

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 WATER & LAND
Thursday, February 4, 2021
9:00 a.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

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

Chairperson Tarnas 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.



HB203
RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWĀ, O’AHU
Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Wai a me ka ‘Āina

Pepeluali 4, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Lumi 430

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB203, 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. 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.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, 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 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 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.

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

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

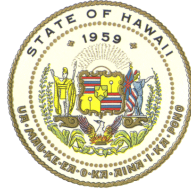
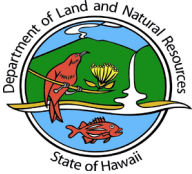
² The state Agribusiness Development Corporation received the other approximately 1,200 acres of the former Galbraith Estate.

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. This CIP request under HB203 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. Mahalo nunui for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

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**

**Friday, February 4, 2021
9: 00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 203**

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

House Bill 203 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 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 Supplemental Budget request, and that it does not adversely impact the integrity and significance of the Kūkaniloko 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 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 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 Kūkaniloko 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.



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

February 4, 2021

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

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

Conference Room 430
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, 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, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds in the sum of \$3,000,000 to fund 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.

HB-203

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:11:52 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Fitzsimmons	Waialua Hawaiian Civic Club	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of the Waialua Hawaiian Civic Club, WE 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!



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair

Date: Thursday, February 4, 2021 Time 9:00a.m. Place: Via Videoconference

Testimony of Kūpuna for the Mo'opuna

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

STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, 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.**

HB 203 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. Mahalo.

Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono!

HB-203

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 3:21:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 203

HB-203

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 4:28:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
B.A. McClintock	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

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 4:54:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tadia Rice	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!

HOUSE COMMITTEE WATER & LAND
Thursday, February 4, 2021 — 9:00 a.m.

In Support of HB 203, Supporting Sustainable Diversified Agriculture, Cultural Protection/ Relating to Water Use In Wahiawā

Dear Members of the Committee:

I strongly support HB 203 to authorize the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds in the sum of \$3,000,000 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, Oahu, surrounding the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones. 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

HB-203

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 8:43:49 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Johanna Stone	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

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 9:04:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chloe Amos	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. Now more than ever, we should be prioritizing sustainable agriculture and climate resiliency. 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

Submitted on: 2/2/2021 11:10:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olu Campbell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee members,

I kindly urge you to support HB203, which will provide OHA with resources to support the implementation of the master plan for its Wahiawā lands. The plan looks to protect the sacred Kākaniloko birthing stones site and implement culturally and ecologically compatible agricultural practices in the surrounding area. The water infrastructure that this legislation would help fund is critical to the successful implementation of this plan.

Mahalo,

‘Olu Campbell

HB-203

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 2:40:35 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noalani Nakasone	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha House Committee on Water and Land,

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!

Mahalo,

Noalani Nakasone

Mokupuni o Kaua`i

LATE

Legislative Testimony

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

14 January 2021

*Kahealani Acosta,
Indigenous Cropping Systems Lab
CTAHR, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa*

I, Kahealani Acosta, **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB203, 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.

According to traditional Hawaiian knowledge, water is deemed as a source of wealth. This resource is essential to the success and resilience of diversified food systems in Hawai'i. Water is an indicator of 'āina momona, which entails rich, fertile, and abundant lands to feed our island communities. The precedence of Hawai'i's food systems, as revealed by the pandemic, demands investment into the future of Hawai'i's food systems, security, and climate resiliency.


The OHA's agricultural land surrounds one of the most culturally significant sites in Hawai'i, known as the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones. OHA's plans for its Wahiawā lands are in alignment with the needs of our island community, including the protection and restoration of our sacred Hawaiian sites. In furthering the shared objectives of OHA and the state, this CIP will promote the development of culturally-relevant and diversified agriculture as an endowment to the success and resilience of Hawai'i's future generations. Investment into the wealth of this land is congruent with restoring the health and identity of the Hawaiian culture.

I am a graduate student researcher studying indigenous cropping systems and advocate for agroecological approaches to restoring the wealth and abundance of 'āina, as indicated by the presence of our invaluable, natural resources. I have had the great fortune of working the OHA to restore this land, implementing various projects to demonstrate the potential for growing food and people. However, these efforts are deemed inadequate without sufficient resources.

I, Kahealani Acosta, respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB203.

Mahalo ā nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Kahealani Acosta

LATE

HB-203

Submitted on: 2/3/2021 5:33:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/4/2021 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ALVIN	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!