



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

SB 2485 SD1
RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS

Testimony Presented Before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 27, 2006

By

Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Testimony for
Senate Bill 2485 SD 1

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Chair Taniguchi, Vice Chair Tsutsui, and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to contribute the expertise of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the University of Hawai'i to provide input to the decision-making process on Senate Bill 2485 SD 1, which allows the authorization of special purpose revenue bonds for agricultural enterprises that construct or renovate irrigation systems or infrastructure that directly benefit and serve important agricultural lands. This statement does not represent a university position.

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.

SB2485 SD1 would provide an incentive to agricultural businesses by allowing the use of special purpose revenue bonds for constructing or renovating irrigation systems or infrastructure on important agricultural lands, and would thus enhance the State's commitment to preserving these lands and promoting agricultural industry.

For these reasons, I support SB2485 SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.