



### OHA-6

Request for State CIP Funds for a Water Storage and Distribution System on the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' (OHA) Agricultural Lands in Wahiawā

**This bill appropriates \$3 million for the construction of a water storage and distribution system on agricultural lands owned by OHA in Wahiawā, O'ahu.**

#### **WHAT LAND DOES OHA OWN IN WAHIAWĀ, O'AHU?**

The Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones is one of the most sacred sites in Hawai'i. The five-acre site is the piko of O'ahu where the highest-ranking ali'i were historically born. These stones and the surrounding areas were places of learning for martial arts, astronomy, religious and other cultural practices.

In 2012, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs acquired the 511 acres of agricultural lands surrounding Kūkaniloko to protect and preserve the site by providing a buffer against development and ensuring that future uses of the area are consistent with Hawaiian cultural values.

#### **HOW WILL OHA-6 POSITVELY IMPACT THESE LANDS IN WAHIAWĀ?**

In 2016, OHA engaged with Wahiawā community members and subject matter experts in cultural and natural resource management, agriculture, archaeology, business and marketing, education, Hawaiian culture, and other fields, in a three-year planning process to create a conceptual master plan for the 511-acres surrounding the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones. The resulting conceptual master plan sets the following high-level goals for the property:

- Exploration of diversified and culturally relevant agriculture;
- Contribution to Hawai'i's food security; and
- Protection of the Kūkaniloko Birthing Stones as well as adjacent watershed lands.

**With agriculture as a driving component of the conceptual master plan, access to sufficient water is crucial for the realization of its goals.** To this end, OHA has secured an allocation of water from the state Agribusiness Development Corporation, which would provide OHA with one million gallons of water per week from its Bott Well. OHA has also committed \$500,000 of its own funds over the current and next fiscal year for the engineering and permitting of a system to store and distribute the allocated water. The CIP request under OHA-6 would be used for the construction costs of this storage and distribution system, to include two water tanks with one million gallons capacity each; the installation of necessary pumps, pipes, and fencing; and the relocation or removal of old irrigation and other infrastructure currently on the property.

The water storage and distribution system envisioned in this CIP request will enable OHA to take a critical step forward in the development of its Wahiawā property, and would continue the long history of intergovernmental collaboration that began with the purchase of the Galbraith Estate's central O'ahu lands in 2012.