

TESTIMONY
GM532

Aloha Chairman Hee and the senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture, thank you for allowing me this opportunity to give background about myself for consideration of my confirmation to the Molokai Irrigation System Advisory Board.

I was born on Oahu and moved to Molokai at the age of four, I am a third generation Homestead Farmer. I grew up on Molokai with my parents and grandparents raising Molokai Sweet Potato. I attended and graduated from Molokai High & Intermediate School home of the Farmers.

During the course of my 20 years in private business of farming, ranching and wholesale distribution, I believe I am a successful business person. These businesses leave very little room for mistakes.

In 2007, I won the Mayors young business person of the year. I am a Director of Hikiola Cooperative which sells agriculture products, the President of the Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance, the Vice President of Maui Farm Service Agency, and the Vice President of Lokahi Pacific and have recently just finished my term on the Molokai Planning Commission.

A position on Molokai Irrigation System Advisory Board would be an honor, and would give me the opportunity to work with DOA and the users of MIS to hopefully overcome many of the challenges that lie ahead of us. I believe first and foremost, the greatest challenge is to have ample amount of water delivered to all its system users at affordable costs. I support all farming and agriculture on the island of Molokai and believe that great things can happen when we all work together collaboratively.

I look forward and welcome the challenges ahead. My personality, background and experience give me the tools to succeed. I ask for your support to my nomination to the Molokai Irrigation System Advisory Board.

Mahalo,
Lynn DeCoite

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2009
2:45 P.M.
ROOM 229**

**GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 532
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO
THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM WATER USERS ADVISORY BOARD,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, LYNN P. DeCOITE,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 6-30-2012**

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment in support of Governor's Message No. 532 nominating Lynn P. DeCoite to the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board.

Ms. Decoite is the nominee of the Hikiola Cooperative and has been an irrigation water customer of the Molokai Irrigation System for more than 10 years. She owns and operates L & R Farm Enterprises, LLC with her husband, Russell and is a third generation sweet potato farmer and the President of the Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance.

The Hikiola Cooperative is one of six designees that make up the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board whose duties and responsibilities is to advise the department on matters of concern to the users of the system, to provide support for improvements to the irrigation facilities, to participate in the long-range planning of the system, and to act as a liaison between the users and the department.

The department acknowledges and appreciates the previous representatives of Hikiola who have volunteered their time, expertise and passion for the betterment of the Molokai Irrigation System. We look forward to Mrs. DeCoite continuing Hikiola's tradition of providing the board with dedicated and objective representatives.



PO BOX 515, KAUNAKAKAI, HAWAII 96748
Telephone: (808) 553-4482 Facsimile: (808) 553-3883
Email: molokaichamber@hawaiiintel.biz Web Address: molokaichamber.org

March 30, 2009

To: Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

RE: Letter of Support for Lynn DeCoite's Appointment to GM-532 MIS Advisory Board

I am honored to write a letter of support on behalf of Lynn DeCoite for her confirmation to the Molokai Irrigation System Users Advisory Board.

I have known Lynn as a business associate and as a community leader since 1997. During this period of time, I have come to know her as a person who is an ardent supporter of programs that facilitates economic recovery for our island. As a small business owner, Lynn understands first hand on running a business, its challenges and key ingredients to building a successful business.

As president of the Molokai Chamber of Commerce, I have come to rely heavily on Lynn to represent us in the various projects which utilizes her expertise, her unlimited energy and her keen sense of business administration. I trust Lynn's good judgment in decision making for these projects that fulfill our Chamber's mission and goals. I have much respect for Lynn's sincere care and work to ensure that our efforts are foremost to benefit our youth and the general community.

One of our projects is planning and executing the annual Youth Entrepreneur Golf Tournament. Proceeds from this tournament provide seed money to Molokai High School (MHS) business entrepreneurs. Lynn has chaired this golf tournament since 2005. Lynn consistently does a tremendous job to attract corporate sponsors and local businesses to participate in the tournament, which also provides a venue for Molokai High School (MHS) entrepreneurs to network with business people. At the tournament, the MHS youth entrepreneurs take the lead role in registration, work refreshment stations and during the awards luncheon showcase their business products or services. What better way to introduce and inspire youth entrepreneurs, than by having a venue like this to provide lots of opportunities to both groups?

The annual tournament is such a huge success that we have a list of neighbor island businesses and locals requesting to secure spots on the upcoming tournament event.

One of Lynn's greatest accomplishment was in December 2008, when she volunteered to spearhead and chair Molokai's Christmas Electric Light Parade. It was the first time for Lynn to undertake a major event to bring the community together during economic hardships with the Ranch's job loss and other issues.

March 30, 2009

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Lynn not only accomplished this project's success with determination, hard work and lots of volunteers support, but more importantly, she earned the community's respect as well. It was noted by many as the "most successful" parade in Molokai's history.

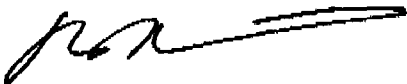
We all know the importance of promoting and enhancing the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in our school systems. In February 2007 with collaboration and funding support from the Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB), Lynn played a major role in bringing MEDB's Women in Technology STEM program, known as Environmental and Spatial Technology (EAST) to Molokai Middle School (MMS). She facilitated the introduction of Project EAST to members of the MMS's School Community Council and in August 2007 it was implemented at that school.

After its first year at MMS, the EAST students won a national award which they received at the annual EAST conference in Arkansas. This was a huge accomplishment with a great deal of notice, since MMS was the first middle school in the state to implement this high tech program. And it is with a great deal of pride that we can say Molokai students are able to compete not only nationally but also have the capacity to compete globally.

I can't say enough of how Lynn has made a huge difference in our community's success. To put it plainly, Lynn is a great person to have on your team. No matter what the challenge is, you can count on Lynn to make key contributions to ensure a successful outcome.

Thank you for allowing me to provide a short glimpse of Lynn DeCoite's accomplishments and why I believe she will bring tremendous value to the MIS advisory board.

Sincerely,



Barbara Haliniak
President

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
United States Department of Agriculture Cooperating

March 31, 2009

TO: Senator Clayton Hee, Chairperson,
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Alton S. Arakaki, County Extension Agent

Hearing Date: Saturday, April 4, 2009

Position: GM 532: In support of the confirmation of Lynn DeCoite to the MIS Users
Advisory Board

I have served as the Extension Agent for the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Cooperative Extension Service on Moloka'i for the past 27 years. My primary function is to provide and conduct educational activities for the island's farmers and agricultural community that will contribute to their competitiveness in our global agricultural economy.

I am in support GM532, submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, Lynn P. DeCoite, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

Lynn P. DeCoite comes from a long line of Mokuau family that has farmed their Hawaiian Homestead agriculture lease land in Hoolehua, Moloka'i. The Mokuau farms have provided consumers in the State with sweet potato for many years. During my tenure on Moloka'i, I've had the privilege of serving as the Extension Agent for 3 generations of Mokuau sweet potato farm families. They were grand parents, Heine and Becky Mokuau; parents George and Linda; and now Lynn and Russell DeCoite. Each of the generation was full-time farmers that depended solely on their success as sweet potato farmers for their family's economic security and social stability. I was introduced to Lynn when she was barely a teenager picking up sweet potatoes in buckets with the workers they hired and driving a large farm tractor with a load of sweet potato to their washing and packing shed. Lynn P. DeCoite is one of the few young third generation farmers in the State that have chosen the career path of their parents and grandparents. Today Lynn has her own farming business that produces sweet potato on over 100 acres of Hawaiian Homestead land. In addition she has established a "value-added" sweet potato chipping business that utilizes sweet potato from their farm.

Lynn DeCoite will bring to the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board a wealth of agriculture knowledge and experience that spends 3 generations of full-time farm families on Moloka'i. Today her farm is the largest consumer of irrigation water from the MIS of all Hawaiian Homestead farms. As such she will bring a clear understanding of the importance of MIS and the role it plays towards sustaining farms and the agriculture economy on island. She will bring skills and management capacity that she acquired from farming successes of her past generations and from developing her own successful farm business. Lynn will be a valuable asset to the MIS Users Advisory Board, and will represent the best interest of the agriculture community on Moloka'i.

From: James Robello [robelloj@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2009 9:12 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: GM 532

Bill No. : GM 532
Committee: WTL
Date: 4/3/09
Time: 2:45 PM

Dear Chairperson Hee,

I support Lynn DeCoite's nomination to the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board. Lynn's practical experience in agriculture, knowledge of the Molokai water issues and her ability to deal easily with a variety of people will make her a strong candidate for the board.

Lynn owns and operates a family farm on Molokai. She has been farming sweet potatoes and raising cattle for many years. She also dedicates her time to numerous community boards and will give a fair hearing to all parties. She is also capable of establishing trust and cooperation with the people she represents.

James Robello



Hikiola Cooperative

P. O. Box 544 Hoolehua, HI 96729 * ph: (808) 567-6774 * fax: (808) 567-6660 * email: hikiola@aloha.net

April 1, 2009

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs (WTL)
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: GM 532
Confirmation of Hikiola Cooperative's Nominee to the
Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board

Senator Hee:

For your consideration, Lynn Decoite has been selected as our nominee to represent Hikiola Cooperative on the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board as recorded in the minutes of our board meeting of 3/12/2009.

The confirmation of the nomination will fill the seat currently held by Richard Wheeler upon the expiration of his term on July 22, 2009.

Lynn currently is a volunteer director on the Hikiola Board of Directors and has served in this capacity for four years. She has established herself as a successful farmer and is an active member of the cooperative and of the Moloka'i community.

Sincerely yours,

George Maioho, President
Hikiola Board of Directors

William G. Jacintho
Maui Cattlemen's Association
P.O. Box 473
Kula, Maui, Hi. 96790

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, April 3, 2009
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

GM 532

Testimony

Status

Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee, LYNN P. DECOITE, for a term to expire 6-30-2012.

Dear Chair Person Hee,

Please support Lynn P. DeCoite, for consideration and confirmation to the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board, Gubernatorial Nominee for a term to expire 6-30-2013. Lynn is a very knowledgeable person with many years of experience as a Potato farmer and a rancher. She has a lot of experience working with the people of Molokai, and is committed to community needs.

Sincerely,
William G. Jacintho
Maui Cattlemen's Association President

Glenn I. Teves
P.O. Box 261
Kualapu'u, Molokai, HI 96757

April 2, 2009

Testimony in SUPPORT of
Lynn DeCoite
as a member of the Molokai Irrigation Users Advisory

My name is Glenn Ioane Teves, a Hoolehua homestead banana and taro farmer, and I'm writing in support of Lynn DeCoite as a member of the Molokai Irrigation System Users Advisory. She is a third-generation Hawaiian Homestead sweetpotato farmer, and I have known her most of her life. I have worked with her grandmother and father, who were also sweetpotato growers and who started the industry on Molokai. Lynn is active in the Molokai community, not only in agriculture, but also in public school governance and community organizations. She's an active member of the Chamber of Commerce, and also president of the Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance. She serves the farming community as a board member of the Hikiola Cooperative, the farmers supply cooperative. I believe Lynn will serve the Molokai Irrigation System Users Advisory well and will be the sole female member. She will fill the Hikiola Cooperative seat. This organization was started by homesteaders, and her uncle, Hienie Mokuau, was a key member who helped build this cooperative to what it is today, and actually allowed the cooperative to operate out of his barn until they could finish the construction of their warehouse. Since the native Hawaiian farming is underserved on this advisory, she will bring an important voice to the deliberations of this advisory. As a Hawaiian Homestead farmer, I wholeheartedly support Lynn and I know she will do the right thing. There's a big problem of lack of trust between DOA and the homestead farming community, and I believe that Lynn can help to bridge that gap. Mahalo.

From: Viola [tippy@sandwichisles.net]
Sent: Thursday, April 02, 2009 5:29 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: 'Lynn DeCoite'
Subject: *****SPAM***** GM 532 TESTIMONY

THE SENATE

THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, April 3, 2009
TIME: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

DATE: April 2, 2009

FROM: MOLOKAI HOMESTEAD FARMERS ALLIANCE

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY FOR CONFIRMATION OF LYNN DECOITE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF HIKIOLA FOR THE MIS BOARD

It is with great pride that I introduce my friend and associate, Lynn DeCoite, to you. I have known Lynn for ten years and during that time I have experienced her ability as a friend, wife, Mom, daughter, sister, community advocate, business woman, farmer, rancher, and volunteer. It is quite amazing that one woman can be adamantly involved in every aspect of her life, giving each commitment 100% of her energies.

I have been fortunate to see this woman in action both on the home front and in her family's personal businesses. Her children, husband and other family members know that they are first priority and by Lynn including them in each one of their business ventures, add to their commitment as a family unit. This involvement instills a natural environment of "learn by doing" giving each person responsibility and credit for the success of their business.

As a third generation farmer, Lynn has encountered the ups and downs of family farming in good times and in economically challenged times. Her astute knowledge of "bring the product to market" is an accomplishment few have managed to attain. All aspect of farming, especially utilizing water, is a subject she is well seasoned to discuss. The commitment she has made in serving the farming community by her involvement in difference organizations - board member and officer of Hikiola, Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance, Mokopuni O

Molokai, is commendable. The farming community is not the only ones benefitting from Lynn's abilities but many others – the school system as a volunteer; the business community - serving on the board of Molokai Chamber Foundation and Planning Commission; charity organizations and church committees.

Tireless, efficient, motivated, organized, committed and energetic are just a few adjectives that describe Lynn; a definite team leader who checks out her source and subject before making a judgment call or an evaluation. Once she commits, hold on to your seat as movement and decision will be made. She is definitely an entrepreneur that our community is very proud to call Moloka'i owns. The Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance is fortunate to have an advocate in Lynn.

This community is very pleased that Lynn has taken another step for Moloka'i and has agreed to serve on the board of the MIS.

Submitted by her friend, committee member, board member and fellow farmer,

Viola K. Mundrick-Wichman
Molokai Homestead Farmers Alliance

TESTIMONY
GM532
(END)