000 be reinserted into this measure. HB203 HD1 is 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. The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the need to invest in and enhance our islands’ food security and sustainability – needs already in alignment with OHA’s plans for the area.

**This funding request will allow OHA to further its shared objectives with the state and Wahiawā community in the development of these lands through diversified agriculture, enhancing our food security and climate resiliency while also providing a buffer zone to continue the protection and preservation of the sacred and culturally irreplaceable Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones.<sup>1</sup>**

In 2016, OHA engaged with Wahiawā community members and subject matter experts in cultural and natural resource management, agriculture, archaeology, business and marketing, education, Native 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 tract<sup>2</sup> formerly owned by the Galbraith Estate; the agreement requires these lands to be used for cultural preservation and agricultural purposes. The conceptual master plan 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—goals in line with pressing community needs and supported by the OHA Board of Trustees.

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

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

**With culturally and ecologically compatible 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 \$475,000 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. This CIP request under HB203 HD1 would be used for the construction costs of the 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. **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** HB203 HD1. Mahalo nunui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

**HB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:06:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Malia Chun	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support HB203. This funding request will allow OHA to further its shared objectives with the state and Wahiawā community in the development of these lands through diversified agriculture, enhancing our food security and climate resiliency while also providing a buffer zone to continue the protection and preservation of the sacred and culturally irreplaceable Kākaniloko Birthing Stones. With culturally and ecologically compatible agriculture as a driving component of the conceptual master plan, access to sufficient water is crucial. I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB203!

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

235 S. Beretania Street, Room 205  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Thursday, February 11, 2021

2:00 p.m.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 203  
RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN  
AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWA, OAHU

Chairperson Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports House Bill No. 203, which appropriates funds to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) to construct water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands in Wahiawa, Oahu, surrounding Kukaniloko Birthing Stones site. The ADC is aware of OHA's proposed project and supports their efforts to use their land for agriculture use. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:54:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT HB203 HD1, a measure in OHA's 2021 Legislative Package. HB203 is 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 funding request will allow OHA to further its shared objectives with the state and Wahiawā community in the development of these lands through diversified agriculture, enhancing our food security and climate resiliency while also providing a buffer zone to continue the protection and preservation of the sacred and culturally irreplaceable Kākaniloko Birthing Stones.

**HB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:13:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olan Leimomi Fisher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai e Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

**I fully support HB203 HD1, and urge you to pass it!!** I am a kama'aina and lifelong resident of central O'ahu, and have many family & friends living in the Wahiawa & North Shore areas. We need more land areas like this on O'ahu that support restoration & building back our native forests, allow for cultural education and revival efforts, protect sacred sites like Kukaniloko, and create sustainable agriculture for our food security needs now and in the future. Plus, how amazing would it be to have the 'Iliahi forest back in the area that was once known for its abundance?! This bill is needed to help OHA achieve these goals and more, starting with getting the much-needed water back to the land, which will only give back to our community tenfold for generations to come.

For these reasons, I strongly support HB203 HD1. **This funding request will allow OHA to further its shared objectives with the state and Wahiawā community in the development of these lands through diversified agriculture, enhancing our food security and climate resiliency while also providing a buffer zone to continue the protection and preservation of the sacred and culturally irreplaceable KĀ«kaniloko Birthing Stones.** With culturally and ecologically compatible agriculture as a driving component of the conceptual master plan, access to sufficient water is crucial. I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS HB203 HD1!**

Mahalo nui for considering my personal testimony! Aloha no.

**HB-203-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 11:24:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/11/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Keli'i Fisher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai e Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

**I am in full support of HB203 HD1, and urge you to pass it!!** I am a kama'aina and lifelong resident of central O'ahu Mililani, and have many family & friends living in the Wahiawa & North Shore areas. I also feel a great connection and respect for Kukaniloko, and feel that restoring our native plants to malama the 'aina that surrounds it will be so healing for not only the birthing stones site, but for our Native Hawaiian cultural evolution and perpetuation, getting our kanaka back to these ancestral lands, and showing our keiki their place in a more sustainable and thriving ecosystem. This bill is needed to help OHA achieve these goals and more, starting with getting the much-needed water back to the land, which will only continue to give back to our community many for generations to come.

For these reasons, I strongly support HB203 HD1. **This funding request will allow OHA to further its shared objectives with the state and Wahiawā community in the development of these lands through diversified agriculture, enhancing our food security and climate resiliency while also providing a buffer zone to continue the protection and preservation of the sacred and culturally irreplaceable KĀ«kaniloko Birthing Stones.** With culturally and ecologically compatible agriculture as a driving component of the conceptual master plan, access to sufficient water is crucial. I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS HB203 HD1!**

Mahalo nui for considering my personal testimony. Aloha nui.





# MA'O COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS INITIATIVE

a non-profit 'aina-based project of the Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation

P.O. Box 441, Wai'anae, Hawai'i 96792

Office Tel/Fax. 808-696-5569

info@maoorganicfarms.org

www.maoorganicfarms.org

## Legislative Testimony In Support of SB390/HB203

### **Request for State CIP Funds for a Water Storage and Distribution System on the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' (OHA) Agricultural Lands in Wahiawā to Contribute to Hawai'i's Food Security**

Date: February 10, 2021

Aloha kakou,

We are the Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation, a non profit organization, whose mission is to empower youth leader who will build and strengthen a pono, healthy, sustainable and resilient community food system for Hawai'i. Our core work centers around developing youth through completion of post-secondary degrees while engaging in the production of certified fruits and vegetables in the social enterprise operations- MA'O Organic Farms. By focusing on growing a professional workforce ina culturally and communally relevent regenerative agricultural system, we honor the wisdom of our kupuna who lived and thrived on these islands for generations in a sustainable manner.

The Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation and MA'O Organic Farms strongly supports SB390 and HB203, because as a community – owned farming enterprise with a 20 year track record, we know that land, water and human capital are key to a successful farm enterprise. Without the support of the State and other public, private and non-profit entities, we as a sector will not be able to enhance food security for the State. These bills, SB 390 and HB 203 represents an important investment in the capacity of Hawai'i to feed itself by providing important investment in regional water infrastructure for farming.

We are support of this specific agricultural capital improvement project and CIP request to construct a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by OHA in Wahiawā, O'ahu. We are in support of this request as we are aligned to OHA in the goals of increasing local food production/increasing food security, continued development and strengthening of alternative, regenerative and sustainable agricultural models that are aligned to our 'āina values, and the continued raising of community empowerment and self-determination in the region.

The pandemic has emphasized the need to invest in and take steps towards enhancing our islands' food security and sustainability. OHA's plans for its Wahiawā Lands are in alignment with this need and the needs of our communitiy. This project will enable OHA to move forward with its plans for culturally and ecologically compatible diversified agriculture in Wahiawā, and contribute to our islands' food self-sufficiency and climate resiliency in the post-COVID era.

On behalf of the Wai'anae Community Re-Development Corporation, dba MA'O Organic Farms, we respectfully urge the Committee to pass these bills.

Mahalo nui, sincerely,

J. Kukui Maunakea-Forth

Executive Director, WCRC MA'O Organic Farms

HOUSE COMMITTEE JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Thursday, February 11, 2021 — 2:00 p.m.

**In Support of HB203 HD1, Supporting Sustainable Diversified Agriculture, Cultural Protection/  
Relating to Water Use In Wahiawā**

Dear Members of the Committee:

I strongly support HB203 HD1 to authorize the issuance of \$3 million in state general obligation bonds to support the construction of water storage and distribution infrastructure on OHA's Wahiawā lands. Having access to water is critical for local farmers who want to increase local food production and support the state with local products in times of emergencies. In addition to supporting local workers and businesses, this construction project will allow OHA to move forward with its plans for culturally and ecologically compatible diversified agriculture in Wahiawā, and thereby contribute to our islands' food self-sufficiency and resiliency.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Jesse Cooke



# HAWAII APPLESEED

## CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Testimony of the Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice  
In Support of HB203 HD1 – Relating to a Water Storage and Distribution System for Certain  
Agricultural Land in Wahiawa, Oahu.  
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
Thursday, February 11, 2021, 2:00 PM

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Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB203 HD1**.

Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law & Economic Justice supports ideas that perpetuate social and economic equality and justice for residents of Hawai'i now and in the future. We believe investment in OHA's Wahiawā lands accomplishes these goals.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs' plans for their Wahiawā lands includes exploration of diversified and culturally relevant agriculture and contribution to Hawai'i's food security. The pandemic has revealed that unique ideas for diversifying Hawai'i's agriculture, especially for our islands' food self-sufficiency and economy, are vitally needed to meet future global emergencies. Scientists anticipate climate change will only increase the risk of new pandemics, which means this pandemic's social and economic issues will appear again unless we invest in new ideas.

Restoring and protecting cultural sites, like the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones, is not only the morally right thing to do, but also a way to improve the wellbeing of residents and to further social justice for our state's indigenous people. The welfare of residents cannot always be measured in dollars. Programs that offer healing and cultural enrichment, like those proposed in OHA's plans for the Wahiawā lands, are also vital for the wellbeing of Hawai'i residents.

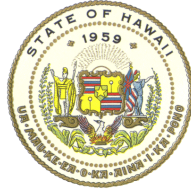
Hawai'i Appleseed urges the Committee to **PASS HB203 HD1**, because it provides necessary infrastructure for OHA to move forward with its plans for culturally and ecologically compatible diversified agriculture in Wahiawā. Now is the time for our state to invest in new ideas that will expand our economic future and support our residents' social wellbeing.

We appreciate your consideration of this testimony.

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*The Hawai'i Appleseed Center for Law and Economic Justice is committed to a more socially just Hawai'i, where everyone has genuine opportunities to achieve economic security and fulfill their potential. We change systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice through policy development, advocacy, and coalition building.*

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 AND LAND**

**Thursday, February 11, 2021  
2:00 PM**

**State Capitol, Videoconference, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 203, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN  
AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWA, OAHU**

House Bill 203, House Draft 1 proposes to authorize the issuance of an unspecified amount of general obligation bond moneys 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 Kūkaniloko 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 request, and that it does not adversely impact the integrity and significance of the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones site.**

House Bill 203, House Draft 1 proposes to authorize the Director of Finance to issue an unspecified amount 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

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

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
ACTING 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

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.



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

February 11, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 203, HD1**  
RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN  
AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWA, OAHU

Conference Room 325  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Matayoshi, 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 203, HD1**, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund construction costs of a water storage and distribution system and related improvements 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.