

**SB-2946-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 10:52:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brian Kau	Dept of Ag - Agricultural Resource Management Division	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I'll be available for questions, if needed.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2946, S.D. 1

**April 1, 2022**  
**1:30 p.m.**  
**Room 308 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO IRRIGATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2946, S.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to the Department of Agriculture for maintenance and improvements to the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System located on the island of Kaua'i.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**APRIL 1, 2022  
1:30 P.M.**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 308 and VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2946, SD1  
RELATING TO IRRIGATION**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2946, SD1. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate moneys for water source infrastructure for water delivery and for maintenance and improvements to the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System located on the Island of Kauai. The Department of Agriculture supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact the Department's priorities in the Executive Budget.

The Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System, also known as the Menehune Ditch, is operated by the local farmers. While it is not a state-owned system, we support the improvements of all irrigation systems that encourage the growth of Hawaii's diversified agricultural community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure



## OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

NALANI K. KAAUWAI BRUN, DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR  
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

**Testimony of Nalani Kaauwai Brun**  
Director, Office of Economic Development

Before the  
**House Committee on Finance**  
April 1, 2022; 1:30 PM  
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

In consideration of  
**Senate Bill 2946 SD 1**  
**Relating to Irrigation**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2946 SD 1. The County of Kauai's Office of Economic Development (OED) strongly **supports SB2946 SD 1**, which appropriates funds for water source infrastructure for water delivery and for maintenance and improvements to Kauai's Peekauai ditch irrigation system.

The Peekauai Ditch system is a critical irrigation system for many ranchers and farmers on Kauai's west side. Also known as the Menehune Ditch, this historic irrigation system has been on the National Register of Historic Places since 1984. Ongoing maintenance and repair is paramount to ensure this irrigation system can continue to deliver water resources that agriculturalists depend on to operate their agribusiness.

Mahalo for your consideration of this bill.

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

SB2946sd1, Relating to Irrigation  
House FIN Hearing  
Friday, April 1, 2022 – 1:30pm  
CR308

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs  
Position: Support

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the House FIN Committee:

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 been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

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.

This measure provides appropriations to the HDOA for the maintenance and improvement to the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System, also known as the Menehune Ditch. Without this support, many Kauai farmers including taro growers will not have ready access to water.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



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

April 1, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2946, SD1**  
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 308 & Videoconference  
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

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 2946, SD1**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for water source infrastructure and the maintenance and improvement to the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System (Menehune Ditch) located on Kauai.

The repair and maintenance of our irrigation systems are critical because our farmers and ranchers depend on these irrigation systems for their operations. Water availability is a basic necessity for farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production, particularly in times of drought manifested on many islands as a result of a changing climate. Moreover, a reliable water supply is a key factor when Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are making decisions to start new or to expand existing operations.

The Peekauai Ditch irrigation system is the lifeline for farmers in the Waimea, Kauai area, especially taro growers. Kauai farmers in Waimea presently do not have enough water for taro production because of the present condition of the Menehune Ditch

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**SB-2946-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 7:42:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
stephanie iona	kekaha agriculture assn	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kindly requesting support for this effort to provide needed water resources to our farmers in Waimea Valley Kauai. This funding is critical to provide the infrastructure necessary to keep our farmers productive.

Appreciate your kind consideration.





**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair

**SB2946 SD1**

Relating to Irrigation

Friday, April 1, 2022, 1:30 PM  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2946 SD1** to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for water source infrastructure and the maintenance and improvement to the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System located on Kauai.

Critical, aging ag infrastructure, such as irrigation ditches, require funding to ensure that these assets continue to remain usable for current and future Hawaii ag producers. Without this sort of infrastructure, food security goals will never be met due to the highly regulated and high cost nature of doing business and establishing this sort of infrastructure in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director





March 28, 2022

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Finance

**Comments in Support of SB 2946, S.D. 1 Relating to Irrigation  
(Appropriates moneys to the Department of Agriculture [DOA] for water  
source infrastructure and the maintenance and improvement to the  
Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System located on Kauai; effective 7/1/2050.)**

**Friday, April 1, 2022, 1:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 308 Via 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 2946, 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 in Hawaii.

**SB 2946, S.D. 1.** This bill proposes to appropriate moneys for water source infrastructure for water delivery and for maintenance and improvements to the Peekauai ditch irrigation system located on the island of Kauai.

**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 Waimea taro farmers currently do not have adequate water for taro production due to the present condition of the Waimea Menehune Ditch. In order to ensure that these local taro farmers may continue to receive a dependable supply of water for crops, funding is necessary to improve, repair and maintain the Peekauai ditch 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 2946, 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 2946, S.D. 1**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Friday, April 1, 2022 — 1:30 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2946 SD 1, Relating to Irrigation.**

Dear Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food; renewable energy and clean transportation; and better management of freshwater and waste.

**Ulupono supports SB 2946 SD 1**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for water source infrastructure and the maintenance and improvement of the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System located in Kaua'i.

Ulupono supports funding for critical agricultural infrastructure across the State. This bill identifies the needs of the Menehune Ditch on Kaua'i. There are other similar projects proposed in the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's CIP Budget that merit strong consideration by the legislature.

Ulupono closely tracked the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and advocated for key strategic investments in water infrastructure for agriculture. Unfortunately, the federal bill did not provide resources specifically targeted to support agricultural water systems. Agricultural water system infrastructure (irrigation systems) is an essential component of our state's efforts to achieve its goals of increasing local food production and food security.

This is affirmed in the DOA's 2019 Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan (AWUDP), which documents how Hawai'i's agricultural industry relies on these water systems to deliver inexpensive water to meet and expand agricultural production even during times of drought. The DOA has identified agricultural water systems as the most important infrastructural requirement needed to expand Hawai'i's diversified agriculture industry. However, most of the large-scale irrigation systems in the state are or will soon be more than 100 years old.

Additionally, according to the Association of State Dam Safety Officials' latest Dam Safety Performance Report, more than a third of Hawai'i's dams are rated either in poor or unsatisfactory condition.

In the AWUDP, the DOA estimates the five-year cost of repairs and maintenance for Hawai'i's most critical agricultural water systems at approximately \$168 million - of that amount, about \$90

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

million is needed specifically for DOA-managed agricultural water systems over that same period. This is substantial for our small state, requiring an average of more than \$33 million per year for five years. While the price tag to repair and maintain these systems may seem high, the cost to replace these plantation-era water systems would be in the billions of dollars. More importantly, continuing to let these systems fall into disrepair puts Hawai'i's food security at risk, particularly the food security of the next generation who will be forced to adapt to a hotter and dryer planet.

### **Climate Change in Hawai'i**

The importance of well-maintained agricultural water systems becomes even greater when the impacts of climate change on Hawai'i's food security are considered. In April 2021, Hawai'i became the first state to declare a climate emergency, when the State Legislature passed [Senate Concurrent Resolution 44 SD1 HD1](#), which also requested "statewide collaboration toward an immediate just transition and emergency mobilization effort to restore a safe climate."

The people of Hawai'i are seeing first-hand local impacts consistent with the effects of climate change: rising air temperatures; decreased rainfall and stream flow; increased rain intensity; increased frequency of drought; and increased frequency of powerful storms. For example:

- Since 1950, temperatures across the Hawaiian Islands have been on the rise, ranging from increases of 0.2 to 0.4 degrees Fahrenheit per decade;
- The annual total precipitation measured at Hilo International Airport decreased by nearly 20 inches since 1950—the most among Hawai'i's four major airports;
- Rain intensity is becoming as much a destructive factor as drought, with the amount of rain falling in the very heaviest downpours from 1958 to 2007 increasing by approximately 12%;
- The area in Hawai'i burned annually by wildfires has increased four-fold in recent decades, according to University of Hawai'i wildland fire researcher Clay Trauernicht; and
- Powerful storms are anticipated to become more frequent, as warmer climates tend to amplify existing weather patterns and variability, according to Hawai'i's state climatologist, Pao-Shin Chu.

These are each detrimental to local food production on their own; and yet, as an isolated island state we are also susceptible to climate change impacts far from our shores due to Hawai'i's continuing over-reliance on food from imports.

### **Food Pricing & Availability in Hawai'i**

For international and domestic food producers, meeting the global demand of a projected 10 billion people by 2050—an increase of 2.3 billion people over just a quarter of a century—will become increasingly challenging as the Earth's climate continues to warm. Some estimate this will require an increase in global food production of 60%, if we are to ensure enough food for all.

According to research by The Nature Conservancy, climate change will bring increased moisture deficits across the United States. Nationally, the total area irrigated will need to increase by 11-54 million acres (an increase of 19-94%) by 2090 in order to maintain food production.

An analysis of top food producing states California and Iowa paints a grim picture:

- California, based on available data, produces over a third of the nation's vegetables and two-thirds of its fruits and nuts. Yet, California is expected to see a 50% increase in the number of severe droughts by the end of this century, with research predicting a decrease in

California's yields by more than 10% for walnuts, almonds, avocados, table grapes, rice, wheat, and tomatoes.

- Iowa is the largest producer of corn in the United States, with Iowa farms producing more than 19% of American corn, eggs (14%), hogs (30%), and soybeans (17%) in 2008. Iowa could see up to a 25% drop in corn yields by mid-century (from 200 to 150 bushels per acre), according to the Fourth National Climate Assessment, a federal study mandated by Congress and completed every four years, significant decreases are on the horizon.

Left dependent on imports, Hawai'i residents will experience greater volatility of food prices and food availability because of the impact of climate change on national and global food production. It can no longer be assumed that there will always be an unlimited supply of affordable food from overseas to feed Hawai'i's population.

### **Irrigation Infrastructure IS Part of Climate Change Adaptation**

In the Biden Administration's fact sheet outlining the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the White House highlighted investments in **infrastructure to make communities more resilient to the impacts of climate change, including** "funds to protect against droughts and floods..."

Irrigation plays an essential role in increasing food production and is an effective method of climate change adaptation. Globally, irrigated land represents only 16% of arable land, but produces 44% of total crop production. For most crops, irrigation can double or triple crop yields. For example, irrigated crop yields for corn, soybean, and wheat are 165%, 75%, and 140% higher than rain-fed yields. In regards to climate change adaptation, irrigation systems mitigate the impact of decreasing rainfall, increasing frequency of drought, and increasing temperatures; and irrigation can help capture more rainfall during storm events, so that water can be used in the future.

The DOA's AWUDP plan concludes: "The investment into these agricultural water systems is the key to provide adequate water to continue to grow diversified agriculture. As the saying goes, ...without water there is no agriculture..., which is the reason these agricultural water systems were originally constructed—and why they need to be maintained for another 100 years."

We strongly agree. For generations to come, local food production will depend on these systems and their ability to provide water for local farmers and ranchers. This represents a singular opportunity to make Hawai'i more self-sufficient and resilient.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs



Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association  
Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council  
Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation  
Hawai'i Farmers' Union United  
Hawai'i Food Industry Association  
Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association  
Kohala Center  
Land Use Research Foundation of Hawai'i  
Maui Farm to School Network (Maui F2SN)  
Ulupono Initiative  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources - University of Hawai'i at Manoa

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
April 1, 2022 – 1:30 p.m. – Via Videoconference  
**Agenda #1**

**RE: SB 2946 SD1 – Relating to Irrigation – In Support**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition **supports** SB 2946 SD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for water source infrastructure and the maintenance and improvement to the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System on Kauai.

Waimea taro farmers do not have enough water for taro production because of the present condition of the Peekauai Ditch, also known as Menehune Ditch. Investing in this irrigation system will assist these farmers and the state in its efforts to increase local food production and food security.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawaii's food supply.

We respectfully request your support of SB 2946 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Kendall Matsuyoshi  
808-544-8345  
[kmatsuyoshi@wik.com](mailto:kmatsuyoshi@wik.com)

**SB-2946-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 11:40:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support



**SB-2946-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 12:46:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

April 1, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2946, SD1  
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 308 & Videoconference  
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

**I support SB 2946, SD1**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for water source infrastructure and the maintenance and improvement of the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System (Menehune Ditch) located on Kauai.

The repair and maintenance of our irrigation systems are critical because our farmers and ranchers depend on these irrigation systems for their operations. Water availability is a basic necessity for farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production, particularly in times of drought manifested on many islands as a result of a changing climate. Moreover, a reliable water supply is a key factor when Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are making decisions to start new or to expand existing operations.

The Peekauai Ditch irrigation system is the lifeline for farmers in the Waimea, Kauai area, especially taro growers. Kauai farmers in Waimea presently do not have enough water for taro production because of the present condition of the Menehune Ditch

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Johnny Gordines

Kauai Farmer



**SB-2946-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 1:03:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Stoutemyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

**I support SB 2946, SD1**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for water source infrastructure and the maintenance and improvement of the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System (Menehune Ditch) located on Kauai.

The repair and maintenance of our irrigation systems are critical because our farmers and ranchers depend on these irrigation systems for their operations. Water availability is a basic necessity for farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production, particularly in times of drought manifested on many islands as a result of a changing climate. Moreover, a reliable water supply is a key factor when Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are making decisions to start new or to expand existing operations.

The Peekauai Ditch irrigation system is the lifeline for farmers in the Waimea, Kauai area, especially taro growers. Kauai farmers in Waimea presently do not have enough water for taro production because of the present condition of the Menehune Ditch

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**SB-2946-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 2:00:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Phillipson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Land, water, and people along with some seed are the four essentials of agriculture. The ditch systems in the state are the mail arteries in the Hawaii's agricultural lands. Please keep them viable and maintained. Mahalo

**SB-2946-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 9:05:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aileen K . F. Yeh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB 2946, regarding the Menehune ditch.

**SB-2946-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 3:54:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

Theresa Thompson

**SB-2946-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 11:19:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick M. Mencher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 1, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2946, SD1  
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 308 & Videoconference  
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

**I support SB 2946, SD1**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for water source infrastructure and the maintenance and improvement of the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System (Menehune Ditch) located on Kauai.

The repair and maintenance of our irrigation systems are critical because our farmers and ranchers depend on these irrigation systems for their operations. Water availability is a basic necessity for farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production, particularly in times of drought manifested on many islands as a result of a changing climate. Moreover, a reliable water supply is a key factor when Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are making decisions to start new or to expand existing operations.

The Peekauai Ditch irrigation system is the lifeline for farmers in the Waimea, Kauai area, especially taro growers. Kauai farmers in Waimea presently do not have enough water for taro production because of the present condition of the Menehune Ditch

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher





**SB-2946-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 12:36:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Thank you.