

March 10, 2026

Subject: Testimony on Item D-6: A Approval of: Acquisition of Private Lands Associated with the Wahiawā Irrigation System as Provided for in Act 218, 2023 Session Laws of Hawaii for Addition to the Wahiawā Freshwater State Recreation Area Identified as Tax Map Keys (1) 7-3-001:003 and 019; 7-3-006:023; 7-3-007:001; 7-3-008:001; 7-3-010:003; 7-3-011:003, 006, and 007; 7-3-012: 006; 7-4-001:003; and 7-4-012:001,

Aloha Acting Chair Kanaka‘ole and Members of the Board:

My name is Duncan Osorio, and I submit this testimony as an individual resident of Wahiawā, in strong support of the acquisition of private lands associated with the Wahiawā Irrigation System under Act 218, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2023. I also serve as President of the Wahiawā Community & Business Association (WCBA) and regularly hear from residents and local businesses about the critical role of agriculture in our region.

Hawai‘i has committed to strengthening local agriculture and increasing food security. Those goals are not achievable without protecting the infrastructure that makes farming possible. The acquisition authorized under Act 218 is a necessary step to ensure this system remains available as a reliable resource for future agricultural needs.

The Wahiawā Irrigation System is expected to play a vital role in sustaining and expanding agriculture on O‘ahu. Central O‘ahu is one of the few areas with the land and infrastructure needed for significant agricultural production. Acquiring and maintaining this system will help growers expand operations, meet the growing demand for local commodities, and support the long-term growth of Hawai‘i’s agricultural sector.

From the perspective of a Wahiawā resident, failing to acquire and preserve this system would have real consequences for the future of agriculture in our community and across the state. I strongly urge the Board to approve this acquisition and safeguard the system for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,
Duncan Osorio
Wahiawā Resident



KUNIA VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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March 13, 2026

Subject: Testimony on Item D-6: A Approval of: Acquisition of Private Lands
Associated with the Wahiawā Irrigation System as Provided for in Act 218, 2023
Session Laws of Hawaii for Addition to the Wahiawā Freshwater State Recreation
Area Identified as Tax Map Keys (1) 7-3-001:003 and 019; 7-3-006:023; 7-3-
007:001; 7-3-008:001; 7-3-010:003; 7-3-011:003, 006, and 007; 7-3-012: 006; 7-
4-001:003; and 7-4-012:001,

Aloha Acting Chair Kanaka'ole and Members of the Board:

The Kunia Village Development Corporation (KVDC) is writing in strong support of the approval of the acquisition of private lands associated with the Wahiawā Irrigation System as provided for in Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023. KVDC houses many agricultural workers and knows how important water is to the future of the farms they work for.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation owns and operates the Waiahole Irrigation System for part of Central Oahu and it only makes sense that it would also own and operative the Wahiawa Irrigation system. This water source and land over which it transverses is vital and an essential component of any irrigation system to be managed properly. Acquiring the Wahiawa Irrigation system and managing it like the Waiahole Irrigation System would provide for reliable water supplies for all Central Oahu farms. With this commitment to the Wahiawa Irrigation system's water the Central Plateau and the North Shore agricultural entities can make long term farming plans.

This commitment will support the viability of a potential agricultural corridor having all the necessary needs for the industry to succeed: land, water, labor, transportation and marketing. O'ahu growers with the fate of this system secured into perpetuity will now be able to expand agricultural production and provide for some of the badly needed import replacement.

The State cannot afford to lose this critical water source if it is indeed committed to a viable agricultural sector on Oahu. Thank you for allowing KVDC to submit testimony.

Aloha

Stephanie A Whalen
President, Kunia Village Development Corporation

[EXTERNAL] Subject: Testimony on Item D-6: A Approval of: Acquisition of Private Lands Associated with the Wahiawā Irrigation System as Provided for in Act 218, 2023 Session Laws of Hawaii for Addition to the Wahiawā Freshwater State Recreation

From JBarton <jaymebee@gmail.com>

Date Tue 3/10/2026 2:24 PM

To DLNR.BLNR.Testimony <blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha Acting Chair Kanaka'ole and Members of the Board:

Two Bees Protea Farm is writing in strong support of the approval of the acquisition of private lands associated with the Wahiawā Irrigation System as provided for in Act 218, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023.

The Wahiawā Irrigation System plays a vital role in supporting the viability of agriculture on O'ahu. Farmers and ranchers depend on consistent and reliable access to water to maintain their operations, plan for future planting cycles, and remain resilient during periods of drought and changing climate conditions.

O'ahu growers, particularly those across Central Oahu, rely on the Wahiawā Irrigation System as a dependable source of water that allows them not only to sustain their farms but also to expand agricultural production. Maintaining this system will help meet the growing demand for locally produced commodities while strengthening Hawai'i's food security and supporting the long-term growth of our agricultural sector.

On a personal level, our farm would not exist without this ditch system water. The reliability and affordability of this water is crucial to our operation. We say we want to support local agriculture and farmers, and keeping these reliable sources of water intact is an absolutely vital part of that process. If the water goes, the farmers go along with it. We would not be able to grow in this area without. Please protect this vital resource for the farmers of central Oahu and the north shore.

Mahalo

Jayne Barton, Owner at Two Bees Protea Farm

Waialua 3/10/26

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Jamie (Jayme) Barton

From: Peter Savio <peters@savio.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2026 8:30 AM
To: Dan Nellis <Dan.Nellis@dole.com>
Subject: Support for state purchasing Wahiawa irrigation system

[CAUTION: This email is from an EXTERNAL source. Ensure you trust this sender before clicking on any links or attachments.]

Years ago the city changed its ag-1 zoning from one acer to 5 acres. This was done to the concern of 1 acre lot being used for states homes and not farming.

The unintended consequence is when we eliminate the small family farm who want to farm one to two acres . a farmer explained to me 2to , 5 acres is not necessarily a small farmer, it's for a business man who business is farming. he has employees, payroll, etc.

Hawaii is the state of many small family businesses. farming could be the same way. A dedicated small farmer can make a living on one or 2 acre farms.

The problem is housing. Housing should not be allowed on an agricultural lot. Housing should be in clusters or Hawaiian style plantation camps. If limited to 5000 ft. lots it does away with the mansions, the monster homes, the estates, vacation rentals, etc.

Plantation camp should be considered. Affordable Housing have resale restrictions on rental and resale both price if sold and rent if rented should be based on 100% of medium income, there should be a lifelong restriction on all our ag project resales.

we have the potential to create agricultural co-ops operating on a8,000 acer condo farm where we could have 8000 acres growing pineapple or oranges etc
The There would be a centralized management processing ,marketing. But ownership could be 8000 farmers each owning one acre their homes would be in a plantation cap.

We could solve our Affordable Housing needs create new farming opportunities, and create new agricultural industries. Best of all it would be owned locally by our people the wealth and opportunity stays with our community.

This is the New Zealand Maori example of farming amended to meet Hawaii's farming and land needs.

To accomplish this, we also need water that is why there's so important for the State Of Hawaii to buy and own the dole water system. I know you're looking at the Wahiawa system, but I encourage you to consider the whole dole system m . all the water doke controls from

Wahiawa to past Wailua.

The first step is to buy the Wahiawa system from dole

The state has an opportunity to change from a program supporting large and medium size farm to an all inclusive farm modal allowing for small family farms also. I support and encourage you to purchase the Wahiawa system as the first step to buying all of Dole's water assets .

Sincerely

Peter savio

Sent from my iPhone



HAWAII AGRICULTURE RESEARCH CENTER

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March 11, 2026

Subject: Testimony on Item D-6: A Approval of: Acquisition of Private Lands Associated with the Wahiawā Irrigation System as Provided for in Act 218, 2023 Session Laws of Hawaii for Addition to the Wahiawā Freshwater State Recreation Area Identified as Tax Map Keys (1) 7-3-001:003 and 019; 7-3-006:023; 7-3-007:001; 7-3-008:001; 7-3-010:003; 7-3-011:003, 006, and 007; 7-3-012: 006; 7-4-001:003; and 7-4-012:001,

Aloha Acting Chair Kanaka'ole and Members of the Board:

The Hawaii Agriculture Research Center is writing in strong support of the approval of the acquisition of private lands associated with the Wahiawā Irrigation System as provided for in Act 218, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2023.

HARC is the recipient of the Waiahole Ditch system and knows the value of having a sustainable water supply provided by the state with a long-term commitment.

Just as the Central O'ahu farmers have a reliable water source, so too should the farmers and ranchers of the North Shore. These are the areas on Oah'u with large land area commitments to our State's diversified agricultural industry and now need to be matched with the water commitment.

The Agribusiness Development Corporation's possession and management of the Wahiawā Irrigation System will play a vital role in water commitment, allowing agricultural entities to make long-term farming plans. The water source and land over which it transverse is vital and an essential component of any irrigation system to be managed properly.

This commitment will support the viability of a potential agricultural corridor that includes all the necessary needs for the industry to succeed: land, water, labor, transportation and marketing. O'ahu growers with the fate of this system secured into perpetuity, will now be able to expand agricultural production and provide for some of the badly needed import replacement.

We cannot afford to lose this critical water source. Thank you for allowing HARC to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Alice Tupou
Interim Executive Director