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Testimony of Micah A. Kane, Chairman  
On S.B. 2643  
Relating to Irrigation  
Before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water, Land, Ocean Resources and Hawaiian  
Affairs

February 5, 2008

Co-Chair's Tsuji and Ito, and Members of the Joint Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2643 relating to Irrigation. The purpose of this bill is to authorize general obligation bond funds for the repair and maintenance of certain irrigation systems, and for additional personnel to improve irrigation system management.

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports the intent of this bill provided it does not conflict with the Administration's priorities as reflected in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

DHHL has homestead farmers on Molokai and in West Hawaii who depend on water from the State's irrigation systems to support their farming operations. These farmers would benefit from improvements in the operations and management of these systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.