

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2491

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17

, 2006

RE: S.B. No. 2479

Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, to which was referred S.B. No. 2479 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VII,
SECTION 12, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to propose an amendment to Article VII, Section 12 of the Hawaii State Constitution to authorize special purpose revenue bonds to assist agricultural businesses on important agricultural lands.

Testimony in support of the measure was submitted by the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Budget and Finance, the Dean of the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center, the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, the Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii, and Maui Land and Pineapple Company, Inc. Testimony in opposition to the measure was submitted by Earthjustice and the Sierra Club.

Your Committee finds that Hawaii's agriculture industry has the ability to be globally competitive in developing high-value products that take advantage of Hawaii's brand identity. Thus, your Committee further finds that encouraging agricultural development will pay not only financial dividends to the State, but environmental and social dividends as well. This measure makes an amendment to Article VII, Section 12 of the Hawaii State Constitution, authorizing the State to issue special purpose

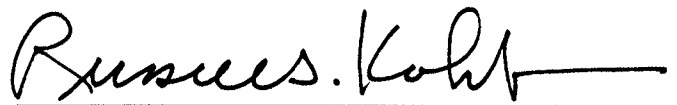


revenue bonds and use the proceeds from the bonds to assist agricultural businesses operating on important agricultural lands.

Your Committee notes testimony from Earthjustice and the Sierra Club raising important concerns regarding the need to establish instream flow standards. Your Committee agrees that these standards are very important to the State and emphasizes that this issue is currently addressed in other measures moving through the legislative process.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2479 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land, and
Agriculture,



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, Chair



