UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 1450 RELATING TO FLOOD CONTROL

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

February 15, 2005

By

Kenneth Kaneshiro
Director, Center for Conservation, Research & Training
University of Hawai‘i

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Chair Russell Kokubun and Chair Clayton Hee, and Members of their Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 1450. Senate Bill 1450 seeks $250,000 in funding for fiscal year 2005-2006 and $500,000 for fiscal year 2006-2007 for the Center for Conservation Research and Training to develop and coordinate the implementation of watershed management strategies to control flooding in two of Hawaii's most severely flood-impacted watersheds as identified by the Center.

The University's Center for Conservation Research and Training has the capacity to address the flood issues outlined in the bill and we will be able to establish a comprehensive watershed management plan that can serve as a model system for a more controlled storm water runoff at levels that can be safely carried downstream by more effective drainage systems. In the second year, we will implement such a management plan in two of the most severely flood-impacted sites in the state to demonstrate the effectiveness of the watershed management design. We will also aggressively seek federal funding support to enable the state to implement similar flood mitigation plans within other flood prone watershed sites throughout the state.

The University of Hawaii is in concurrence with the intent of the bill and strongly supports its passage on the condition that the funds requested for the project do not supplant any portion of the University's Biennium Budget.

Thank you.