

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE/SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND AND**  
**AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025**  
**1:05 P.M.**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1086**  
**RELATING TO IRRIGATION**

Chairs Inouye, and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Elefante, and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1086. The bill authorizes the director of finance to issue general obligation bonds to finance capital improvements to various irrigation systems. The Department supports this measure provided it does not impact the priorities identified in the Governor's biennium budget.

The Department has identified an additional need of \$3.2 million for two (2) additional state irrigation system improvements. Improvements include:

Waimea Irrigation System Improvements, Hawai'i  
Plan, Design, and Construction for improvements to the Waimea Irrigation System  
FY 2026 Total Funding - \$2,400,000  
FY 2027 Total Funding - \$4,100,000



Agricultural Infrastructure Improvements, Statewide

Plan, Land Acquisition, Design and Construction for improvements to agricultural infrastructure.

FY 2026 Total Funding - \$800,000

FY 2027 Total Funding - \$1,000,000

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



WENDY GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**  
HUI HO'OULU AINA MAHIAI

TESTIMONY OF WENDY L. GADY  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
& WATER AND LAND

February 12, 2025

1:05 p.m.

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

SENATE BILL NO. 1086  
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Chairpersons Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Richards and Elefante, and

Members of the joint Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of Senate Bill No. 1086, which authorizes the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to finance capital improvement projects for irrigation systems

This bill seeks to secure funding for Hawaii's critical irrigation system projects. Reliable and well-maintained irrigation infrastructure is essential not only for sustaining agriculture but also for mitigating wildfires, preserving water resources, and ensuring food security. Failure to fund these projects will lead to significant economic, environmental, and social costs, far exceeding the initial investment required.

**Economic Impact & Estimated Costs**

Hawaii's agricultural industry is dependent on functioning irrigation systems to provide consistent water access. If these systems are not properly maintained:

- Increased costs to farmers – Farmers without adequate irrigation must invest in costly alternatives, such as water hauling, which can cost \$3,000–\$5,000 per month per farm (Hawaii Department of Agriculture, 2022).
- Lost agricultural production – A lack of reliable irrigation could lead to an estimated \$20–\$50 million annual decline in agricultural output due to lower crop yields and livestock losses (University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization, 2023).
- Higher food costs for consumers – Currently, Hawaii imports 85–90% of its food (Hawaii State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism, 2023). If irrigation infrastructure deteriorates, even a 10% drop in local agricultural production could result in millions in increased food costs for residents.

Investing in irrigation modernization ensures economic stability and affordable food prices for Hawaii's residents.

### **Environmental Impact & Fire Mitigation**

A robust irrigation system is not only critical for agriculture but also for fire prevention and land conservation. Wildfires have been increasing in frequency and severity in Hawaii, particularly due to dry conditions, invasive grasses, and

abandoned agricultural lands. According to the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO, 2023):

- Over 98% of wildfires in Hawaii are human-caused, but their spread is worsened by dry, unmanaged land.
- Lack of irrigation accelerates land abandonment, leading to overgrowth of flammable invasive grasses, such as guinea grass, which burns four times faster than native vegetation.
- Active agricultural lands with proper irrigation serve as firebreaks, reducing fire intensity and preventing the spread of wildfires into communities.

Without investment in irrigation infrastructure:

- Water shortages will worsen drought conditions, increasing the likelihood of large-scale wildfires.
- Fire suppression costs will rise, with each large wildfire response costing millions in emergency services and damage to homes, businesses, and watersheds. For example, the 2021 Mana Road fire on the Big Island burned over 40,000 acres and cost over \$3 million to contain (Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, 2022).
- Soil erosion and water contamination will increase as wildfires destroy vegetation, leading to millions in conservation and watershed restoration costs.

Investing in irrigation projects now will prevent higher costs associated with wildfires and climate-related disasters in the future.

### **Social Impact & Food Security**

The absence of adequate irrigation disproportionately affects local farmers, Native Hawaiian communities, and rural residents:

- Small farmers will be forced out of business – Unpredictable water access could lead to 500–1,000 job losses in agriculture and related industries (Hawaii Farm Bureau, 2023).
- Rural communities will suffer – As farms shut down, rural areas will lose economic opportunities, leading to increased unemployment and food insecurity. The cost of food assistance programs could rise by \$10–\$15 million annually.
- Cultural and food sovereignty loss – Native Hawaiian agricultural traditions, such as taro farming (lo'i kalo), depend on a consistent water supply. Without adequate irrigation, taro production declines, threatening both cultural heritage and Hawaii's self-sufficiency.

### **Key Irrigation System Projects Requiring Funding**

To support agriculture, fire mitigation, and economic resilience, funding is needed for the following priority irrigation projects:

1. Waiahole Irrigation System (O'ahu) – Supports diversified agriculture and acts as a firebreak for nearby communities. Estimated cost: \$10–\$15 million.

2. Molokai Irrigation System – Essential for small-scale Hawaiian homestead farmers, but loses 30–40% of water due to leaks. Estimated cost: \$8–\$12 million.
3. East Maui Irrigation System – Crucial for sustaining farms and preventing wildfires in Upcountry Maui, which faces extreme drought conditions. Repair and efficiency improvements estimated at \$20 million.
4. Kohala Ditch System (Big Island) – Needed to restore agricultural lands and reduce wildfire-prone areas. Estimated cost: \$5–\$8 million.
5. Upcountry Maui Irrigation – Protects farms from drought and helps prevent dry vegetation from fueling wildfires. Estimated cost: \$12–\$18 million.
6. East Kauai Irrigation System – Critical for taro farming and diversified agriculture; requires upgrades to prevent leaks and ensure water availability. Estimated cost: \$10–\$12 million.
7. Kokee Irrigation System (Kauai) – Supports agricultural operations on Kauai’s west side and acts as a key water source for wildfire suppression. Estimated cost: \$6–\$9 million.
8. Kekaha Irrigation System (Kauai) – Provides water to agriculture on Kauai’s dry west side; maintaining it is essential to prevent wildfires in drought-prone regions. Estimated cost: \$10–\$14 million.
9. Wahiawa Irrigation System (O’ahu) – Supports farming in Central Oahu and serves as a water source for firefighting efforts. Estimated cost: \$12–\$15 million.

## **Conclusion**

Failing to fund irrigation infrastructure will result in significantly higher economic, environmental, and social costs. Investing in these systems will:

- Support local farmers and keep food prices stable
- Prevent catastrophic wildfires and reduce emergency response costs
- Ensure Hawaii's food security and economic resilience, and
- Protect Native Hawaiian agricultural practices and cultural heritage

The passage of Senate Bill No. 1086 is essential to preserving Hawaii's agricultural future and protecting our communities from fire risks. I strongly urge this committee to pass this measure and prioritize irrigation funding. We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.





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February 12, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1086**  
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
1:05 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-Chairs Richards and Elefante, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 1086**, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for capital improvement projects for the state's irrigation systems. A reliable and well-maintained irrigation infrastructure is essential for the success of Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers, ensuring the availability of water necessary for food production, livestock management, and sustainable agricultural growth.

Since the decline of plantation agriculture, many of Hawai'i's irrigation systems have deteriorated due to aging infrastructure, deferred maintenance, and extreme weather events. Leaks, cracks, and insufficient storage capacity have resulted in water loss and inefficiencies, making it difficult for farmers and ranchers to access a steady and affordable supply of water. The state has prioritized increased agricultural self-sufficiency, and for this goal to be realized, water security for agriculture must be a top priority.

SB 1086 provides critical funding to modernize and repair these aging irrigation systems, helping to:

- Reduce water loss due to system inefficiencies.
- Improve storage and distribution to ensure reliable access, especially during drought conditions.
- Support new and expanding farming operations that rely on irrigation to be productive.

Water availability is one of the most significant factors in determining whether a farm or ranch can start or expand its operations. Farmers face numerous challenges, including high land and production costs, labor shortages, and market fluctuations. Without access to reliable and affordable irrigation, agricultural businesses cannot thrive, and the state's goal of reducing reliance on imported food remains unattainable.

Ongoing investment in irrigation infrastructure is necessary to ensure that farmers and ranchers across all islands have access to the water they need to grow food and raise livestock efficiently.

We urge the committee to pass SB 1086 to provide the necessary resources to strengthen Hawai'i's irrigation infrastructure, support agricultural viability, and ensure that water remains available for farming and ranching operations throughout the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



The Molokai Farm Bureau serves as Molokai's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community. We are an arm of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, organized in 1948 and comprised of 1800 farm families statewide.

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## HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

February 12, 2025, 1:05pm

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
Hawaii State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

### **SB1086 - SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Respected Committee Members,

*SB1086: Authorizes the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds and appropriates funds to finance capital improvement projects for irrigation systems.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB352. For the following reasons, the Molokai Farm Bureau respectfully **SUPPORTS SB1086**:

- **122% HDOA Proposed Rate Increase to State Irrigation Systems**

Back in August 2023 HDOA proposed a 122% increase to all State Irrigation System Users. These systems continue to be underfunded. State irrigation systems users, which include the Molokai Irrigation System (MIS), pleaded the following:

- We strongly urged the Hawaii Board of Agriculture to pause any rate, fee or charge increase to all HDOA Irrigation Systems, to give the State Legislature and appropriate State Ag committees the opportunity to assess if this is the best remedy, prior to causing significant impacts to Hawaii's agriculture and State's goal towards food sustainability.
- We also strongly encouraged the HDOA to seek out and explore other funding opportunities, be it community block grants, or federal, or state funding, etc., to negate these rate increases to agricultural producers, as this increase does not fit with the stewardship of ag; and we want to work with HDOA to expand ag for the state.
- All oral testimonies heard were unanimously opposed
- General sentiments of public testimonies expressed during the HDOA hearing were:
  - Users were taken by surprise, were not aware of this issue of rate increase, or public hearing
  - Farmers/Ranchers of these 5 irrigation systems are pivotal in providing much of Hawaii's agriculture
  - Users are facing Young Brothers increase of 50%, minimum wage increase, now water – combination of 3 is an unsustainable path for ag

- Every input cost has skyrocketed, if we're to pass along costs to customer we will lose competitive advantage
- State needs to address user unpaid delinquencies
- Need to secure better future funding/support for ag from the State
- Any rate increase at this time will be detrimental to users
- Users would favor an incremental increase, more logical than all at once
- Farmers need your help

**State funding and prompt release of funding will directly address some of the dire financial needs our state irrigation systems are still facing today.**

**We heartily support the preamble of this bill.** With the demands of extended droughts and intense sun that continuously degrades our irrigation infrastructure, the agricultural industry must have reliable systems to maintain the industry's viability and survival. Our Hawaii's farms and ranches who depend on these systems need support.

*We invite everyone to come talk story with your neighboring farmer, it's a local way to develop respectful relationships, to better understand each other.*

Respectfully, the Molokai Farm Bureau **SUPPORTS SB1086.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Submitted with Aloha,

*Nate Oswald*

Nathaniel (Nate) Oswald  
President, Molokai Farm Bureau

Molokai Irrigation System User Advisory Board Testimony  
Submitted online

February 11, 2025

**Testimony in support of HB783- Relating to Irrigation**

Aloha Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Elefante and Richards, and Respected Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We the members of the Molokai Irrigation System User Advisory Board would like to express our strong support for HB783 which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates fund for capital improvement projects for irrigation systems.

We would like to also provide the following additional comments, with special emphasis on the Molokai Irrigation System

- **THE IMPORTANCE.** The Molokai Irrigation System (MIS) is the only agricultural water source on the island, it is vital for the existence of agriculture on Molokai. Any disruption in water service would put Molokai farmers and ranchers at an absolute and fundamental disadvantage and would significantly impact our ability to sustain our farming operations, thus inhibiting our progress towards local food and ag production.
- **THE REASON.** The MIS was constructed over 60 years ago and much of the infrastructure is still from that time. The system is still used heavily and all of the Hoolehua homestead farms, as well as the ag park and other farms in central Molokai rely on this water source as a daily means of keeping our crops alive. With increasingly unstable weather patterns, the dependable delivery of water to our farms is tantamount not only to our success, but to us being able to produce any crop at all.
- **THE NEED.** There are several capital improvements which are desperately needed to help offset infrastructure costs from being passed on to our Farmers and Ranchers. As time goes on, new technologies emerge that are able to help use water more efficiently. Proper maintenance and the funding of such capital improvement projects is crucial to the longevity of the MIS and thus to the future of farming on Molokai.

We respectfully SUPPORT HB783 with the above comments. Thank you for your time and consideration.

The MISUAB,

Jill Coombs-acting chair, Non-Homestead Farmer User

David Bush- DHHL Molokai District Office Acting Supervisor

James Boswell- Homestead Farmer User

Oscar Ignacio- Hikiola Cooperative Designee

Faith Tuipulotu- MLSCWD Applicant

Denise Kawano- Hikiola Applicant



SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT  
and

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 – 1:05 p.m.  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

## SB 1086 – RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Richards and Elefante, and Members of the Committees:



February 7, 2025

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Herbert M. “Tim” Richards, III, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Water and Land

**Comments in Support of SB 1086 Relating to Irrigation (Authorizes the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds and appropriate funds to finance capital improvements to various irrigation systems.)**

**Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 1:05 p.m.**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & 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 1086**, 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 in Hawaii.

**SB 1086.** This bill proposes to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for capital improvement projects for the State’s irrigation systems.

**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 farmers throughout Hawaii are affected by increasingly often-occurring extended drought and other extreme weather events which emphasize the need for diligent maintenance and repair of these irrigation systems.



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 State's irrigation systems.

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 1086 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 protect water as a valuable and significant resource.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 1086**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

**SB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:02:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2025 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Galase	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports the improvement of irrigation systems. Access to water is necessary for successful agriculture.

LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC  
PO BOX 27  
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759  
(808) 688-2892

SB1086, Relating to Irrigation  
Sen AEN/WTL Hearing – 1:05 PM  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs  
Position: Support

Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Richards and Elefante, and Members of the Senate AEN/WTL Committees:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have also served as an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

We appreciate this request that authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for capital improvement projects for the State's irrigation systems.

With the closing of the large plantations, much of Hawaii's irrigation systems and infrastructure has fallen into disrepair. Yet, many farmers and residents depend on these systems for water use.

Water is the lifeblood of all farmers, and without affordable and accessible water, there will be no farming. No farming, no locally grown produce and livestock.

We strongly support this measure and ask for your support. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:56:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2025 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren Watanabe	Testifying for Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Maui County Farm Bureau is in strong support of SB1086, Relating to Irrigation. Thank you.



# HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

SB1086 – In Support  
Relating to Irrigation

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Senate Committee on Water and Land

Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Time: 1:05 PM

Place: Conference Room 229

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of SB1086**, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and allocates funding for capital improvement initiatives to sustain and enhance the State's irrigation infrastructure.

A consistent and well-maintained irrigation network is essential to the success of Hawaii's agricultural sector. Many of these systems were developed during the plantation era but remain vital today, supplying water to thousands of acres of farmland. These networks are crucial in ensuring a stable and adequate water supply, which supports local food production and strengthens the agricultural economy.

However, deteriorating infrastructure and the increasing frequency of extreme weather patterns, including prolonged dry spells, highlight the necessity for ongoing upkeep and modernization. Without adequate investment, these irrigation systems will continue to degrade, putting agricultural productivity and long-term sustainability at risk. By prioritizing critical repairs and infrastructure upgrades, SB1086 will improve water conservation, bolster system resilience, and help ensure that Hawaii's farmers and ranchers have dependable access to this essential resource.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

*The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.*



February 11 2025

To: Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, Chair Inoye, and Vice Chair Elefante and Senate Members of the Committees Agriculture & Environment and Water & Land,

Subject: **SB 1086** - Relating to irrigation

I stand in **opposition** to SB 1086. While I recognize the importance of reliable irrigation for Hawaii's agriculture, this bill's approach is fundamentally flawed – fiscally irresponsible and dangerously short-sighted. Authorizing general obligation bonds for undefined "capital improvement projects" without specific details or a comprehensive needs assessment is unacceptable. Hawaii's debt burden is already substantial and we cannot justify further borrowing without a clear, strategic plan. We must move beyond simply patching outdated systems and embrace a truly sustainable vision for agricultural water management.

Instead of pouring money into outdated infrastructure, we need a paradigm shift. Therefore, I urge the committee to:

1. **Invest in Innovation, Not Just Infrastructure:** Prioritize funding for research and programs exploring alternatives to these large-scale irrigation systems. This research must focus on empowering farmers to transition to more resilient, water management practices.
2. **Sustainable Solutions:** Farming practices like compost and cover cropping offer proven, long-term solutions for water management. These methods enhance soil health, improve water retention, and reduce reliance on energy-intensive irrigation. Investing in these solutions is an investment in our future. Numerous [studies](#) demonstrate the efficacy of these approaches, and it's time we put this knowledge into action.

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2025, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/382640760\\_Scientific\\_evidence\\_on\\_farming\\_practices\\_improving\\_sustainable\\_water\\_management\\_in\\_agriculture](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/382640760_Scientific_evidence_on_farming_practices_improving_sustainable_water_management_in_agriculture)



3. **Empower Farmers Through Transition Support:** Future legislation must include support for farmers adopting sustainable practices. This means providing not just seeds and compost, but also crucial technical assistance and educational resources. We must equip our farmers with the tools they need to succeed in a changing climate.

Simply repairing outdated systems is a band-aid on a deeper wound. We must invest in building a truly resilient and water-secure agricultural future for Hawaii. This requires a commitment to research, innovation, and empowering farmers to work with our environment. I implore the committee to reject HB783 and champion a more sustainable path forward for Hawaii's agriculture.

Mahalo,  
Lea Iaea & the Food+ Policy Team  
#fixourfoodsystem

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2025, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/382640760\\_Scientific\\_evidence\\_on\\_farming\\_practices\\_improving\\_sustainable\\_water\\_management\\_in\\_agriculture](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/382640760_Scientific_evidence_on_farming_practices_improving_sustainable_water_management_in_agriculture)

**SB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:37:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2025 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support



**SB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:23:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2025 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No water for farms means no food! Thank you for supporting Hawaii farmers and ranchers

**SB-1086**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:08:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/12/2025 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill to keep our critical irrigation systems maintained and functioning so our farmers can continue to produce.

Thank you.