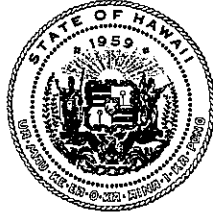


SB 2486

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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAIHIOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

ON

Senate Bill 2486– RELATING TO WATER

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
WATER AND LAND
AND
AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

February 12, 2008

Senate Bill 2486 proposes to allow the Special Land Development Fund (SLDF) to be used for the protection, planning, management, and regulation of water and irrigation systems by amending Section 171-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposed this measure as being unnecessary.

Under the State Water Code, Chapter 174C, HRS, and Section 171-19, HRS, the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) has existing authority to achieve its goals and objectives, including the appropriate use the SLDF for the statewide protection, planning, management, and regulation of water resources – which include water and irrigation systems.

An example of using the SLDF for water and irrigation systems is the Commission's current project to review the water use permits issued by the Commission. Using the SLDF, the Commission hired consultants to conduct a comprehensive study of all water use permits issued to determine the degree of compliance with permits conditions. This review includes many public and private water and irrigation systems.

Moreover, the primary responsibility and authority for irrigation systems that are mainly used for agricultural purposes rests with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC). The DOA and ADC already have the following revolving and special funds to service irrigation systems for agricultural and, as may be needed, domestic purposes: Irrigation System Revolving Fund (Section 167-22, HRS); Irrigation Water Development Special Fund (Section 167-22.5, HRS); and Irrigation Repair and Maintenance Special Fund (Section 167-24, HRS).