



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs**

March 21, 2006

By

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House Bill 2177 – PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VII, SECTION 12, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION

Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Hooser, Chair Hanabusa, Vice Chair Hee, and Members of the Committees:

The purpose of the bill is to propose a constitutional amendment to authorize the State to issue special purpose revenue bonds and use the proceeds from the bonds 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.