



April 25, 2024

Subject: **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

Dear Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board,

Dole Food Co. Hawaii (Dole) is writing in support of our request for a new schedule based on the decommissioning of the main spillway of the Wahiawa Irrigation System (WIS).

Dole has worked cooperatively and diligently with the State for years to transition the WIS to State ownership, punctuated most recently by Dole granting the State's request to have and use all of Dole's engineering work to help facilitate the State's due diligence. Throughout this process Dole's goal has always been to protect local agriculture and see a resource that is currently being used for the public good be placed under the public's stewardship.

We appreciate that the Board has recognized that there is a tension between the Board's current remediation deadlines and the requirements of Act 218. We have followed the direction from the Executive Branch to request a new schedule based on decommissioning the WIS spillway to facilitate the Board's ability to resolve that tension and move the transfer process forward consistent with the mandates of Act 218. It is important that we complete the transfer of the WIS as soon as possible, and we believe changing the schedule based on a decommissioning is a necessary step to accomplish that goal.

As always, Dole remains willing and eager to place this important asset in the hands of the State to protect agriculture on Oahu.

Sincerely,

Daniel X. Nellis

General Manager at Dole Food Company Hawaii



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Dear Chairperson Chang and Members of the Board,

Dole plc (Dole) is writing to support the request for a new schedule regarding Dole's work on the Wahiawa Irrigation System (WIS). We appreciate the work that the Board has done to implement Act 218, and we remain willing to help transfer the WIS as soon as possible.

The matter of gifting the WIS to the State is an important matter for Dole that our Board of Directors is monitoring closely. It is important to both Dole's ongoing farming operations in Hawaii and Dole's desire to support agriculture on Oahu generally. We are grateful that the Governor is also supportive of agriculture on Oahu and that the Board is working diligently to accomplish this important project. Taking ownership of the WIS will allow the State to support agriculture on Oahu for generations to come.

While we understand that Dole was asked to request a schedule based on decommissioning, we are hopeful that Dole will not actually have to go down the decommissioning path. Rather, we remain ready and willing to work diligently to transfer the WIS to the State.

We hope that adjusting the remediation schedule will allow Act 218 to be quickly implemented, to avoid a forced decommissioning and to protect Oahu agriculture.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared Gale", is placed above the printed name.

Jared Gale
Dole plc
Chief Legal Officer & Company Secretary

From: [wahiawareg](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lake Wilson
Date: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 4:36:15 PM

I was born and raised in Wahiawa. I now live in Northern California. Lake Wilson was a big part of my growing up in Wahiawa. Many an afternoon was spent by the lake. My brother-in-law fished there for catfish many times. Its a part of Wahiawa and should be preserved and cherished as an asset. Lake Wilson is Wahiawa. To drain it and let it drie up is insane. Money is spent on crazy things that have no history. Lake Wilson is history. Please keep it full for the enjoyment of the residents of Wahiawa and all of Oahu.

Mahalo
Regina Anderson Gibson

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Z Flip5, an AT&T 5G smartphone



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April 24, 2024

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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

Aloha Chair Chang and Members of the Board:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports the approval of Dole Food Company Inc.'s Schedule for the Removal of Wahiawā Dam (OA-0017), Wahiawā, O'ahu, Tax Map Keys, (1) 7-1-012:014, (1) 7-3-013:003, (1) 7-3 012:002, and (1) 7-3-007:001.

The Wahiawā Irrigation System is critical for O'ahu farmers and ranchers who depend on it for their operations. Water availability is a basic necessity for farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production, particularly in times of drought, manifested on many islands due to a changing climate. Moreover, a reliable water supply is a key factor when Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers decide to start new or expand existing operations.

O'ahu growers, especially those in Waialua and Haleiwa, need the reliable source of water that the Wahiawā Irrigation System provides to continue to produce cabbage, bell pepper, tomato, cucumber, taro, eggplant, okra, papaya, citrus, avocado, banana, dragon fruit, watermelon, and green onion and to expand production to better serve our communities.

Pursuant to Act 218, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023, funds were appropriated to the Department of Agriculture, Agribusiness Development Corporation, and Department of Land and Natural Resources to purchase, repair, and maintain the Wahiawā Irrigation System and the associated spillway, which includes the Wahiawā Dam.

However, steps are needed before the State can acquire this essential irrigation system. A new schedule to remove the Wahiawā Dam from service is one of those steps.

We can't afford to lose this critical agricultural water source.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support.



Mission: To strengthen, support, and promote the economic vitality of our member businesses and the community of Wahiawa, while preserving its rich heritage

April 25, 2024

To:
Board of Land and Natural Resources
Chair Dawn N. S. Chang and members of the Board

From:
Duncan K. Osorio
Wahiawa Community Business Association President

Subject: 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.

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board,

On behalf of the Wahiawa Community Business Association, I wish to submit our **OPPOSITION** to the current proposal for the removal of the Wahiawa Dam. With the State's ongoing efforts to improve the Wahiawa Freshwater Park and acquire the water system as an investment into its agricultural efforts in the region, we are concerned about the impact this removal would have both on the usefulness of the lake for recreational purposes, as well as the State's long-term goals of revitalizing agriculture. We appreciate the Department's continued oversight and enforcement of safety laws and the Board's due diligence regarding the acquisition of the water system. Fully understanding the current state of the dam and water system, It is our hope that - in its evaluation - the Board will place a strong emphasis on the long-term value of the water system to the State and its agricultural initiatives.

With the opening of Leeward Community College's Wahiawa Value-Added Product Development Center and the Agribusiness Development Corporation's continued expansion in the region, now is the time to double down on the State's investment in agriculture. The acquisition of the water system would demonstrate the State's continued commitment to diversifying its economy and strengthening food security state-wide. With the State's decades-long investment in agricultural land, industry infrastructure, and educational programming, access to adequate water resources remains one of the final barriers to truly establishing diversified agriculture as a reliable component of our State's economy.



Mission: To strengthen, support, and promote the economic vitality of our member businesses and the community of Wahiawa, while preserving its rich heritage

The State simply cannot afford to let this opportunity pass by. The acquisition of this system has the potential to dramatically expand the varieties of crops that can be grown in the area, and allow the State to truly determine its own destiny moving forward.

We thank the Board for its consideration of our position on this matter, and hope that you will continue to maintain a long-term view on this issue and all other matters currently before you.

Malama Pono,

Duncan K. Osorio



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Aloha Chairperson Chang and the Members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of the above item. In the interest of time and in recognition of the full agenda before you today, we are putting our position in writing to hopefully expedite discussion and action on this item.

Honua Consulting has been working with Dole Foods Hawaii ("Dole Foods") in support of transferring the Wahiawā Irrigation System to the State of Hawai'i. I am very pleased to report that we have made substantial progress in this important effort, which will help Hawai'i continue to progress towards its food security and resiliency goals. As noted by others, this system is critical to central O'ahu and agriculture throughout Hawai'i.

In discussion with the agencies, it was determined that the action before you today is critical in allowing the agencies and state the time they needed to continue implementation of Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023.

Dole Foods has worked hard and in good faith to ensure that this system and its services are preserved. I urge you to approve the new schedule to allow our important and diligent work to continue.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony. We will be available in person at the hearing for any questions.

Me ka pono,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trisha", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Trisha Kehaulani Watson-Sproat, JD, PhD
Owner

From: [Stanley Wright](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Lake Wilson Dam
Date: Tuesday, April 23, 2024 5:20:47 PM



No ! No ! No !

Lake Wilson is the only public Freshwater Fishery on Oahu.

In the US, Peacock Bass are only found in South Florida and in Hawaii.

Lake Wilson is a “World Class Fishery”... better than many, many lakes found on the mainland.

Why not repair the dam and raise the water level up to it’s former level...

Use the water for irrigation of our growing agricultural industry.

Divide the shoreline along the North Fork of the lake into lots and build expensive “lake front homes”.

(Money from the sale of lots and homes could be used to rebuild the dam and enhance the fishing at the fishing park..)

The recreational fishing opportunities should be nurtured, expanded, and publicized.

I have been fishing Lake Wilson for over 50 years.

We have done many Let’s Go Fishing TV shows on the lake.

We have hosted TV fishing shows from the Mainland, Europe, and Asia at Lake Wilson.

I have written many stories for the Hawaii Fishing News and several national fishing publications.

Hundreds of Scouts, girls and boys, have earned their Fishing merit badge on lake

Wilson.

The HFFA built a hatchery to enhance the fishery... at no cost to the state.

I remember the year the lake was closed due to the sylvania molesta infestation...

That was a very long, sad, and trying time for all the freshwater fishermen.

And there is talk of taking away our freshwater fishing for ever?

NO!

Why in the world would anyone want to destroy Lake Wilson, a world class fishing destination.?

Thank you,

Stan Wright

stanwright50@me.com

808-352-6197

Stan Wright
BSA National Fishing Team
BSA Certified Angling Instructor -
Course Director
NST 3 - Fishing Lead

Merit Badge Counselor - Fly Fishing,
Fishing, Fish & Wildlife Management and
Photography

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CERTIFIED ANGLING INSTRUCTOR
BSA FISHING

COMPLETE ANGLER

HAVE YOUR SCOUTS EARNED THIS?

