



February 7, 2011

TESTIMONY

Re: HB1571 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Tsuji, Chair Chang and Members of the Committees:

Maui County Farm Bureau on behalf of commercial farm and ranch families and organizations on the island **strongly supports with amendments**, HB1571 authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds for repair and maintenance of the Waiahole irrigation system.

Agriculture is critical to Hawaii's ability to increase its' level of self sufficiency. It is said that the Civil War was lost, not due to military strength but starvation. The south, dependent upon imports could not sustain itself. Globalization makes such dramatic occurrences unlikely, however, 9-11 reminded us that other threats can face us and capacity for self sufficiency will be critical. We regularly hear about the Bird Flu or West Nile Virus. Pandemics are equally a threat truly isolating us from the rest of the world. Self sufficiency will be critical at that time.

This measure seeks to address the water needs for one of the critical agricultural production areas in the State. Statewide other systems also have similar needs. It would make sense to turn this into an Irrigation Omnibus measure addressing needs for the various production areas. We believe HDOA has the information about the system requirements across the state and defer to them for the information.

We respectfully request your support in passing this measure with the suggested amendments. If there are any questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at 2819718. Thank you.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921

February 7, 2011

TESTIMONY

Re: HB1571 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

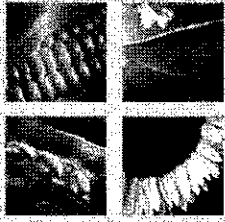
Chair Tsuji, Chair Chang and Members of the Committees:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of commercial farm and ranch families and organizations in the State **strongly supports with amendments**, HB1571 authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds for repair and maintenance of the Waiahole irrigation system.

The Central Plains of Oahu lead the State in providing Hawaii's food and the basis for the nation's food security. This is a huge responsibility. All of this is possible with affordable and reliable water supplies. The Waiahole irrigation system provides the infrastructure delivering the water. The system will only be reliable with timely maintenance and repair. This measure seeks to provide funding to address needed improvements to the system to provide reliable deliveries.

Statewide other systems also have similar needs. We respectfully request amending this measure to a Omnibus measure addressing irrigation requirements across the State. Also included should be the completion of the Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan (HRS 174c-31(e)3 and HRS174c-31(e)4. This Plan is critical to assist the Water Commission in making decisions regarding agriculture's access to water.

We respectfully request your support in passing this measure with the suggested amendments. If there are any questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at 2819718. Thank you.



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Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti

HB 1571 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

The House Committees on Agriculture and
Water, Land and Ocean Resources

Monday, February 7, 2011

Room 325, 11:15 a.m.

Position: Strongly Support

Aloha Chairs Tsuji and Chang, Vice Chairs Hashem and Har, and members of the Committees:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing the seed industry in Hawaii. HCIA strongly supports HB 1571 – authorizing \$2 million in bonds to make capital improvements to the Waiahole irrigation system.

Currently, three of HCIA's member seed companies maintain operations in Kunia on the island of Oahu and utilize the waters provided through Waiahole. They are vested in the agricultural future of this island and have invested millions into improving the irrigation, buildings and other infrastructure. But like most islands, this 100-year old irrigation system now owned by the state and operated by a cooperative is in disrepair and facing serious maintenance issues. Any disruption in delivering water to farmers could severely impact their viability as we saw after the earthquake on the big island.

But unfortunately, we have seen and testified on a number of bills to appropriate funds to fix Hawaii's failing irrigation systems critical to ensuring the viability of farmers and ranchers statewide. We believe a more comprehensive approach to addressing these challenges is needed and **support amending HB 1571 to an omnibus irrigation bill** that includes funding for other capital improvement projects such as the East Kauai irrigation, Waimanalo irrigation, Molokai irrigation, Upcountry Maui irrigation, Lower Hamakua Ditch, Waimea Irrigation, Ka'u irrigation, Kekaha irrigation, and Kahuku irrigation systems.

We ask you to please pass HB 1571. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

FEBRUARY 7, 2011
11:15 AM

TESTIMONY ON HB 1571
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Chair Chang, and members of the committee:

My name is Alan Takemoto, Community Affairs Manager for Monsanto Hawaii. We **strongly support HB 1571** which authorizes the issuance of \$2 million in general obligation bonds to make capital improvements to the Waiahole irrigation system, including siphon replacements and other necessary improvements.

The Waiahole Irrigation System is a vital and critical irrigation system that services thousands of acres of prime agricultural lands in central Oahu. There are over 50 farm businesses that rely on Waiahole Irrigation System that produce vegetables, nurseries, seed, aquaculture, and agricultural research operations. There are over 2,000 jobs that have been generated by these farm businesses in the central Oahu region and in turn has generated positive growth for other businesses.

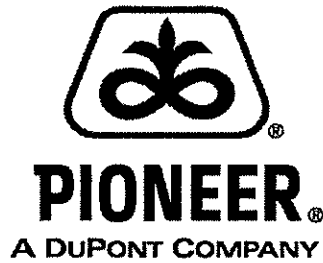
Monsanto is a member of the Kunia Water Cooperative which is the organization that represents all of the farming businesses utilizing the water from the Waiahole Irrigation System. Our Kunia operation is at the end of the Waiahole Irrigation System and fully relies on the consistent delivery of agricultural water. Monsanto employs about 400 employees at our Kunia farm site and has invested tremendously in our facilities in the Kunia region.

The Waiahole Irrigation System is a hundred year old system that needs regular capital improvements. We need to be proactive in assuring that the system is secure and that we make the necessary infrastructure improvement in advance to avoid failures in the system. There are a total of 4 siphons that needs to be replaced. One of the siphons has been identified as a priority which this bill addresses. There will be a need in the next few years to replace the other remaining siphons.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) owns and manages the maintenance of this system and we appreciate all that they do with minimum staff. We are here to support their good work by providing the necessary funding to make preventative maintenance and improvements to the Waiahole Irrigation System.

As we understand that irrigation systems for Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are critical for the viability of the entire agricultural industry statewide, we also support the inclusion of other capital improvement projects such as the East Kauai irrigation, Waimanalo irrigation, Molokai irrigation, Upcountry Maui irrigation, Lower Hamakua Ditch, Waimea Irrigation, Ka'u irrigation, Kekaha irrigation, and Kahuku irrigation are all important systems that service the needs of Hawaii's agricultural industry. We also support the ag water use development plan that provides an overview of our irrigation systems statewide.

On behalf of Monsanto Hawaii, we urge your support and passage of HB 1571.



Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Cindy Goldstein

HB 1571 – Relating to the Waiahole Irrigation System
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & OCEAN RESOURCES
February 7, 2011 at 11:15 am
Conference Room 325

Chairman Tsuji and Vice Chair Hashem, Chairman Chang and Vice Chair Har, and members of the committees.

My name is Cindy Goldstein, representing Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., with facilities on Oahu and Kauai.

Pioneer Hi-Bred supports HB 1571.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc. produces corn, soybean and sunflower seed crops in Hawaii, with operations in four locations in the state. We carry our research and development at our sites and multiply seed to develop new hybrids and varieties that are more productive for farmers in the US and around the world. Pioneer employs approximately 400 people in a wide range of types of jobs on Oahu and Kauai.

Pioneer supports the issuance of bonds to make capital improvements to the Waiahole irrigation system. This is an aging water system that has served the needs of agriculture on Oahu for decades and repairs are needed to the flumes and infrastructure of the system.

Many farmers rely on water from the Waiahole Irrigation System and this investment is important for fruit, vegetable, and other crop production as well as ranching. The desire to expand agricultural production for additional local food production will not be possible without a reliable water supply. Pioneer uses water from the Waiahole Irrigation System for a corn research facility. Loss of water to our farm could significantly impact our business. The research carried out in Hawaii allows us to get new Pioneer Hi-Bred corn hybrids to our customers in a shorter time frame.

Agriculture is an important part of the economy for areas served by the Waiahole Irrigation System and an important part of Hawaii's rural economy. Water is essential in keeping agricultural land in production.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony for this hearing.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND WATER, LAND, AND OCEAN RESOURCES

Monday, February 07, 2011
11:15 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 1571
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairpersons Tsuji, Chang and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1571. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the issuance of \$2,000,000 in general obligation bonds to make capital improvements to the Waiahole irrigation system. The Department supports the intent of this bill as a critical element of our plan to improve needed irrigation systems throughout the state.

The Waiahole irrigation system serves approximately 5,800 acres of farm land in central Oahu and is approximately 95 years old. There are four original metal siphons that are now in need of replacement as corrosion has taken its toll. A failure of one of these siphons would impact a majority of the users of the system and an emergency repair could take months to implement, with only partial service restored. This appropriation would allow the department to design and construct a replacement for the most critical siphon. Due to budget and cost concerns, the replacement of the



TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
HOUSE BILL NO. 1571

PAGE 2

remaining siphons will be phased in based on future funding requests and appropriations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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 ALFREDO LEE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
AGRICULTURE AND WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES**

Monday, February 7, 2011
11:15 am
Room 325

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1571
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tsuji, Chairperson Chang, and Members of the Committees:

The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) is in strong support of House Bill 1571, which would authorize the issuance of G.O. bonds to make capital improvements to the Waiahole Water System (WWS). ADC is the owner operator of this irrigation system.

The WWS is approaching 100 years old and is a vital source of irrigation water for about 5,600 acres of agriculture land in central Oahu. There are a total of 7 siphons on this ditch system. About 10 years ago capital improvement funding was made available to replaced 3 deteriorated red wood siphons. The remaining 4 steel siphons will need to be replaced to avert potential failures in the future. A siphon failure could cause major crop damages and would be an economic disaster for all water users relying on this water system.

The funding request in this bill would only be enough to replace one siphon. We suggest funding be made available to replace all 4 of the siphons in multiple-year appropriations to allow for more efficient planning and coordination. Thank you for your consideration.

MOLOKAI FARM BUREAU

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

FEBRUARY 7, 2011
11:15 AM

TESTIMONY ON HB 1571 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Chair Chang, and members of the committee:

The Molokai Farm Bureau **strongly supports HB 1571**, and asks that the bill also include \$2 million in general obligation bonds to make capital improvements to the Molokai Irrigation System (MIS), for duly needed repairs.

The Molokai Irrigation System is the sole source of agricultural water on the island of Molokai, and is vital in maintaining the strength and continuation of agriculture.

The MIS serves approximately 9000 acres, shared by both Homesteaders and non-Homesteaders. Various farms and nurseries in current production (from sweet potatoes, hay, coffee, macadamia nut, corn seed, herbs, to organic papaya) depend entirely on the MIS. Our organic papaya grower yielding 20,000 pounds of Papayas each week, is the only exporter of organic Papaya in Hawaii. Our seed corn companies represent the largest private sector employers on the island. Those served by the MIS represent economic stability for our community.

The MIS is a fifty year old system and is relied upon every day for consistent delivery of water, but it is in serious need of improvement. To avoid failures to the MIS, a proactive approach to insure agricultural water and its current supply continues to reach these Molokai farms and meet their needs, is imperative. There is no alternate irrigation system.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture has invested significant effort and expense during recent years to make only the most basic and necessary repairs. Further improvements in electrical equipment, metering, system controls are needed to bring the system up to basic standards.

We also understand the significant needs of other ranchers and farmers who are dependent on irrigation systems throughout the state, and support legislation that will provide basic capital improvement funding for each of the HI agricultural irrigation systems mentioned in HB 1571. These systems are critical to sustain the viability of agriculture statewide.

We ask for your support and passage of HB 1571.

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & COMMITTEE ON WATER,
LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES**

DATE: Monday February 7th, 2011

TIME: 11:15 am

PLACE: Conference Room 325

RE: Authorizes the issuance of \$2,000,000 in general obligation bonds to make capital improvements to the Waiahole irrigation system, including siphon replacements and other necessary infrastructure.

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Chair Chang and Members of the Committees,

Syngenta Hawaii strongly supports HB 1571. HB 1571 would appropriate funds for the continued operation and maintenance of the Waiahole ditch system. These funds are critical to the continued success of existing farming operations. Without water and infrastructure to deliver water, farmers cannot survive. We urge you to pass this legislation that will provide funding to support the water feeding a vibrant and economically impactful area of Hawaii agriculture that includes the seed industry and also food production for local sale and export.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Mahalo,

Laurie Goodwin

Laurie Goodwin
Hawaii State Affairs Manager
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hashem2 - Dorothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 07, 2011 8:56 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ebarker@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for HB1570 on 2/9/2011 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/9/2011 10:00:00 AM HB1570

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eric Barker
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu, HI
Phone:
E-mail: ebarker@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/7/2011

Comments:

No more handouts to an environmentally and socially destructive, financially and ecologically unsustainable, violent, unnecessary, barbaric, murderous endeavor.