



## KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

February 6, 2008

The Honorable Ken Ito Chair and Members  
Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources and Hawaiian Affairs  
The House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 312  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2008  
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312

Dear Chair Ito and Members:

### **Testimony in Support of House Bill No 2738 Relating to Irrigation with Suggested Changes**

I am Kapu C. Smith, Senior Land Asset Manager for Kamehameha Schools' Kawailoa Plantation in Waialua, Oahu. I am here to testify in support of HB2738 because it seeks to exempt agricultural irrigation systems with no domestic users from the purview of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). To make this clearer we would suggest removing non potable and private from section (J) on page 4. As such, the exemption would apply to any person who controls, operates, or manages irrigation facilities for conveying, distributing, and transmitting water for nondomestic use.

This bill recognizes that continued operation and maintenance of irrigation systems, dams and reservoirs that deliver water for agricultural use are essential to "important agricultural land" (IAL). In fact, you can't have one without the other. As such, landowners statewide need to be provided incentives which encourage the retention and expansion of these systems. HB2738 does that by eliminating another cost to ownership and in turn reducing the cost of irrigation water to the farmer.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803  
808.537.9019 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, OCEAN RESOURCES & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 8:30 A.M.

**(Testimony is 1 page long)**

### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2738

Chair Ito and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, opposes HB 2738, exempting non-potable irrigation facilities from Public Utilities Commission (PUC) purview. We believe this measure will decrease public oversight and deliberative decision making in regards to diverted stream water. On Maui in particular, commercial operations are interested in increasing their control over public water assets. Some would like to "bank" the water—water that could be later used for landscaping—to increase the value of their assets. House Bill 2738 facilitates that control by reducing public oversight by the PUC.

We urge this committee to hold this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.