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**[EXTERNAL] Testimony: March 27, Item D-6.**

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**Date** Wed 3/25/2026 12:45 PM  
**To** DLNR.BLNR.Testimony <blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov>

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,

I strongly support the DLNR and ADC’s acquisition of the Wahiawā Irrigation System and associated parcels. Acquiring the system is necessary to support both public safety and food security, and is demanded by Act 218.

The recent flooding and evacuation of Waialua and Haleiwa show how rapidly dangerous conditions can materialize. Hawai‘i cannot—and should not—endure another tragedy due to aging infrastructure. The history of safety violations and the Legislature’s determination in Act 218 that the dam is "high risk" support immediate acquisition.

In Act 218, the Legislature also recognized that the Wahiawā Irrigation System is critical agricultural infrastructure. Food security is a pressing concern in Hawai‘i, and acquiring the system ensures that agricultural production in Central and North O‘ahu remains possible for future generations. The acquisition also supports the ADC's statutory mission to “develop and maintain agricultural support infrastructure necessary for agricultural viability” under HRS Chapter 163D.

In the interest of public safety and food security, I strongly support the DLNR and ADC’s acquisition of the Wahiawā Irrigation System.

Thank you.