

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 06 2007

RE: S.B. No. 845

S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian
Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 845 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR
IRRIGATION SYSTEMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to ensure that irrigation
systems on the Island of Hawaii are properly maintained and remain
operational.

The measure accomplishes this purpose by:

- (1) Providing funds for improvements to both the Lower
Hamakua irrigation ditch system and the Waimea
irrigation ditch system on the island of Hawaii; and
- (2) Reimbursing the irrigation system revolving fund for the
expenses incurred as a result of the October, 2006,
earthquake.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the
Department of Agriculture, Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, Big
Island Farm Bureau, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, J & D
Farm, and the Dean of the University of Hawaii College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human Resources.

Water is essential to agricultural production. Irrigation
systems that were developed to support plantation agriculture



continue to remain vital to many of Hawaii's diversified farms. Big Island growers who use water from the Lower Hamakua irrigation ditch system and the Waimea irrigation ditch system continue to be negatively impacted by damage to those systems caused by the October, 2006, earthquake. As a result of the earthquake, the Department of Agriculture used funds from the Irrigation System Revolving Fund to pay for expenses, including the costs of hiring personnel for earthquake damage assessment, contractors, pumping, materials, supplies, and equipment.

The Lower Hamakua irrigation ditch system and the Waimea irrigation ditch system sustained damage as a result of the earthquake. Currently, the movement of water through these damaged irrigation systems is made possible by temporary repairs that must be replaced with more permanent repairs if the systems are to return to full capacity. Your Committee finds that funding for repair and maintenance of the Lower Hamakua and Waimea irrigation ditch systems will provide growers with reliable sources of irrigation water. Your Committee further finds that the Irrigation System Revolving Fund needs to be reimbursed so that funds will continue to be available for the repair and maintenance of Hawaii's irrigation systems.

Your Committee believes that this measure will support the continued expansion of diversified agriculture in the State and provide the necessary funding for the repair and maintenance of irrigation systems, which Hawaii farmers heavily rely upon for their agricultural productivity, fulfills this purpose.

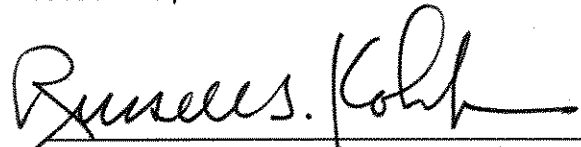
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Combining sections 2 and 3 for a combined appropriation for the repair and maintenance of both the Lower Hamakua and Waimea irrigation ditch systems on the Big Island;
- (2) Changing the blank appropriation amount for the repair and maintenance of the irrigation systems to a sum of \$3,500,000;
- (3) Changing the blank appropriation amount for deposit into the irrigation system revolving fund to a sum of \$150,000; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive changes for the purposes of clarity and consistency.



As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 845, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 845, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
WAH

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 845	Committee Referral: WAH, WAM	Date: JAN 31, 2007		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KOKUBUN, Russell S. (C)	X			
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)	X			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	X			
HEE, Clayton				X
SLOM, Sam	X			
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
Distribution:	Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes