

**testimony**

---

**From:** Faith Tuipulotu [auli@hawaii.edu]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 12, 2008 5:59 AM  
**To:** ldrd@wave,hicv.net  
**Cc:** testimony  
**Subject:** 2/12/08@2:45p.m. Committee is AHW/WTL in conference room 224

**LATE**

**Importance:** High

SB 2247

To whom it may concern,  
> This testimony is in regards to:  
> February 12, 2008 @ 2:45 p.m.  
> AHW/WTL (committee) in conference room 224.  
>  
> My name is Faith Tuipulotu and I am a homesteader and a farmer.  
>  
> As a teenager my parents moved our family home to Molokai in the  
> early 70's. My mother is from Molokai, Kina ohana and my family name  
> is Kuoha. My father was a prime example of an entrepreneur. He  
> started with a Lunch wagon, to catering, then a couple of restaurants,  
> and finally farming. We learned alot from each of his ventures and  
> farming is the one that "stuck" in our lives. To support our family we  
> grew taro, sweet potatoes, and a variety of fruit and vegetables .  
>  
> And now, as the mother of 3 sons, my husband and I moved home to  
> Molokai in 1998. Since then we have been farming a variety of fruits  
> and vegetables trying to find our niche in the market world. We have  
> been growing Tongan yams for the last 7 years and is diversifying our  
> farm by growing organic papayas. I hope to instill values to my  
> children about the importance of our water and land because, without  
> it we have no "farming".  
>  
> I am in support of the 2 bills. I would like to see a 2/3  
> representation of homesteaders on the board.  
>  
> Thank you, Faith Tuipulotu

**LATE**

GEORGE MOKUAU FARMS  
P.O BOX 185 HOOLEHUA, HI 96729 PH: 808-567-6077

Senate Committee Water and Hawaiian Affairs  
Testimony in Support of SB 3224 and SB 2247  
Relating to Molokai Irrigation System

Dear Senators,

My name is George Mokuau and I am a Homestead Farmer. I have been farming for over 30 years. I farm sweetpotatoes on Molokai, I am in support of SB 3224 and SB 2247. Throughout my years of farming I have witnessed many changes not for the good of the system or its users. I am convinced that the mismanagement of DOA is solely their fault. Without the constant complaining of many of us and asking for legislative assistance I do not believe that DOA would be conducting an audit. For those reasons alone I feel the need to support these bills in the best interest of the farming community. I am not one to come forward and say much but just neglecting a state of the art facility is heart wrenching to me. Our communication with the DOA as well as the advisory board has fallen on deaf ears. I believe its time for a change.

I also believe that the MIS advisory board needs to consist of 2/3 homestead farmers for the sole reason of their 2/3 water rights. My explanation to that is if you were to own 40% shares in any company shouldn't it be that you also own 40% of the voting rights. Those rights belong to homestead farmers and it should be that way. I ask for your support on these bills of SB 3224 and SB 2247.

Mahalo,

  
George Mokuau, Homestead Farmer

**LATE**

Senate Committee Water and Hawaiian Affairs  
Testimony in Support  
Of  
SB 3224 & SB 2247

February, 11, 2008

Aloha Senators,

My name is Lynn DeCoite and I am a third generation homestead farmer and the President of the Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance. I have over 20 plus years of farming experience all of which have been on Molokai and all of it with sweet potatoes. I come before you today asking for your support of SB 3224 and SB 2247. I have witnessed many problems with the MIS. I find it very hard to operate a business on Molokai when we live day to day wondering who will make decisions for us. We subsidize other systems when there ends don't meet, yet we don't get subsidize on Molokai when electric is highest in the nation and our freight liner is controlled as a monopoly. These are challenges that we are faced with, the arrow needs to go both ways all we ask for is fairness and honesty when it comes to making decisions for our users on Molokai.

I remember several years ago when we had to cut back on water as homestead farmers not using all of our two thirds water allotment, we were denied by DOA of those rights. As a result, we lost our crops. We want to be reassured of these rights, which is why today I ask that this water user board be made up of 2/3 Hawaiian homestead farmers. In the corporate world as we live in today any company that owns 60% shares of a company would demand 60% voting rights, we are asking the same. As homestead farmers, we believe we do need the non homestead farmers on this MIS system and have no problem working with them to continue to use this system for their farming needs. Because DOA has demonstrated that they cannot properly manage the system, their mismanagement of the system has caused it to fall into disrepair. DOA opposition of the audit also raises concern, why would they not want to know where this system stands. Only because of constantly lobbying for help from legislature is why the audit is taking place and changes are being made.

It's a hardship for me being here as a small farmer when I should be operating my farm. I don't believe the advisory board today can make the decisions that needs to be made these should be made by that of users of the board not people that work for users of this board. I support this bill with the change of 2/3's of the water users board made up of homestead farmers. I thank you for your time and patience and allowing me to give testimony.

Mahalo  
Lynn DeCoite

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY of  
AHUPUA`A O MOLOKA`I  
THE SOVEREIGN COUNCIL OF HAWAIIAN HOMELANDS ASSEMBLY  
HO`OLEHUA HOMESTEAD AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATION**

**THE SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**SB2247 and SB3224 – Relating to the Moloka`i Irrigation System  
2:45 p.m. Tuesday, February 12, 2008**

The island of Moloka`i was the initial homestead pilot program for the Hawaiian Home Commission of 1920. Our ancestors pioneered the arid land of Molokai, they sacrificed, and they endured hardships for the expansion of Hawaiian Homelands program. Since 1923, the lack of water was critical, the homesteaders prayed for water. In the 1960's the Molokai Irrigation System (MIS) was built with the primary intent to irrigate the agriculture lands in Ho`olehua. It is now 2008, and the waters transmitted through the MIS are still a serious concern to the Ho`olehua homestead farmer. The mandate to secure the 2/3 native water rights §167-C, and the maintenance to operate the MIS has been neglected for years. Originally, the DHHL was to manage the MIS, they surrendered their responsibility to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and then to the Department of Agriculture (DoA), of which both agencies have mismanaged the MIS.

The homestead farmers expect the DoA to do a better job in managing the MIS, if this is not possible, allow the Moloka`i irrigation system water users board the opportunity to operate their agriculture water system.

**I support the proposed SB3224, the Moloka`i Irrigation System Water Users Board.**

**I support the proposed SB2247, the Moloka`i Irrigation System Maintenance; Appropriation (\$)**

Humbly submitted by Kammy Purdy  
President of the Ahupua`a o Moloka`i (represents 5 Moloka`i homestead associations)  
Executive Secretary and Mokupuni President for the SCHHA  
Treasurer of the Ho`olehua Homestead Agriculture Assn.