Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

March 20, 2006 by Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

House Bill 2179, HD2 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Kokubun, Vice Chair Hooser, and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of the bill is to establish the Irrigation Repair and Maintenance Special Fund (Special Fund), to establish a tax credit for matching funds provided by landowners who receive funding from the Special Fund, and to appropriate funds for various irrigation systems and for the Special Fund.

I support HB 2179, HD2. The repair and maintenance of agricultural irrigation systems are crucial to the success of agriculture in Hawai'i. The establishment of the irrigation repair and maintenance special fund and tax credit is a major step toward addressing this need.

For these reasons, I support HB 2179, HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.