

GM 292



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 Fax: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2008; 2:45 P.M.
ROOM 224

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 292
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM WATER USERS ADVISORY BOARD,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, RICHARD K. WHEELER,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2012.

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Governor's Message No. 292 nominating Richard K. Wheeler to the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board. The department strongly supports his nomination.

Mr. Wheeler has spent the last 40 years working in agriculture as a primary producer. Mr. Wheeler came to Molokai in 1982 from the mid-west as a commercial beekeeper and was employed by the Molokai Honey Company to manage and operate the business which he purchased in 1989. After fifteen years of operation, he sold the business to another operator and began propagating plumeria flowers and has become one of the largest growers in the State. He is well qualified in many areas of farming and is an active water

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customer of the system. Mr. Wheeler is currently a member of the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board and Molokai Farm Bureau, and is Vice-President of the Hikiola Agricultural Cooperative. Mr. Wheeler exemplifies the belief that the agriculture industry is crucial to the well being of our state's economy and that efficient water distribution systems are a critical function of this industry. He has consistently attended Board meetings and participated in important discussions on Board matters. We respectfully ask for your support for the nomination of Mr. Richard Wheeler.

Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board

Adolph Helm, Chairman
PO Box 391
Hoolehua, Hi 96729
Phone: 808 - 567-6580

TESTIMONY OF ADOLPH HELM
CHAIRPERSON, MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM WATER USERS
ADVISORY BOARD BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

APRIL 1, 2008, 2:45 P.M.

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

My name is Adolph Helm. I am a Molokai resident and Chairman of the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Governor's Message No. 292 nominating Richard K. Wheeler to the Moloka'i Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board. I strongly support his nomination.

Mr. Wheeler has been a resident of Molokai for close 30 to years. He has worked in agriculture on Molokai since he first arrived in 1982. He started off as a commercial bee keeper and eventually becoming one of the largest plumeria flower producers in the state. Mr. Wheeler is currently an advisory board member representing Hikiola Coop. He is an active and engage member of the farming community and understands the critical need to sustain and improve the Molokai Irrigation System for agriculture to grow on Molokai. I highly support his desire to serve another term.