



SB2191
RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN
AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWĀ, O‘AHU

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Ki‘ina Hana a me nā Kumuwaiwai

Pepeluali 28, 2020

11:10 a.m.

Lumi 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2191**, a bill in OHA’s 2020 Legislative Package. This measure requests capital improvement project (CIP) funds to support the construction of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by OHA in Wahiawā, O‘ahu. This CIP will allow OHA to further the shared objectives of both OHA and the state in the development of these lands, by promoting diversified agriculture; enhancing our food security and climate resiliency; and protecting the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones, one of the most culturally significant sites in Hawai‘i.¹

In 2016, OHA engaged with Wahiawā community members and subject matter experts in cultural and natural resource management, agriculture, archaeology, business and marketing, education, Hawaiian culture, and other fields, in a three-year planning process to create a conceptual master plan for the 511 acres surrounding the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones. OHA received these 511 acres as part of a joint purchase agreement between OHA and various state, county, and private entities, for the acquisition of a larger, 1,732 acre tract² formerly owned by the Galbraith Estate; the agreement requires these lands to be used for cultural preservation and agricultural purposes. The conceptual master plan, which sets high-level goals for the property—including the exploration of diversified and culturally relevant agriculture, contributing to Hawai‘i’s food security, and the protection of the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones as well as adjacent watershed lands—is generally supported by the community and the OHA Board of Trustees.

With agriculture as a driving component of the conceptual master plan, access to sufficient water is crucial for the realization of its goals. To this end, OHA has secured an allocation of water from the state Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC), which would provide OHA with one million gallons of water per week from its Bott Well. OHA has also committed \$500,000 of its own funds over the current and next fiscal years for the engineering and permitting of a system to store and distribute the allocated water. The CIP request under SB2191 would be used for the construction costs of this storage and

¹ For more information on Kūkaniloko and OHA’s Wahiawā lands, see <https://www.oha.org/aina/kukaniloko/>.

² The state Agribusiness Development Corporation received the other approximately 1,200 acres of the former Galbraith Estate.

distribution system, to include two water tanks with one million gallons capacity each; the installation of necessary pumps, pipes, and fencing; and the relocation or removal of old irrigation and other infrastructure currently on the property.

The water storage and distribution system envisioned in this CIP request will enable OHA to take a critical step forward in the development of its Wahiawā property, and would continue the long history of intergovernmental collaboration that began with the 2012 purchase of the Galbraith Estate's central O'ahu lands. With the state's support, OHA strongly believes that this CIP will advance diversified agriculture, food security, and cultural preservation in central O'ahu, not only furthering our shared goals for these lands, but also providing a model for sustainable agriculture that could inform agricultural development throughout the islands.

For the reasons set forth above, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2191. Mahalo ā nui for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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LATE

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
FRIDAY, February 28, 2020
11:10 a.m.

SENATE BILL NO. 2191
RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN
AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWA, OAHU

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My name is James Nakatani, Executive Director of the Agribusiness Development Corporation ("ADC"). The ADC supports Senate Bill No. 2191, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the purpose of funding construction costs of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) in Wahiawa, Oahu surrounding the Kukaniloko Birthing Stones site.

ADC is collaborating with OHA and its project managers to support the planned agriculture development in the Kukaniloko area. Access to reliable water infrastructure is crucial to this development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and for your consideration of this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LATE



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee
on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Friday, February 28, 2020
11:10 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2191**

**RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM FOR CERTAIN
AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWA, OAHU**

Senate Bill 2191 authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds in the amount to \$3,000,000 to fund construction of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in Wahiawa, Oahu surrounding the Kukaniloko Birthing Stones site. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided its enactment does not adversely affect the priorities reflected in the Executive Budget proposal, and that it does not adversely impact the integrity and significance of the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones site.**

Senate Bill 2191 authorizes the director of finance to issue \$3,000,000 in general obligation bonds for fiscal year 2020-2021 to fund construction of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by the office of Hawaiian affairs (OHA) in Wahiawa, Oahu. The proposed project includes water storage structures, site work, security fencing, piping, distribution pumps, and stub outs to feed an irrigation system.

The Department recognizes the importance of a water storage and distribution system on OHA-owned agricultural lands in Wahiawā, O‘ahu. The proposed project will be developed surrounding the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones site. The Kukaniloko Birthing Stones site is an extremely important cultural site and historic property. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, acknowledging it as a historic place worthy of national recognition. The Department supports this measure but emphasizes that it must be designed and implemented so as to protect the physical and cultural integrity of the Kukaniloko Birthing Stones site, both during construction of the project, and during its operation.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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

The Department notes that OHA has developed a Draft Archaeological Preservation Plan (Plan) for the 5-acre Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones site, indicating both OHA's acknowledgment of the importance of this place as well as OHA's commitment to its protection. This draft Plan has not yet been reviewed or approved by the Department. The Department is confident that the Plan, once approved and implemented, will protect the Kukaniloko Birthing Stones site, and support OHA's mission of improving the condition of Native Hawaiians by facilitating the protection, interpretation, and appropriate cultural use of one of the most sacred cultural sites in the state of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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February 28, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2191
RELATING TO RELATING TO A WATER STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM
FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WAHIAWA, OAHU

Room 211
11:10 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 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.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2191, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds for the purpose of funding construction costs of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in Wahiawa, Oahu surrounding the Kukaniloko Birthing Stones site.

HFB strongly supports a robust water infrastructure development program. Water availability is a basic necessity needed by farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production, particularly in times of drought. Having 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 OHA lands are part of one of the largest prime agricultural lands left on the island of Oahu. We believe this is an opportunity to further support and expand our opportunity to provide prime agricultural lands for farmers. As the land has remained idle, it will take resources to build the necessary irrigation infrastructure to support future agricultural operations.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

SB-2191

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 1:41:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:10:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Olan Leimomi Fisher	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2191

Submitted on: 2/27/2020 3:45:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2020 11:10:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Banner Fanene	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Talofa. Please pass. Faafetai.