

# **HB1453 HD1**

## **MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE MOLOA'A WELL PROJECT ON THE ISLAND OF KAUAI.**

**Appropriates funds for land acquisition, plans, design, and construction of a new well, alternative energy development to power the well, and a post-harvest facility at Moloa'a on the island of Kauai.  
(HB1453 HD1)**

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND AND AGRICULTURE**

March 23, 2015  
2:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1453 HD 1  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE MOLOA`A WELL PROJECT ON THE  
ISLAND OF KAUAI**

Chairpersons Thielen and Ruderman and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1453 HD1. This bill appropriates funds for land acquisition, planning, design, and construction of a new well, alternative energy development to power the well, and a post-harvest facility at Moloa`a on the island of Kauai. The Department is in support of this measure provided it does not adversely impact the priorities in the Administration's budget.

Access to water is vital for successful agricultural endeavors and properly maintained wells and irrigation systems are one avenue of supplying farmers with adequate water. The energy costs of running a well can be high and having alternative energy sources to run the well will greatly help in reducing those costs. Furthermore, with the upcoming rules from the Food Safety Modernization Act being finalized this summer, facilities will be needed that will meet those regulations to allow farmers to continue to do business.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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 1453, HD1, RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE MOLOA'A WELL PROJECT ON THE ISLAND OF KAUAI, which appropriates funds for land acquisition, plans, design, and construction of a new well, alternative energy development to power the well, and a post-harvest facility at Moloa'a on the island of Kauai. (HB1453 HD1)

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**Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.**  
Mayor



**Nadine K. Nakamura**  
Managing Director

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i  
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Testimony of  
Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Before the Senate Committee on Water and Land and Agriculture  
Monday, March 23, 2015  
2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 224  
HB 1453 HD1 Making an Appropriation for the Moloa'a Well

Aloha Chairs Thielen and Ruderman and members of the Committees,

On behalf of the County of Kaua'i, allow me to express my support of HB 1453, HD1 Making an Appropriation for the Moloa'a Well. This measure appropriates fund for land acquisition, plans, design, and construction of a new well, alternative energy development to power the well, and a post-harvest facility at Moloa'a on the island of Kaua'i.

This is a great opportunity to replace the aging irrigation infrastructure, repair the 500,000 gallon storage tank, and to be better prepared to provide water that is crucial for the future growth of agriculture on Kaua'i.

This measure is important to the farmers and can help to provide a valuable food center for the community.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my comments. Your favorable consideration of HB 1453 HD1 is greatly appreciated.



**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Mason K. Chock  
Gary L. Hooser  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
KipuKai Kualii  
JoAnn A. Yukimura



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**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihue, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

March 20, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF GARY L. HOOSER  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
HB 1453, HD 1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR  
THE MOLOA'A WELL PROJECT ON THE ISLAND OF KAUAI  
Senate Joint Committee on Water and Land / Agriculture  
Monday, March 23, 2015  
2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 224**

Dear Chair Thielen, Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Joint Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1453, Making An Appropriation For The Moloa'a Well Project On The Island Of Kauai. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as an individual Councilmember of the Kauai County Council.

As you are aware, the decreased rainfall experienced on our island is making more difficult for farmers to rely solely on annual rainfall for water for their crops. The existing well in Moloa'a is also proving to be inadequate to meet the needs of the numerous small farmers in this area. HB 1453 appropriates funds for land acquisition, planning, design, and construction of a new well, alternative energy development to power the well, and a post-harvest facility at Moloa'a on the island of Kauai. This appropriation will also make it possible for a post-harvest facility to be constructed which will meet the new standards established by the Food Safety Modernization Act. I support all efforts to boost local agriculture and support food sustainability on Kauai and this appropriation will provide a well and facility that will improve the conditions for farmers in Moloa'a.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the Senate Joint Committee to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

GARY L. HOOSER  
Councilmember, Kauai County Council

**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Mason K. Chock  
Gary L. Hooser  
Arryl Kaneshiro  
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March 20, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF JOANN A. YUKIMURA  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
HB 1453, HD 1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR  
THE MOLOA'A WELL PROJECT ON THE ISLAND OF KAUAI  
Senate Joint Committee on Water and Land / Agriculture  
Monday, March 23, 2015  
2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 224**

Dear Chair Thielen, Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Joint Committee:

I am happy to write in support of HB 1453, HD 1 which would appropriate funding for land acquisition, planning, design and construction for a new well at Moloa'a on the island of Kauai, alternative energy to power the well, and an onsite post-harvest facility for processing that will meet food safety standards.

Moloka'a is the bread basket of Kauai at this moment. It is where diversified agriculture has had the opportunity to flourish due to the availability of affordable farmlands over the past 20 years and the hard working farm families that have made the land productive. The Moloka'a farmers have now organized themselves to provide for more transparent and responsible management of their water system and have partnered with the Department of Agriculture to address some of the basic common needs of the farming community—the need for a well-functioning water system and the need for cooperative food processing. This example of initiative and partnering deserves to be supported.

I have one reservation about Section 1 of the bill which states that current weather trends across the state indicate a decrease in consistent rainfall. While it does seem that our climate patterns are changing, I believe it has never been feasible to rely on annual rainfall in Moloka'a for commercial farming, and it is misleading to attribute to climate change the need for a supplemental water system. Irrigated water has always been a necessity—and an updated well-functioning system is needed simply because it is an unquestionable pre-requisite for an area that will produce food commercially for local consumption and export.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

**JOANN A. YUKIMURA**  
Councilmember, Kauai County Council

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

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March 20, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF KIPUKAI KUALI'I  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
HB 1453, HD 1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR  
THE MOLOA'A WELL PROJECT ON THE ISLAND OF KAUAI  
Senate Joint Committee on Water and Land / Agriculture  
Monday, March 23, 2015  
2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 224**

Dear Chair Thielen, Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Joint Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1453, HD 1, Making An Appropriation For The Moloa'a Well Project On The Island Of Kaua'i. My testimony is submitted in my capacity as the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair and as an individual Councilmember on the Kaua'i County Council.

HB 1453, HD 1, appropriates funds for land acquisition, planning, design, and construction of a new well, alternative energy development to power the well, and a post-harvest facility at Moloa'a on the island of Kaua'i. As you are aware, the decreased rainfall experienced on our island is making more difficult for farmers to rely solely on annual rainfall for water for their crops. The existing well in Moloa'a is also proving to be inadequate to meet the needs of the numerous small farmers in this area. This appropriation will also make it possible for a post-harvest facility to be constructed which will meet the new standards established by the Food Safety Modernization Act. As the Economic Development & Intergovernmental Relations Committee Chair, I support all efforts to boost local agriculture and support food sustainability on Kaua'i. This appropriation will provide a well and facility that will improve the conditions for farmers in Moloa'a and assist them with the capital improvements needed to ensure their success.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the Senate Joint Committee to support this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

KIPUKAI KUALI'I  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council



**COUNTY COUNCIL**

Mel Rapozo, Chair  
Ross Kagawa, Vice Chair  
Mason K. Chock  
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March 20, 2015

**TESTIMONY OF MASON K. CHOCK  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
HB 1453, HD 1, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR  
THE MOLOA'A WELL PROJECT ON THE ISLAND OF KAUAI  
Senate Joint Committee on Water and Land / Agriculture  
Monday, March 23, 2015  
2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 224**

Dear Chair Thielen, Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Joint Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1453, HD 1, which makes an appropriation for the Moloka'a well project on the island of Kaua'i. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a Councilmember of the Kaua'i County Council.

HB 1453, HD 1 will assist the Moloka'a Irrigation Cooperative by securing a water resource crucial for future agricultural growth on Kaua'i. It will also provide a valuable post-harvest facility for farmers to produce their products, and will be in alignment with the new standards established by the Food Safety Modernization Act. Agriculture is of great importance to our community and any measure encouraging local food production supports our goal to become more agriculturally sustainable in the future.

For the reasons stated above, I strongly encourage the Senate Joint Committee to support this measure. Again, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 241-4188.

Sincerely,

**MASON K. CHOCK**  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/21/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ray maki	Hawaii Farmers Union-Kauai	Comments Only	No

Comments: -- hfuu Ray Maki Kauai Board Member hfuu.kauai@yahoo.com (808) 634-5412 Mailing address: Post Box 498 Kilauea, HI 96754 Aloha Committee Members, As President of the Hawaii Farmers Union- Kauai Chapter, I am offering testimony in support of HB1453. As you are already aware, the Moloaa Farmers and the Moloaa Irrigation Coop operate a water system that is aging and does not offer opportunities for controlling source, or implementing efficiencies that would help lower the cost of water to farm. In one of the most active region of family farming on our island, the the states efforts to assist are most welcome. I would also personally like to commend the entire Kauai delegation for their support of this water project, as well as the establishment of a food hub that would support farmers on the north and east sides of Kauai. The FDA has published figures that project the annual costs for complying with FSMA rules as 10%+ of gross receipts. The state has the full support of all Kauai farmers that we are aware of, for creating a model food hub for food safety compliance, and supporting the family farmer on Kauai and across the state by proactively foreseeing the obstacles for profitable farming that FSMA will bring. Thank you for hearing this bill HB1453 and for your support. Mahalo, Ray Maki President Hawaii Farmers Union- Kauai Chapter

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March 23, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 1453 HD 1  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE MOLOA'A WELL PROJECT ON THE  
ISLAND OF KAUAI

Room 224  
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Chair Thielen and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB strongly supports HB 1453 HD 1**, which appropriates funds for the land acquisition, planning, design, and construction of a new well, alternative energy development to power the well, and a post-harvest facility at Moloa'a on the island of Kauai.

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 Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are making decisions to start new or to expand existing operations. The agricultural cooperative in Moloa'a is struggling to obtain needed water from the existing well. A new well is needed.

The Food Safety and Modernization Act has resulted in new rules regarding growing, packing and processing of food throughout the nation. This will adversely affect Hawaii's farming industry, as small farmers will be unable to make the necessary investments to address facility compliance. This bill seeks to create a shared packing and processing facility which would help to alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with the new food safety rules.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Ornellas	East Kauai Water User's Cooperative	Support	No

Comments:

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### **HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/20/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brandon Miranda	G.I.S.T.C Inc.	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Senate committees on agriculture/water and land, My name is Brandon Miranda and I own 10.5 acres in Moloaa hui lands. I run 5 acres as my landscape stock nursery and base and the other 5.5 acres as an orchard which hosts longan, lychee, mango, and bananas. We also have two 10k gallon fish tanks that we have tilapia and catfish in which we use for a food resource as well as a natural fertilizer for our fruit trees. Water is our number one resource that will allow us to survive in the farming industry. We appreciate your time in giving us the opportunity in presenting proposed bill HB 1453. Buying water from a secondary resource has pushed our water prices near county potable water prices. This opportunity to fix our water storage facility and produce our own water through a more efficient energy resource will cut the price per unit of water usage I half. Not only will it benefit the price decrease but it will also allow us to produce potable water. With the new upcoming federal health guidelines, this will allow us to conform to the upcoming Food Safety Modernization Act. Having this upgraded water system and facility for the use for farmers in the north and east side of Kauai will be a big benefit for the production, sustainability and viability for us and the future of the farming industry of Kauai. I'd like to thank you for considering us in your bill. As you may not know Moloaa has been a produce generating area for many years. After sugar it became pineapple, then papaya. Now it is an individually owned agriculture park that produces an array of fruits and vegetables. Being that our lands where so flat we did not get the opportunity to have irrigation ditches made by the plantation that other agricultural parks have benefited from. With your help in approving this bill it will give the opportunity to our farmers the control of cost to our agriculture park and create viability for us and the future generation of farmers. Thank you for your time!

Sincerely, Brandon Miranda

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### **HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amber McClure	Moloka'a Bay Coffee	Support	Yes

Comments: My name is Amber McClure. My family's farm, Moloka'a Bay Coffee, consists of 15 acres that are part of the Moloka'a Hui Lands. We began our farm in 1998 by planting a few hundred coffee beans, and now have 5 acres of coffee trees. In addition, we now grow cacao, 'ulu, apple bananas, cara cara oranges, and more, which we sell at farmers' markets and our retail location on Kaua'i. We also supply to several local businesses and restaurants who utilize our fresh produce. Like many farms on Kaua'i, our family grows the products to meet our island's need for fresh local food with the goal of decreasing our dependence on products from other islands and beyond. We ask for your help with completing the infrastructure improvements to our water system. It has become increasingly more difficult over the years to water our crops sufficiently due to the lack of rainfall during certain months, and we have seen excessively high water bills as a result. We are heavily dependent upon the water source, therefore the maintenance of the water source is crucial to the survival of our family's farm. The Food Safety Modernization Act has resulted in new rules that govern the growing, packing and processing of food. The farmers need a well and alternative energy development to power the existing water resource at Moloka'a and a central facility where they can pack and process their produce. We strongly support HB 1453 for the continued viability of agriculture on Kaua'i.

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ALLEN LADD ELMORE	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a Farmer in the Moloaa Hui Agricultural park with 6 acres of mature Rambutan trees I am in full support of HB1453 HD1 it would bring a much needed reliable water source to all farmers. The Post harvest facility is a much need Facility in being able to keep in compliance with the food safety requirements it is much needed and would be utilized by all Thank you Allen Ladd Elmore

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/21/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

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## Testimony for HB1453

As a farmer producing top quality vegetables and fruit at One Song Farm, I am excited to write in support of HB1453. This "Food Hub" bill will be an essential step in encouraging greater local food production to help make Kauai more food secure. The benefits of a Food Hub for small farms like mine, will help us to create an economy of scale to make our local food economy more viable. Currently we can't market all the produce that we grow, and having a Food Hub would enable that surplus produce to become part of the local food economy. By combining our specialty items with those from other similar small farms into an aggregate and stable produce stream, we can increase our local production and make it more viable for new farmers as well. I know of farmers in other parts of the United States who have benefited greatly from Food Hubs – for example, in Burlington, Vermont, the Intervale Food Hub (<http://intervalefoodhub.com/>) is a comparable model Food Hub for us to look at and learn from.

Thank you for considering my testimony,

Chuck Estin

One Song Farm

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/21/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo Nui for supporting this Moloa`a region to produce local food. They have worked together for more than ten years truly creating a wealth of food. It is a constant struggle for these small farmers to be financially viable, but they push through many obstacles. This funding will help to provide much needed infrastructure to help ensure long-term success.

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/21/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
james trujillo	Individual	Support	No

Comments: aloha members of the committee, thank you for accepting this testimony in favor of passing HB 1453. this bill will allow farmers in the moloa'a area of kaua'i to secure water resources as well as provide infrastructure for local producers to safely bring their products to markets and consumers. as a beekeeper with apiaries located in this region, i see the number of farms that are dependent on in adequate infrastructure and lacking access to affordable processing facilities. HB 1453 will provide farms and farmers the ways and means to continue bring their products to the market. please pass HB 1453 to ensure that farms and farmers have the basic support to maintain or increase their production of local grown crops and food. this type of investment in our local food production infrastructure is paramount to a sustainable future for kaua'i and the state. mahalo for your consideration of this testimony and favorable outlook on this bill. with respect and aloha, james g trujillo po box 33 kapaa, hi

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/21/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie Goldman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/20/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John/Daphne McClure	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is John McClure. We farm 15 acres which are part of Moloa'a Hui Lands. We grow coffee, cacao, ulu, bananas, cara cara which we sell at farmers markets on Kaua'i. Like many farms here, we supply products to meet our island need for fresh, local food. We farmers need a well for this area and an alternative energy source to power the water resource. We strongly support HB 1453 for the continued viability of agriculture here on Kaua'i. Yours truly, John and Daphne McClure Moloa'a Bay Coffee P. O. Box 789 Anahola, HI 96703 808 822 7656  
[moloaajohn@yahoo.com](mailto:moloaajohn@yahoo.com) [john@moloaabaycoffee.com](mailto:john@moloaabaycoffee.com)  
[daphne@moloaabaycoffee.com](mailto:daphne@moloaabaycoffee.com)

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Wootens Produce of Kauai  
808 823 6807 [wootenkauai@gmail.com](mailto:wootenkauai@gmail.com) PO Box 509 Anahola Hi. 96703  
Testimony in favor of HB 1453

Dear Senate Agriculture and Senate Water and Land Committee,

My name is John Wooten. My wife, Nandanie, and I are full time farmers. We farm 16 acres which are part of the Molaa Hui Lands (MHL). The Molaa Hui Lands are home to many of the most productive farms in Kauai. The majority of these farms are "Family Farms" meaning that they are farmed by the families that own or lease them. The Majority of these farms (our own included) are dedicated to supplying the local community right here on Kauai with fresh fruit, vegetables, & other farm products. Some of our MHL farms also ship produce to Oahu.

We are desperately in need of the assistance proposed in HB 1453. We are mostly family farmers. We do not have any vast multinational / corporate resources to enact these infrastructure improvements . We are so thankful that you have stepped up to help us with HB1453.

The fact that our MHL farmers are supplying the local community with farm produce means that you will be supporting the community at large as well as the farmers. The benefit of this investment will stay right here in Hawaii, supporting the local community. The MHL family farmers are some of the hardest working, productive, resourceful, environmentally sensitive, and dedicated farmers anywhere. Your assistance as proposed in HB1453 will be the best investment possible to assure the viability of Hawaii agriculture and the survival of the "Small Family Farm" in Hawaii.

Yours Truly; John & Nandanie Wooten

Aloha Senate Committees on Agriculture/Water and Land:

My name is Judith Huber. My husband, Paul Huber and I own 37 acres in Moloaa Hui Lands. We need your assistance. We are asking you to consider the assistance proposed in HB 1453. We have over 80,000 Kauai Sugarloaf Pineapples growing on over 8 acres, approximately 5 acres of Rambutan, as well as a couple of acres of Longan and Mango. We are a profitable farm, our main product, Kauai Sugarloaf Pineapple, a product that is iconic to Hawaii is sold to local families and tourists both retail and wholesale. We have a thriving on-line business and supply our product to individual customers and wholesale clients. Currently, demand exceeds supply and as such we are expanding; we have standing orders with major hotels and restaurants in the continental United States and Hawaii.

We have been dealing with an aging, plantation era water system that is both costly to maintain and operate and is inadequate on a number of different fronts, such as cost per gallon and most importantly it is not potable water. This outdated system will not allow us to conform to the upcoming Food Safety Modernization Act and will jeopardize the expansion of farming activities in Moloaa Hui Lands. We presently purchase water in bulk from a second party, making it expensive and lacking control over the source. The assistance we are requesting will allow all the farmers in Moloaa Hui Lands to have a secure and economically viable, independent water source. Your assistance will also allow for the infrastructure necessary to install a solar powered energy source for the operation of the system, thereby reducing costs in an environmentally friendly manner.

Furthermore the post harvest food-hub, which will become a reality with your assistance, will be a vital addition to this area and will serve the farming community on the North and East sides of Kauai. This facility will allow the small farmer to comply with the upcoming Food Safety Modernization Act making compliance possible for these farmers.

We thank you in advance for you time and support with this very important matter.

Mahalo,

Paul and Judith Huber  
Hole in the Mountain Farm  
Home to Kauai Sugarloaf Pineapple  
PO Box 533  
Kilauea, Hi 96754  
(808) 639-2768  
(808) 635-0061  
jude@kauaisugarloaf.com

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/20/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
katie ranke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in support of HB 1453 which shall provide funding for a well and food hub to the 50+ farmers in the Moloa'a Hui lands in Moloa'a on the island of Kauai. These farmers are the center of sustainability here on Kauai and need help. Securing a water source is essential to the farming activities already in place in the area. Having food hub to keep the farmers within the new Food Modernization Act is also extremely important as not having a facility available to the farmers would mean going out of business for many of the farmers. Thank you for allowing the funding to be released for these very effective and beneficial reasons. These farmers are our friends and they provide us with healthy food. They make our lives better and we support them in continuing to selflessly work harder than most to provide us with healthy and sustainable local food options.

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/20/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelika Ranke	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing in support of HB 1453 which shall provide funding for a well and food hub to the 50+ farmers in the Moloa'a Hui lands in Moloa'a on the island of Kauai. These farmers are the center of sustainability here on Kauai and need help. Securing a water source is essential to the farming activities already in place in the area. Having food hub to keep the farmers within the new Food Modernization Act is also extremely important as not having a facility available to the farmers would mean going out of business for many of the farmers. Thank you for allowing the funding to be released for these very effective and beneficial reasons. Thank you, Kelika Ranke

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March 19, 2015

Hawaii State Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Hawaii State Senate Committee on Agriculture

Aloha kakou,

We are writing in support of HB 1453 for the appropriation of funds for construction of a new water well and other improvements to the irrigation infrastructure in Moloa'a, Kaua'i, Hawai'i. Our family owns 6.25 acres of orchard and diversified vegetable crops in this location and we own/manage an additional 15 acres on the North Shore of Kaua'i, including a small goat dairy.

Moloa'a Irrigation Cooperative struggles with a crippled, plantation-era water system that is costly for our Cooperative to maintain. We are constantly finding significant leaks in the system and are burdened by very costly repairs. We have no control over our water source and rely on a third party to deliver water to the 500,000 gallon tank in Moloa'a. The tank itself needs major repairs to bring our water to safe standards for farms in the Moloa'a Hui Lands to comply with the Federal Food Safety Modernization Act which begins implementation later this year. FSMA will not only affect our cooperative, but will severely impact small farms throughout the State. Providing funding to build a central post harvest, packing, and storage facility in this location is a sound investment in the future viability of food production on Kaua'i. Situated in the Hui Lands, this facility can serve farms from Hanalei to Kapahi and would help keep small farms in business.

We humbly ask for your support of HB1453 and we invite you to visit Moloa'a and meet the farmers in the Hui Lands.

Mahalo pumehana,

Bob and Louisa Wooton  
Kauai Kunana Dairy and Farm

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**Date:** Friday, March 20, 2015 8:07:54 AM

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/20/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Whatmore	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Water Well in Moloaa is a MUST for Kauai Ag sustainability .

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March 20, 2015

TESTIMONY OF JEFFREY S. LINDNER  
ON  
HB 1453, HD1 A BILL FOR AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE MOLOAA  
WELL PROJECT ON THE ISLAND OF KAUAI

Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Monday, March 23, 2015  
2:45 p.m.  
Conference Room 224

Dear Chair Ruderman, Chair Thielen, and Committee Members:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in partial support of HB 1453, HD1, related to an appropriation for the Moloaa well project on the island of Kauai. My name is Jeffrey Lindner and I am a resident of Anahola, Kauai. I apologize that I am unable to testify before you in person.

As background, I am the current holder of a month-to-month Revocable Permit No. S-7088 (Revocable Permit) issued to me by the Department of Land and Natural Resources of the State of Hawaii (DLNR) on October 1, 1996. Pursuant to the Revocable Permit, I lease certain lands in Moloaa, Kauai from the DLNR, which include an existing non-potable well site and related transmission pipelines. The lands were formerly leased by the DLNR to Amfac from 1964 to 1994 for its Lihue Plantation operations.

As part of the Revocable Permit conditions, I am required to continue the provision and delivery of non-potable water to a non-profit farmer's cooperative currently known as Moloaa Hui Lands, Inc. (Moloaa Hui) and the County of Kauai, Department of Water (DOW). To my knowledge, this supply arrangement to the farmer's cooperative has been in existence since 1975. The supply arrangement for the DOW has been in existence since 1985. The delivered bulk water to Moloaa Hui is measured at a master water meter and then piped to a 500,000 water tank which I understand the State installed. From there, I further understand Moloaa Hui then distributes the water to its members and bills them based on their respective usage. Bulk non-potable water is provided to the DOW pursuant to an existing agreement under which DOW has an allocation of up to 5,000 gallons per day. Water is measured at a second master water meter and piped to DOW's storage tank, where DOW treats the water and delivers it to its customers.

I have repaired and maintained the well and pump system, along with the main pipelines in order to fulfill my condition to provide water in bulk to Moloaa Hui and DOW. I currently bill Moloaa Hui and the DOW at the rate of \$1.60/1000 gallons. By comparison, the current DOW agricultural rates are \$2.20/1000 gallons plus a monthly fixed charge based on water meter size (if Moloaa Hui were getting water from DOW, it would also need to pay an additional \$934/mo. for its 8" water meter).

I have reviewed HB 1453, HD1 and it appears that funding is being sought to (a) obtain a new well; (b) alternative energy development to power the well; and (c) to construct a state-of-

the art post-harvest facility at Moloaa to meet the standards established by the Food Safety Modernization Act. I personally support a bill that would allow agriculture to be sustainable on agricultural lands here on Kauai. Assuming the State has the monies to fund the alternative energy cost, my recommendation would be that the water distribution system should also be extended beyond the 757 acres covered by Moloaa Hui to nearby areas such as Anahola and Moloaa. The incremental cost to extend the distribution lines to these other areas would greatly benefit agriculture here on Kauai.

From the testimony I have read on the Legislature's website, it appears that the justification for supporting HB 1453 are as follows: (a) it is difficult for farmers to rely on rainfall alone for their crops; (b) the farmer's cooperative is "struggling" to obtain adequate water from the existing well; (c) a new replacement well is needed; (d) the water rates are too expensive; (e) the water isn't potable; (f) the cooperative struggles with a "crippled, plantation-era water system that is too costly for the cooperative to maintain; and (g) they have no control over the water source.

I wanted to clarify some of the comments from the testimony that was presented at the House public hearings on this bill. First, because my Revocable Permit is only on a month-to-month basis, I am unable to commit to deliver water to Moloaa Hui for any fixed duration of time. Of course, as long as the Revocable Permit is in place, I will continue to provide water as set forth in the Revocable Permit conditions. Second, based on previous concerns expressed by Moloaa Hui, I replaced the master meter which measures the water being delivered to the Moloaa Hui water tank. I have also checked to insure the pipeline from the mater meter to the tank is not leaking. Third, if the Moloaa Hui wants potable water, I am willing to work with the Moloaa Hui on how that can be achieved.

Much of the prior testimony focused on the aging and rusting storage tank and water distribution lines feeding from the storage tank to the farmers' properties. It is my understanding that the cooperative has not made significant efforts to make the needed repairs to their distribution lines or the storage tank due to the cost and the question as to who really owns the storage tank. Additionally, some of the unaccounted for water loss can probably be attributable to the many old water meters that are connected to their distribution lines which do not properly measure, if at all, the water being utilized by a particular farmer. As a result, it is my belief that a good portion of the water delivered to the cooperative's storage tank in the past was lost due to leakage in their tank and water distribution system, or due to inoperative water meters. The problem has not been on the water production side of the system—I have provided continuous and, for the most part, uninterrupted water service for all these years. Thus, funding from this bill should be included to allow repairs to the existing tank and distribution system.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (808) 822-0033.

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ned Whitlock	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This measure, if passed, will be of great significance for the farmers and therefore the community and economy of this island. Mahalo, Marta Whitlock

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicolai Barca	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Me and my girlfriend operate a chicken hatchery in moloaa to supply the islands needs for locally produced organic backyard chickens of several breeds and are in strong support of HB1453'S proposed new water tank and food hub. We actually live right next to the old water tank and can tell you, it is in serious need of a replacement. This appropriation would be a major step intowards keeping farming viable around here.

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Kakimoto Farms  
Clayton Kakimoto  
Owen Kakimoto

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

We are writing this letter in support of HB143. We have been farming in the Moloka'a farm area since 1974. From 1974 until 2002, we have been planting and growing papayas and truck crops (melons, cucumbers, etc.).

Since 2003, we have been growing orchard trees. We have about 350 longan trees, 3 acres of bananas and 90 mango trees. Because the Moloka'a farm area is drier than most of the island of Kauai, water usage have been our biggest farm expense.

I hope the legislative members look at this bill very closely and support it. We need our water expense to decrease because as of now, the water cost is too high. Furthermore, more water for the orchard trees means more production and a larger profit margin.

Thank you very much,  
Clayton Kakimoto  
Owen Kakimoto



Aloha Hawaii State Legislature:

I own 3.3 acres in Moloaa Hui Lands and my name is Paul Rathbone. I am currently farming the following crops: banana, rambutan, asparagus, papaya and anthurium. My family and I have been farming this land for 14 years. We are asking for you to support the passage of HB 1453. We are confident the assistance provided for in HB 1453 will make it possible for myself and the other farmers in Moloaa Hui Lands to continue to farm successfully and support our families.

Our current water system is an old system whose aging infrastructure is in need of considerable maintenance, which is costly. The non-potable water we purchase is very expensive and because we purchase it from a second party we lack any real control over its acquisition. Although this water is not potable water, it is the only water any of the farmers in Moloaa Hui Lands have available to use and as such, without your assistance we will need to invest considerable funds to continue to fix the outdated and aging system currently in use.

We are asking for your assistance to ensure an essential independent water source for all of the farmers in Moloaa Hui Lands, one in which we have control. HB 1453 will provide for additional assistance, such as a solar powered energy source for the operation of the water system. We are asking you to support this environmentally sound proposal. Additionally, the post harvest food-hub is crucial, as it will allow farmers to comply with the upcoming Food Safety Modernization Act. This hub will prove indispensable for many years for not only the Moloaa Hui Lands farmers, but for all farmers on the North and East sides of Kauai.

I want to thank you in advance for your assistance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Paul Rathbone".

Paul Rathbone

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/22/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Shepard	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Farming on Kauai is very difficult in many ways - one of our biggest uncertainties and biggest expenses is water for our crops. This bill would GREATLY assist on both issues -- and provide essential fruit cleaning facilities. Kauai is the Garden Island ... but without this kind of help it wont be for long. We very much appreciate your consideration. Dick Shepard 17 acres - fruit trees

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**Date:** Friday, March 20, 2015 8:13:53 AM

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/20/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott Holthaus	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Our family is overjoyed to hear that HB 1453 stands a chance of becoming a reality. Having a source of fresh clean water is paramount to achieving our goal of producing food for Hawaii. We are so close... we have dedicated farmers... plenty of sun... rich soil... and now, a chance of available pure water.. We could be so blessed.

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**HB1453**

Submitted on: 3/21/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 23, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
son geiger	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a farmer on the North shore off Kauai and I ask you to please pass bill HB 1453.

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## HB 1453

I am testifying on behalf of HB1453. I was one of the original developers of Moloaa Irrigation Cooperative, organized to distribute water to over 60 farmers in Moloaa. Our water system, which consists of water lines that serve roughly 600 acres of farm land, was originally part of Lihue plantation (developed in the 1930's) and acquired in 1997 along with an aging water tank that holds 500,000 gallons of irrigation water. It is for irrigation only. The farmers who grow food here supply much of the fresh food at our farmers markets and restaurants on the entire Island of Kauai. In order to conform to the Food Safety Modernization Act, we will be required to upgrade out water lines and tank to accommodate their requirements of cleaner water to process our agricultural products; i.e. food. We receive our water from an unreliable source and are at the mercy of the costs of receiving that water.

We are hoping to modernize our system by installing a new well and upgrading the tank. The new infrastructure will also include plans for a photovoltaic system to help defray cost of operating the well and distributing the water to the farmers.

We are a community of farmers struggling with the high cost of water to grow crops. It is our hope that we can upgrade the system to insure a reliable irrigation system to better serve the entire island of Kauai.

Susan Liddle

JAVELLANA FARMS LLC  
6086 Koolau Rd.,  
P.O. Box 275  
Anahola, Hi 96703

February 9, 2015

STATE OF HAWAII  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVE  
415 S Beretania St.  
Honolulu, Hi 96813

Attention: HOUSE BILL 1453

Dear Mr. Representative:

Water is the life line for a farmer success, high cost of this previous waterwill make it impossible to grow the food this island need to sustain life.

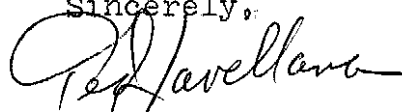
I have farm this land at Moloaa since 1974, during the startup of the papaya industry than. During its meltdown in the 80 & 90, I converted my operation to feed Kauai by supplying the vegetables at Kauai County Sunshine Market for 28 years.

My survival was made possible by having water available 24/7 throughout the farming years.

The system is old & falling apart since the last time State & County help financially to improve the water system by building the water tank and distribution system.

Moloaa Irrigation Cooperative need State & Federal help financially to lower the cost of water to the Moloaa District. To be a breadbasket for the island and the state, no help gives, no incentive to continue as a farmer to diversify Kauai's economy.

Sincerely,



Ted Javellana  
Farmer