

## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96843  
www.boardofwatersupply.com



February 24, 2017

KIRK CALDWELL, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair  
ADAM C. WONG, Vice Chair  
DAVID C. HULIHEE  
KAPUA SPROAT  
KAY C. MATSUI

ROSS S. SASAMURA, Ex-Officio  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI, Ex-Officio

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.  
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer *llw*

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Finance  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306  
415 Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

Subject: House Bill 632 Relating to Water Infrastructure Loans

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports House Bill 632. This measure expands the Water Infrastructure Loan Program, administered by the Department of Agriculture, to include loans made to water utilities and amends various corresponding definitions to include water tanks. House Bill 632 will provide BWS with an additional option to finance waterworks projects. The savings realized from lower interest rates will ultimately help keep water rates affordable for BWS customers.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on House Bill 632.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**FEBRUARY 24, 2017  
2:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 632  
RELATING TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE LOANS.**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 632, which broadens the Water Infrastructure Loan Program. This bill broadens the water infrastructure loan program to include water utilities. The bill amends the definition of water infrastructure charge to include on-bill charges for loan repayments and other charges that may be imposed on the water utility. The bill also amends the definition of water infrastructure equipment, water infrastructure loans and loan program to include water tanks. The Department supports this bill.

Water is a vital resource for the state, its citizens and the agricultural industry. The water infrastructure loan program will provide funding to help ensure efficient use and management of private and public water resources. Expansion of the program will allow it to assist more entities and make it more useful.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 24, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 632**  
RELATING TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE LOANS

Room 308  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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.

**Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 632**, expanding the scope of the Water Infrastructure Loan Program

HFB strongly supports a robust water infrastructure development program. Water is not only critical to the livelihood of farmers and ranchers but to the communities in which they live. This proposal expands the type of projects to include water tanks that are especially critical to storage capacity for those who live in systems dependent on surface waters or remote residential or farm systems dependent on catchment.

Additionally, the measure expands those qualifying for the loans to include water utilities. Many of our farmers and ranchers are dependent on the local utilities for service, making this a critical matter for them.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of this measure to strengthen Hawaii's water infrastructure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this important subject.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Friday, February 24, 2017 — 2:00 p.m. — Room 308

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 632, Relating to Water Infrastructure Loans**

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and reduce waste. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

**Ulupono strongly supports HB 632**, which allows loans to water utilities, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

Hawai'i's agricultural industry relies on a constant supply of water, but in times of drought, farmers and ranchers often struggle to keep their businesses alive. In recent years, the state has suffered through severe drought conditions including a two to three decade downward trend in rainfall, which heavily impacts our local agricultural communities. As droughts are increasing, it becomes more important for managers of water to have the financing ability to develop water infrastructure to protect our island's most valuable natural resource.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become more complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*