



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 2179 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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 2179 HD 1

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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 2179 HD 1 that proposes to transfer management of agricultural lands, state irrigation systems, and agricultural marketing duties to the Agribusiness Development Corporation. The bill also proposes to establish an irrigation repair and maintenance special fund and tax credit.

I fully support sections 2 and 3 of the bill, and the subsequent sections of the bill that proposes amendments to the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to implement the irrigation repair and maintenance special fund and tax credit. The repair and maintenance of agricultural irrigation systems are crucial to the success of agriculture in Hawai'i, and this bill is a major step toward addressing this need.

I also support the amendments made to the other sections of the bill that heretofore proposed to move certain functions from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to the Agribusiness Development Corporation.

For these reasons, I now fully support HB2179 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.