HB 2177
PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VII, SECTION 12,
OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION

Testimony Presented Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 27, 2006

by

Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
Testimony for
House Bill 2177

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Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Kawakami, and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to contribute the expertise of the College of Tropical Agriculture and
Human Resources (CTAHR) to provide input to the decision-making process on House
Bill 2177, which proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the state to issue
special purpose revenue bonds and use the proceeds to assist agricultural businesses
operating on important agricultural land.

For Hawaii to be competitive globally, it must diversify its economic base. Agriculture
can be a major player in this process by developing high-value products that take
advantage of Hawaii’s brand identity. As the legislature has already demonstrated with
the passage of HB1640 which became Act 183 last session, we need to preserve and
protect important agricultural lands, become more food self-sufficient, and provide
necessary incentives for agricultural economic viability. Encouraging agricultural
development not only will pay financial dividends to the state but will pay environmental
and social dividends as well.

HB2177 would allow the use of special purpose revenue bonds by agricultural businesses
operating on important agricultural lands, and thus enhance the State’s commitment to
preserving agricultural lands and promoting agricultural industry.

For these reasons, I support HB2177. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.