Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 2:45 pm By Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor And Maria Gallo, Dean And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## 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 <u>in support</u> 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 Hawai'i at Mānoa; and to food security in Hawai'i. 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 Hawai'i's farmers for passage of HB 1332 HD1.