

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**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 COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

March 17, 2015  
2:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1332 HD 1**  
**RELATING TO IRRIGATION**

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





# **UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM**

## **Legislative Testimony**

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 2:45 pm

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### **HB 1332 HD1 – RELATING TO IRRIGATION**

Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1345 HD1, which appropriates moneys for maintenance and improvements to the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System.

Maintenance of this system and of all the irrigation systems throughout the state is essential to the livelihood of our farmers, who are clients of the extension services provided by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and to food security in Hawai'i. Many of these systems are in precarious condition, and efforts of the Department of Agriculture and water users who voluntarily contribute to their repair must be supported.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support Hawai'i's farmers for passage of HB 1332 HD1.

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**To:** [AGL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1332 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Saturday, March 14, 2015 11:54:36 AM

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**HB1332**

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments: My name is Alan Gottlieb, and I am a rancher and the Government Affairs Chairperson of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 130+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports This measure. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

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

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March 17, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1332 HD 1  
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Room 414  
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

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

**HFB is in strong support of HB 1332 HD 1**, which appropriates moneys for maintenance and improvements to the Peekauai ditch irrigation system.

The repair and maintenance of our irrigation systems is critical because our farmers and ranchers depend on these irrigation systems for their operations. Water availability is a basic necessity for farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production, particularly in times 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.

HFB would also like to offer additional irrigation systems to be added into this measure. After reaching out to our members, stakeholders, and the Department of Agriculture, a statewide list was assembled with various systems in desperate need of maintenance and repair. HB 502 and SB 584 SD 1, relating to irrigation, outlined an omnibus measure to address systems statewide. HB 502 has unfortunately died in committee and SB 584, SD1 has yet to be scheduled by the Senate money committee. HFB humbly asks this committee to review SB 584, SD 1 and add the additional irrigation systems to this current measure (see attached). Funding these statewide systems will provide needed water supplies to Hawaii's agricultural industry and directly impact the State's goals of food security and self-sufficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1332 and offer additional comments.

## Statewide Irrigation system maintenance and improvements

**TOTAL REQUEST: \$16,635,000**

**1. \$10,000 for Pee Ditch Maintenance, Kauai**

Total                \$10,000

**2. \$75,000 for East Kauai Water User's Cooperative Maintenance, Kauai**

Total                \$75,000

**3. \$8,000,000 for Galbraith Irrigation Infrastructure**

Total                \$8,000,000

**4. \$1,000,000 Lower Hamakua Ditch Watershed Project, Hawaii**

Total                \$1,000,000

**5. \$2,000,000 Upcountry Maui Watershed Project, Maui**

Total                \$2,000,000

**6. \$700,000 Waimanalo Irrigation System Improvements, Oahu**

Total                \$700,000

**7. \$1,500,000 for Exploratory well on Molokai**

Plans	\$150,000
Design	\$150,000
Construction	\$1,200,000
Total	\$1,500,000

**8. \$3,050,000 for Moloaa Well, Kauai**

Land	\$500,000
Planning	\$600,000
Design	\$200,000
Construction	\$1,750,000
Total	\$3,050,000

**9. \$300,000 for Waimea Irrigation Systems Improvements, Hawaii**

Design	\$30,000
Construction	\$270,000
Total	\$300,000

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1332 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM  
**Date:** Saturday, March 14, 2015 1:31:30 PM

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**HB1332**

Submitted on: 3/14/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

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

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

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**East Kauai  
Water Users' Cooperative**

4334 Rice Street, Suite 202  
Lihue, Kauai Hawaii 96766  
Phone: 808-246-6962  
Fax: 808-245-3277

TO: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

March 14, 2015

RE: **Testimony on HB 1332 HD1 Relating to Agriculture  
March 17, 2105, Conference Room 414**

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of Committees:

My name is Jerry Ornellas and I support HB1332. I am the president of the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative which has managed the State-owned reservoir and ditch system in the Kapaa/Kalepa area for the past 13 years.

The bill is intended to supply needed cash support to the Pe'e ditch (also called Kiki-a-ola or Menehune ditch). A legislative appropriation of \$75,000 two years ago allowed for the replacement of the pipeline which feeds the ditch (accomplish with labor and equipment donated by the Kekaha Agricultural Association).

This new upgrade will improve the feeder system to allow sufficient water flow to supply the valley's taro lo'i now in active production.

I respectfully ask that you pass this bill.

**East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative**

Jerry Ornellas, President

# Kauai County Farm Bureau

*Affiliated with Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation*

P.O. Box 3895, Lihue HI 96766-6895

808-855-5429

[admin@kauaicountyfarmbureau.org](mailto:admin@kauaicountyfarmbureau.org)

***The Voice of Kauai's Agriculture***



## TESTIMONY

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Time: 2:45pm

Place: Conference Room 414, State Capitol

March 17, 2015

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Vice Chair Senator Gil Riviere &  
Members Committee on Agriculture  
Hawaii State Senate  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Ruderman and Vice Chair Riviere and Committee Members:

**RE: HB 1332 HD1**

**Relating to Irrigation, Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System Appropriation**

Aloha! My name is Laurie Ho, President of the Kauai County Farm Bureau. The Kauai County Farm Bureau represents 250+ members. I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 1332 HD1.

As farmers, we know that reliable irrigation systems are the lifelines of our agricultural businesses. To ensure that our agricultural crops receive a steady and dependable supply of water, sufficient funding is necessary to have maintenance and improvements to these legacy irrigation systems. Peekauai ditch and this irrigation system is the lifeline for our farmers in the Waimea, Kauai area, especially our taro growers.

We kindly ask for your approval and support for HB1332 HD1.

Supporting all Farmers and all forms of Agriculture is our lifeline.

Mahalo Nui Loa for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Laurie Ho, President

"Kaua'i County Farm Bureau (KCFB) cultivates a thriving and prosperous agricultural sector, firmly rooted in the community, by working collaboratively to build long term support and providing a respected voice for Agriculture on Kauai " **adopted June 2012**





**Kalepa Coalition**

6277 Puuopai Place  
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746  
Phone/Fax: 808-822-3392

TO: COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

March 15, 2015

**RE: Testimony on HB 1332 HD1 Relating to Agriculture  
March 17, 2105, Conference Room 414**

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of Committees:

My name is Les Milnes and I support HB1332. I am the president of the Aloha. My name is Les Milnes and I support HB1332. I am the president of the Kalepa Coalition, an Hawaii agricultural cooperative of the farmers and ranchers who hold long-term licenses on 6,500 acres of State land behind > Kalepa Ridge on Kauai and under the administration of ADC.

The Pe'e ditch (also called Kiki-a-ola or Menehune ditch) services ancient taro lo'i which remain in production today.

As a rancher on the state Kalepa/Hanamaulu farm lands along with the tenants relying on the state Hanamaulu ditch system, the ranchers and farmers thereon believe it is very much in the state's interest to support the farming area serviced by the Pee Ditch system.

I respectfully request that this bill be passed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Les Milnes".

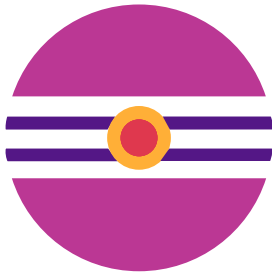
Leslie P. Milnes, President  
Kalepa Coalition

## House Bill 1332 - SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committee:

I am Mark Phillipson, Corporate Affairs Lead for Syngenta Hawaii. Syngenta Hawaii supports HB 1332 which appropriates funds to the irrigation of for maintenance and improvements to the Peekauai Ditch Irrigation System.

There are three items needed to farm: land, water, and people. Your passage and support of this bill insures the first two. Mahalo for your consideration on the measure before you today.



## **Saiva Siddhanta Church**

Kauai's Hindu Monastery  
107 Kaholalele Road  
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746-9304•USA  
Phone: (808) 822-3012

March 14, 2015

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

### **Testimony on HB 1332 HD1 Relating to Agriculture March 17, 2105, Conference Room 414**

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of Committees:

We are writing today in favor of HB1332. We are a founder member of the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative Board of Directors and understand the vital importance of these ditch systems for agriculture in each part of Kauai.

The requested appropriation for the Pe'e ditch (also called Kiki-a-ola or Menehune ditch) is needed to increase the flow of water through the system which is now possible by earlier State-funded improvements installed with considerable volunteer help.

As you know, this is a historically important ditch, one of the few examples in the state of dressed stone construction—a feat which amazed early explorers back in 1792. We believe it very much in the State's interest to keep this system working and supplying water to the taro lo'i as it has for hundreds of years.

We urge your committee to back the community's grass roots efforts to preserve and operate this system.

Saiva Siddhanta Church



Rev. Arumugam Katir  
Farm Manager

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1332 on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM\*  
**Date:** Sunday, March 15, 2015 12:56:29 PM

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**HB1332**

Submitted on: 3/15/2015

Testimony for AGL on Mar 17, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

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