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 Hawaii at Mānoa; and to food security in Hawaii. 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 Hawaii’s farmers for passage of HB 1332 HD1.