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March 31, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SCR 193/ SR 128
ENCOURAGING THE AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TO
DEVELOP A PLAN TO ACQUIRE THE DAM AND SPILLWAY OF LAKE WILSON FOR
PUMPED-STORAGE HYDROELECTRICITY

Room 414
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, 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 supports the intent of SCR 193/ SR 128, which encourages the ADC to develop a plan to acquire the dam and spillway of Lake Wilson for pump-storage hydroelectricity.

Renewable energy is important to the State's energy goals. Hydroelectric facilities can serve as a feasible alternative energy source to meet such goals. That being said, viable farming and ranching activities on agricultural lands must be maintained in order to retain agricultural lands for future generations. Lands capable of supporting viable agricultural activities should be protected and kept in agriculture. Hydroelectric facilities can provide the State with alternative energy options, as long as it is secondary to agricultural activities on agricultural lands.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.