

Honolulu, Hawaii
MAR 21, 2024

RE: S.B. No. 2951
S.D. 1
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred S.B. No. 2951, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EAST KAUAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds and establish positions for the Agribusiness Development Corporation to maintain and improve the East Kauai Irrigation System.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; Agribusiness Development Corporation; Office of the Mayor County of Kaua'i; County of Kauai Office of Economic Development; Larry Jefts Farms, LLC; Ulupono Initiative; Local Food Coalition; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Saiva Siddhanta Church; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative; Kalepa Coalition; and Kekaha Agriculture Association.

Your Committee finds that the East Kauai Irrigation System is a critical source of water in the region that supports agricultural production in Hawaii. The East Kauai Irrigation System is also a century-old system that requires repair, renovation, and improvements. This measure will provide the



necessary funding for the maintenance and improvements to the East Kauai Irrigation System to ensure the System continues to provide irrigation water to farm operations in East Kauai.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the appropriation for maintenance of and improvements to the East Kauai Irrigation System to an unspecified amount;
- (2) Changing the number of positions established within the Agribusiness Development Corporation to an unspecified number;
- (3) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (4) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider:

- (1) Appropriating \$750,000 for maintenance of and improvements to the East Kauai Irrigation System; and
- (2) Appropriating funds for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) positions within the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2951, S.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2951, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water & Land,



Linda Ichiyama

LINDA ICHIYAMA, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Water & Land

Bill/Resolution No.: RB 2951 (D)	Committee Referral: WAL, FIN	Date: 3/14/24		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
WAL Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. ICHIYAMA, Linda (C)	✓			
2. POEPOE, Mahina (VC)	✓			
3. CHUN, Cory M.	✓			
4. GANADEN, Sonny	✓			
5. HASHEM, Mark J.	✓			
6. MIZUNO, May Besario	✓			
7. MORIKAWA, Dee	✓			
8. TAKAYAMA, Gregg	✓			
9. SOUZA, Kanani				✓
TOTAL (9)	9	0	0	1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <small>committee acronym(s)</small>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u>Linda Ichiyama</u>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				