



February 10, 2023

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

**Comments in Support of SB 833, S.D. 1 Relating to Wahiawa Irrigation System (Requires the Office of the Governor to negotiate the State’s fee simple acquisition of the Wahiawa irrigation system on the island of Oahu. Authorizes and appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture [DOA], Agribusiness Development Corporation [ADC], and Department of Land and Natural Resources [DLNR] to purchase, repair, and maintain the Wahiawa irrigation system and the associated spillway. Appropriates funds for the DLNR to manage and maintain its acquired portion of the irrigation system and to establish four full-time equivalent [4.0 FTE] positions for the DLNR. Effective 7/1/2050.)**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 10:30 a.m.; State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF’s mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii’s significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of SB 833, S.D. 1**, and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands (IAL) in Hawaii.

**SB 833, S.D. 1.** This bill proposes to authorize the DOA, DLNR, and ADC to acquire the Wahiawa irrigation system, on terms negotiated and agreed upon by the office of the governor, and to purchase, repair, and maintain the associated spillway; and to appropriate funds for the DLNR to manage and maintain its acquired portion of the irrigation system, and establish 4.0 FTE positions for the DLNR.

**LURF's Position.** Well-functioning irrigation systems are vital to Hawaii's agricultural industry to ensure that the State's agricultural crops receive a reliable and consistent supply of water to support and maintain productivity. LURF understands that the Wahiawa irrigation system, which was originally built by the Wahiawa Sugar Company, was created with a dam and freshwater reservoir, and that the dam is essential to agriculture since water in the reservoir provides irrigation to farmers in Wahiawa, Waialua, and Haleiwa. In order to ensure that these local farmers may continue to receive a dependable supply of water for crops, funding is necessary to improve, repair and maintain the Wahiawa irrigation system.

Local farmers and ranchers who rely on irrigation systems to service their agricultural lands consider such resources critical to conduct their agricultural operations and to sustain their businesses. These agricultural stakeholders believe measures such as SB 833, S.D. 1 will greatly assist by providing funding and support necessary to make improvements to irrigation systems for the long-term betterment of the State's agricultural industry and are relying on legislation such as this to help them work toward the expansion of diversified agriculture; promote the agricultural self-sufficiency of the State; and to protect water as a valuable and significant resource.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 833, S.D. 1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of this matter.



**NORTH SHORE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 27**

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD SUITE 106 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3710 • FAX: (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>

February 12, 2023

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

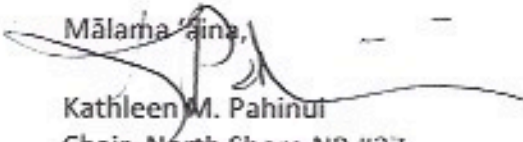
Re: SB 833 etter Regarding Support for Transferring the Wahiawa Reservoir and Irrigation System to the State of Hawaii

Aloha Committee Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

The North Shore Neighborhood Board #27 strongly supports the transfer of the Wahiawa reservoir and irrigation system to the State of Hawaii.

The irrigation water and system is of vital importance to the farmers in our community and without it, they will have to shutdown which will threaten our food security. The land around Wahiawa and the North Shore is some of the best in the state for growing crops. We urge your committees to support SB833 to allow continued agricultural use of the land.

Mālama 'āina,

  
Kathleen M. Pahinui  
Chair, North Shore NB #27