

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
And
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, January 31, 2023
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 735
RELATING TO THE DISPOSITION OF WATER RIGHTS**

Senate Bill 735 proposes to exempt the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from existing process for the disposition of water rights. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments on this measure.**

The Department acknowledges that the water leasing process currently in statute imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. The Department supports amending Section 171-58, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to simplify the water leasing process, including providing certain exemptions from regulatory requirements for taro farmers. However, Act 27, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, was passed specifically to address that purpose, exempting the instream use of water for traditional and customary kalo cultivation practices from the water rights disposition process. The Act received broad support, including from numerous kalo farmers, as an appropriate means to resolve these issues. Therefore, the Department questions why this measure is necessary.

Moreover, the exemption in this measure is far broader than what the Department has proposed in the past. As currently drafted, this measure would allow water used ultimately for commercial purposes to avoid any oversight by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board), as well as not having to provide a reservation to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands nor collaborate with the Department to develop

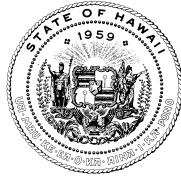
and implement a watershed management plan, both of which are requirements of the water lease process. Rather, the Department believes it is more appropriate to leave the statute as-is or more narrowly exempt commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the public auction process in Section 171-58, HRS only, and obtain a lease by direct negotiation, subject to review and approval by the Board.

Since Section 171-58, HRS was only amended last year with this new provision for kalo farmers, we would urge at least another year to work with the kalo farmers to implement the existing statute, and if necessary, return to the legislature next year to propose amendments if necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia 'āina o ka Moku 'āina 'o
Hawai'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia 'āina o ka Moku 'āina
'o Hawai'i*



IKAIKA ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN DESIGNATE, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY DESIGNATE TO THE
CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF IKAIKA ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN-DESIGNATE
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON JANUARY 31, 2023, AT 1:00PM IN CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SB735, RELATING TO THE DISPOSITION OF WATER RIGHTS

January 31, 2023

Aloha Chair Inouye, Chair Shimabukuro, and members of the Committees:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) submits comments on this measure that exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

DHHL has been working with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for the past few years on a number of efforts where DLNR is attempting to issue water license or leases under HRS 171-58. These include hydroelectric projects on Hawaii Island and Kauai, and agricultural water on Kauai, Maui and Hawaii Island. DHHL has three significant, distinct interests in all these potential leases:

1. A right to have water reserved for its future use from the source;
2. Any traditional and customary rights its beneficiaries may have; and
3. 30% of the receipts derived from water licenses.

Any exemption from the existing process for the disposition of water rights would directly impact DHHL's interests. In addition, the expansion of this exemption beyond what was enacted last year in Act 27, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022 is of concern especially since the exemption proposed is for commercial kalo cultivation. The measure enacted last year followed beneficiary consultation and was consistent with the Hawaiian Homes Commission action that did not adversely harm DHHL and beneficiaries rights.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 12:37:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leinoa	Testifying for University of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Leinoa Kong and I am in support of SB735, which exempts the in-stream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. I believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This bill will be an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We must do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is not only culturally significant and an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community but is traditionally the staple of the Hawaiian people that can help reverse so many of the health conditions that we see in our Hawaiian communities at present.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming. On Maui, majority of the water is being diverted to large agriculture companies that do not grow food that is consumed by our people. Instead they are growing foods like citrus to be exported.

SB735 is one way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food that provides nutritional value that is superior to other food crops being cultivated in Hawai'i. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian themselves alive as well as traditional and customary cultural practices.

I strongly support SB735 as it is one way to help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

Leinoa Kong



Senate Committee on Water & Land / Senate Committee Hawaiian Affairs

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: SB735

Tuesday, January 31st, 2023 1:00pm, Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Inouye / Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Elefante / Fevella and Members of the Committees,

HAPA is in support of SB735 which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

HAPA understands that the water leasing process under HRS § 171-58 imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including small family taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

We understand this bill provides much needed support for traditional practices, like kalo cultivation in Hawai'i and small family farmers. Kalo farmers provide important stewardship for our 'āina and its finite resources.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, Hawaiian kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

This important exemption would support local food production and farmers who supply kalo and poi across Hawai'i. Practitioners such as our kalo farmers uphold constitutionally protected traditional and customary rights, even in the face of immense pressure and hardships.

This measure is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

We strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Frederick". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Anne Frederick
Executive Director

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/27/2023 9:29:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Matthew and I live in Naalehu HI. Since time immemorial, native Hawaiians have been caring for their land and it is THEIR voice that should be ultimate and kapu in this matter. Honestly, no need to justify why this bill should be supported ... But have to remind you of the obvious since the colonial courts steady withhold power and agency from kanaka folks.

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:51:53 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Fitzpatrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee on Water and Land & Hawaiian Affairs Committee members,

I am John Fitzpatrick, I am a seventh grade educator born and raised on the island of Maui. I am strong support of SB 735 because it allows Kalo cultivators to use water from a stream consistent with traditional practices Native Hawaiians have used for thousands of years. Here on Maui Pioneer, HC&S and A&B diverted the waters from our Kalo farmers and disrupted their way of life. We need to do everything we can to give Hawaiians access to the water they need to cultivate their staple crops.

Mahalo,
Fitz

John Fitzpatrick

7th Grade Science Educator

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 10:59:54 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni DeFranco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the in-stream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

Keoni DeFranco, Waimanalo

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 11:04:26 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pam Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional foodways, farming, and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security, and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

Pam Murphy, Kilauea, HI

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:11:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this critically important water rights protection bill. Mahalo.

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 12:34:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JarraeTehani Manasas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers **need on every island.**

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Consitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

JarraeTehani Manasas, Kailua Kona

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 1:01:47 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandy Jansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support kalo farmers using stream water to grow kalo consistent with traditional practices.

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:39:32 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a 35 year resident of Kauai, this is an important issue to me, my family and our family farm, as well as for the food insecurity on Kauai.

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

Mary Lu Kelley

Lawai, Kauai, Hawaii

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:39:37 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 2:56:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam Peralta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the in-stream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

Sam Peralta, Wailuku

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 4:34:59 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Hubbard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

David Hubbard, Puhi, Kaua`i

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:26:09 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa DeSantis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai‘i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai‘i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai‘i’s staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

Lisa DeSantis, Waimea, Hawai‘i Island

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 6:36:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bean Yogi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Bean Yogi, and I am a descendant of three generations of Okinawan and Japanese settlers on native Hawai'ian land. The colonial government has, at the very least, the responsibility to support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/28/2023 7:43:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Barker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Senators,

I respectfully ask that you support SB735, Kalo Farming Water Access. This bill allows stream use for traditional/customary practices of Native Hawaiians in kalo cultivation.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Melissa Barker

Kapaa, HI

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:05:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rev. Samuel L Domingo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 3:13:01 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abbey Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

Abbey Holmes Kilauea Resident

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 4:28:59 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arika Hultquist	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

Arika Hultquist

Lahaina Resident

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 5:03:15 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irena Bliss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy. It is an important step to more fully living Aloha 'Āina, Mālama 'Āina and island food security and resilience.

Mahalo,

Irena Bliss, Ha'ikū Maui 96708

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 6:39:41 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must honor traditional indigenous practices

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 5:06:49 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB735, which will help assist farmers who cultivate kalo on every island.

This bill will specifically exempt instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

As you know, our State Constitution mandates protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. However, our current water leasing puts undue burdens on smaller agricultural applicants, including those who cultivate taro. SB 735 will help alleviate this for these farmers, which in turn will help insure the production a very important crop, both culturally and for future food security.

If there ever is a time where we in Hawaii need to rely on our own agricultural efforts to sustain ourselves, investing in a major staple crop such as taro will reap benefits to us as a community many times over. As it is known that taro production that is conducted in a manner reflecting traditional Hawaiian culture is sustainable, relaxing instream standards to make it easier to cultivate this very important food will not result in a water deficit. SB 735 only will cut through the red tape to make it easier for those farmers who will be already practicing good stewardship of not only water but the land and everything in it.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo for the privilege of your time and for considering my thoughts.

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 8:04:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

Shay Chan Hodges, Haiku, Maui

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 8:26:00 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Leilani DeMello	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

M. Leilani DeMello, 'Ōla'a, Puna, Hawai'i

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/29/2023 10:16:04 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB735.

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 3:06:01 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Mark Alexander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the in-stream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. I believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

Jason Mark Alexander

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 7:56:16 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danelle Guion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support and pass SB735 to level the INSURMOUNTABLE PLAYING FIELD for smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. I believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants. Ignoring this could end an era.

Thank you.

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:15:07 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Konaneakamahina de la Nux	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the in-stream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community. When we have access to traditional foods we build healthier communities and strengthen the well-being of our people and land.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

Konaneakamahina de la Nux

Nā Wai 'Ehā, Maui

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:38:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene K. Rowley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sustainable traditional farming methods should receive the highest priority for water use. I strongly support this measure

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 8:53:50 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joseph silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 10:33:38 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mina Fardeen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern, aloha,

Please support SB735, which exempts the instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

The water leasing process currently in place imposes burdensome requirements on water lease applicants, especially smaller agricultural users including taro farmers. We believe SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need on every island.

This is an important step towards supporting native traditional food ways, farming and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo which is so culturally significant and such an important part of our landscape, history, food security and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Therefore, kalo farmers should be exempt from the burdensome process of securing water leases for traditional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to keep native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices alive.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,

Mina Fardeen, San Francisco, CA

Dear members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB735.

I am a young adult living on O'ahu, raised on Big Island, and currently a student at the William S. Richardson School of Law.

Facilitating and increasing locally grown food from Hawai'i farmers is extremely important. Supporting local food, grown through cultural practices, which therein benefits local soil, is of paramount importance to our health and the health of Hawaiian culture. For the health of the 'aina and the health of the people, we must support and eat from local farms, which include kalo farms. Many people do not know how to do this. By creating more and expanding upon current local food systems we ensure the health of the people of Hawai'i and Hawaiian culture and show the global community that uplifting indigenous cultural practices provides the key to healing our local communities. Further, this will provide a great economic benefit to our local farming community, which needs and deserves this more than large-scale farms who have no sense of who we are nor why sustainably grown food matters. Small, local farmers who uphold healthy, sustainable, and culturally significant farming practices are facing an economic crisis nationwide, and need our support just as much as we need theirs.

This is of utmost importance right now, and the Committee would be taking a great step in supporting this SB735.

Mahalo,
Holly Crawford, hollyc8@hawaii.edu

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 12:15:27 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jenyse ishii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in support of:

Senate Bill 735: Exempts the in-stream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation conducted in a manner consistent with traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians from the existing process for the disposition of water rights.

Dear Sen. Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair Sen. Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee; Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair Senator Kurt Fevelia, Vice Chair and other members of the committee

Please support SB735

The current water leasing process imposes burdensome requirements on applicants and significantly smaller agricultural users, including taro farmers. SB735 provides the security of water rights that our taro farmers need in all of Hawai'i.

This act is essential to supporting native traditional foodways, farming practices, and food security for Hawai'i. We need to do everything we can to support the expansion of the cultivation of kalo, which has a culturally significant role in our history, food security, and community.

The Hawai'i State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians. Thus, kalo farmers should be exempt from the arduous process of securing water leases for conventional kalo farming.

SB735 is a great way to support a native cultural practice and Hawai'i's staple dietary food. Supporting taro farming and assisting farmers will also help to maintain native Hawaiian traditional and customary cultural practices.

I strongly support SB735 and believe it will help facilitate more local production of kalo, which in turn helps to strengthen our food security and local economy.

Mahalo,
Jenyse Ishii, HI 96720

SB-735

Submitted on: 1/30/2023 12:44:43 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/31/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pamela burrell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The Hawaii State Constitution mandates the protection of traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiians.

The water leasing process is burdensome at best. SB 735 could provide the security of water right that our taro farmers need on every island!

please support this bill in order to expand the cultivation of kalo. This is a crop long woven into our landscape, history and community.

This bill will help expand the cultivation of taro.

support SB 735

Mahalo,

pamela burrell, Kalihiwai Kauai