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Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 9, 2015
9:05 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 1332 HD 1
RELATING DROUGHT IRRIGATION

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1332 HD1. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate moneys for maintenance and improvements to the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System. The department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the initiatives set forth in our executive biennium budget.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Support of HB 1332. HD1.
Appropriates moneys for maintenance and improvements to
the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System.

SENATE WAY AND MEANS COMMITTEE
April 9, 2015, 9:05 AM in conference room 211

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and members of the Committee,

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association.

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes ag bio tech 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 state economy.

HCIA is in full support of the intent of HB 1332. HD1.

Efficient irrigation systems and techniques play a vital role in Hawaii's agricultural sector, given the unpredictable weather conditions like drought. It is therefore, imperative that irrigation systems throughout the state be properly maintained at all times.

This bill will specifically provide the resources for the necessary maintenance and improvements to the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System.

We humbly ask for the Committee's support of HB 1332. HD1.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony.

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April 9, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1332 HD 1
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 211
9:05 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports HB 1332 HD 1, which appropriates moneys for maintenance and improvements to the Peekauai ditch irrigation system.

The repair and maintenance of our irrigation systems is 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 or drought manifested on many islands as a result of a changing climate. Moreover, a reliable water supply is a key factor when Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are making decisions to start new or to expand existing operations.

Peekauai ditch provides much needed water to the Waimea farmers on Kauai, particularly the taro growers. Funding statewide systems such as the Peekauai ditch will provide needed water supplies to Hawaii's agricultural industry and directly impact the State's goals of food security and self-sufficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1332.

wam3 - Nicolas

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2015 10:43 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1332 on Apr 9, 2015 09:05AM

HB1332

Submitted on: 4/8/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 9, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS HB 1332, HD1, relating to IRRIGATION, which appropriates moneys for maintenance and improvements to the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System on Kauai (aka the Menehune Ditch). (HB 1332 HD1)

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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