

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

Board of Land and Natural Resources

26thday, April, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
Department of Land and Natural Resources Board Room
Kalanimoku Building, Room 132

Item L.1. Approval of Dole Food Company Inc.'s
Schedule for the Removal of Wahiawa Dam (OA-0017), Wahiawa, Oahu,
Tax Map Keys, (1) 7-1-012:014, (1) 7-3-013:003, (1) 7-3- 012:002, and (1) 7-3-007:001.

Chairperson Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources:

I am Blake Oshiro, Governor's Senior Advisor and provide this testimony on behalf of the Office of the Governor. We support this request. Pursuant to Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023 ("Act 218") (see Exhibit 3), funds were appropriated to upgrade the dam's spillway and authorized various state agencies to acquire the Wahiawa Irrigation System (WIS), which includes the Wahiawa Dam

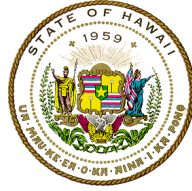
The Act specifies that::

The office of the governor shall negotiate with Wahiawa Water Company, Inc.; Dole Food Company, Inc.; Sustainable Hawaii, LLC; or any other appropriate owner for the State's fee simple acquisition of the Wahiawa irrigation system.

Act 231, Section 3(a), Session Laws of Hawaii 2023.

Our office has conducted preliminary discussions to fulfil the provisions of this law, but there remain significant and substantive steps before meaningful negotiations can proceed. As such, we understand that this request before the Board is to provide the applicant with a different time schedule with which our office hopes to concurrently also proceed with steps to advance the negotiations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



The Senate
Ka 'Aha Kenekoa

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 'I 96813

April 24, 2024

Ms. Dawn Chang, Chair
Board of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl St
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Chang,

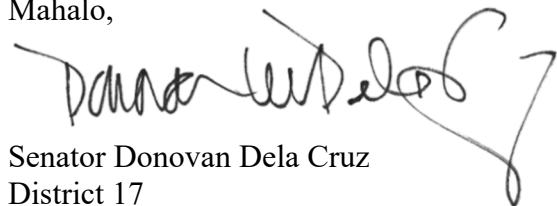
I am writing to express my **full support** for the State of Hawai'i's proposed purchase of the Wahiawā Irrigation System. This acquisition aligns with the best interests of the community and the preservations of our natural resources.

The Wahiawā Irrigation System plays a significant role in providing water for agricultural purposes on the island. State ownership would allow an implementation of a more efficient water management practices and ensure the sustainable use of this vital resource.

Hawai'i's agricultural sector is important to the states economy and cultural heritage. The irrigation system supplies the livelihood of farmers on O'ahu. I find it important that the State purchases the irrigation system to support these local farmers as well as promote the continued viability of agriculture. This acquisition will potentially provide stability and resources for farmers to thrive, contributing to food security and economic resilience.

I urge the Board of Land and Natural Resources to approve this initiative for the long-term well-being of our state and its residents.

Mahalo,



Senator Donovan Dela Cruz
District 17