# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 2:45 pm
By
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And
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And
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SB 2217 - RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2217, which appropriates funds for the operation, repair, maintenance, and improvement of the East Kauaʻi Water Users' Cooperative irrigation systems.

This irrigation system has been maintained by the volunteer efforts of the East Kauaʻi Water Users' Cooperative – farmers and clients of the extension services provided by the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa.

Maintenance of this system and of all the irrigation systems throughout the state is essential to the livelihood of our farmers, and to food security in Hawaiʻi. Many of these systems are in precarious condition, and efforts of the Department of Agriculture, the Cooperative, and other water users who voluntarily contribute to their repair must be supported.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of Kauaʻi farmers for passage of SB 2217.