

TESTIMONY

GM 374

LATE

COUNTY COUNCIL
Bill "Kaipo" Asing, Chair
Jay Furfaro, Vice Chair
Tim Bynum
Dickie Chang
Daryl W. Kaneshiro
Lani T. Kawahara
Derek S. K. Kawakami



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Peter A. Nakamura, County Clerk

Telephone (808) 241-6371
Fax (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
3371 Wilcox Road, Unit 101
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

March 30, 2010

The Honorable Clayton Hee
State of Hawai'i Senator & Committee Chair
Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs (WTL)
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

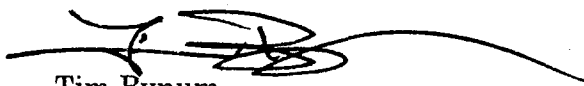
Dear Committee Chair Hee and Members of the Senate WTL Committee:

I have recently learned that Mr. Jerry Ornellas is being considered for the Kaua'i Representative to the State of Hawai'i Board of Agriculture. I have known Mr. Ornellas for many years both personally and professionally, and I have confidence that he will be an asset to the Board. He has a tremendous wealth of experience (40 years) and knowledge in agriculture, specifically in livestock production, vegetable crops, orchard crops, agricultural land and water management. He has also worked as an Agricultural Research Technician for the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources for the last twenty (20) years.

Mr. Ornellas has been a mainstay of agriculture on the island of Kaua'i and has served on several community organizations. He is an important member of our community and I trust that he will serve the State of Hawai'i well on the Board of Agriculture. I urge you to support his confirmation for this very important position.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration of this very important matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Bynum
Councilmember
Kaua'i County Council

LP



2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Neighbor Islands: 1-800-482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921; e-mail: info@hfbf.org

LATE TESTIMONY

Luella Costales

TESTIMONY

RE: GM374 REGARDING CONFIRMATION OF JERRY ORNELLAS TO BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of our farm and ranch families and organizations across the State submits testimony in **support of appointing Jerry Ornellas to the Board of Agriculture.**

Over his past 40 years in agriculture on Kauai, Jerry Ornellas has made a series of outstanding contributions to fellow farmers and to the agricultural sector.

As current Vice President of the Kauai County Farm Bureau and member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation Government Affairs Committee, Jerry has worked on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges and opportunities faced by farmers on Kauai and from across the State.

His diverse professional background in agriculture – working both as a private small farmer, and as an Agriculture Research Technician for UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, has given him a broad based experience in livestock production, vegetable crops and orchard crops.

Jerry has direct experience with water, land and infrastructure issues with the Farm Bureau and in other roles as President of the East Kauai Water User's Cooperative, a member of the Stakeholder & Technical Advisory Committee for the County of Kauai Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) Study, and Associate Director of the East Kauai Soil and Water Conservation District.

He brings to the table an understanding of some of the complexities facing agricultural production in Hawaii, critical thinking skills, and specific policy experience along with a personal dedication to preserve agricultural lands and water systems and to help farmers build a strong future for agriculture in Hawaii.

We encourage you to support the confirmation of Jerry Ornellas to the State Board of Agriculture.

LATE TESTIMONY

Diamond A Horses
Leslie P. Milnes, dba
6277 Puuopae Place
Kapa'a, HI 96746

March 30, 2010

ATTN: Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Clayton Hee (Chair), Jill Tokuda (Vice Chair) and Members of the
Committee

RE: Referring to GM 374 - Appointment to Board of Agriculture
Testimony in SUPPORT

HEARING DATE: March 31st at 3:15 P.M., Conference Room 229

I, Leslie P. Milnes, a rancher, fellow Kaua'i County Farm Bureau member and sitting board member of the East Kaua'i Water Users Cooperative humbly provide testimony **in support of appointment of Jerry L. Ornellas to the Board of Agriculture.**

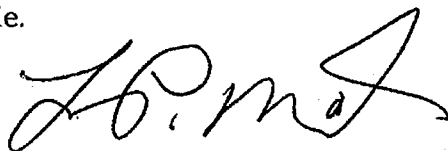
My experience with Jerry L. Ornellas, most recently, involves his serving as President of the East Kauai Water User's Cooperative, Vice President of the Kauai County Farm Bureau and as Chair of the Mayor's Agricultural Advisory Committee.

In 2001, the exodus of Lihue Plantation from sugar production, leading to the loss of oversight management of the East Kaua'i Irrigation System, a State owned water delivery system serving east Kaua'i agricultural lands from Hanamā'ulu to Kapahi, brought forth an urgent call from the Kaua'i County Farm Bureau for community members to step forth to find consensus whether to abandon or carry on this jewel of an infrastructure to agriculture.

Jerry, along with twenty of the eighty plus community members present forged ahead to form a committee, consequently the current East Kauai Water User's Cooperative. Jerry' leadership heading this committee gave fruit, after sixteen months of weekly meetings, to an application for a Revocable Permit from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Land Division, for EKWUC to take responsibility and management of the East Kaua'i water system. To date, Jerry continues in the capacity as President and continually champions the maintenance and improvement of the East Kaua'i water system.

As a Farm Bureau officer, Jerry has worked on a wide variety of policy issues concerning the needs, challenges and opportunities faced by farmers and ranchers on Kauai and I have seen him exude a personal dedication to preserve agricultural lands and water systems. He continues to look for opportunities to help and improve the situation of farmers here on Kaua'i and statewide.

Sincerely,



TESTIMONY

GM 374

LATE

(END)