

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 06 2007

RE: S.B. No. 848  
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. 848 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE EAST KAUAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM, "

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to address the potential crisis that is developing at the East Kauai irrigation system by appropriating funds to cover operation and maintenance expenses of the irrigation system.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Agribusiness Development Corporation; the Department of Water, County of Kauai; East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative; Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation; Kauai County Farm Bureau; Hawaii Crop Improvement Association; and Saiva Siddhanta Church.

The East Kauai irrigation system is the only system in the State that is run by the community. In 2001, Amfac Sugar Company announced that it was ceasing operations of its ditch system, which irrigated four thousand acres of land in the Kapaa area. The East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative received a revocable permit from the State to operate the East Kauai irrigation system and took over operations in 2002.

Currently, the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative faces a serious funding shortfall to cover operation and maintenance expenses. Large portions of the land served by the ditch remain



fallow or are occupied by ranchers or farmers who have only begun to develop the land. The income generated from users is insufficient to cover the normal operations and maintenance expenses of the irrigation system. Your Committee finds that appropriating funds for the operation and maintenance of the East Kauai irrigation system will allow the irrigation system to continue to provide water for agricultural producers and its other users.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adopting the suggestion made by the Agribusiness Development Corporation and adding language to clarify that the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative will receive funds for the operation and maintenance of the East Kauai irrigation system, and the amounts received will not supplant any other funds appropriated to the Cooperative; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive changes for the purposes of style 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. 848, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 848, 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.:* <i>SB 848</i>	Committee Referral: <i>WAH, WAM</i>	Date: <i>JAN. 31, 2007</i>		
<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)	<i>X</i>			
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)	<i>X</i>			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	<i>X</i>			
HEE, Clayton				<i>X</i>
SLOM, Sam	<i>X</i>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<i>4</i>			<i>1</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <span style="float:right; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;"><i>Jill</i></span>				
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\*Only one measure per Record of Votes