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# LATE TESTIMONY

COMMENTS PROVIDED BY KAULANA H. R. PARK, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
ON **SB 633 SD1 HD1, RELATING TO WATER**

March 17, 2010

Chair Carroll, Vice-Chair Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaiian Homes Commission and Department of Hawaiian Home Lands submit the following comments for your consideration of this legislation that proposes to change the composition of the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board.

DHHL supports the purpose and intent of SB 633. Considering the large portion of system users that are DHHL beneficiaries, it is reasonable to include two additional members to the advisory board who represent our Molokai farmers (a kupuna homestead farmer and our Molokai District Office supervisor). While we support this bill's purpose, we also strongly recommend sufficient discussion and consultation with the primary responsible parties.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

# LATE TESTIMONY

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TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 633, SD1, HD1(HSCR1269) RELATING TO WATER

Aloha Chairperson Carroll and members of the Hawaiian Affairs Committee. My name is Glenn Ioane Teves, and I'm writing as a Hoolehua Hawaiian Homes farmer. I have been farming in Hoolehua for 20 years with my wife Jane, who's a 4<sup>th</sup> generation Hoolehua homestead farmer.

Although I support the intent of this bill to increase representation by homesteaders, I question this approach that leaves it open to only older homestead farmers. We have only 1 or 2 farmers older than 65 years of age. Furthermore, the term 'kupuna' is nebulous. What are the criteria for a kupuna? I think it would be better just to have another homestead farmer seat, and this person could be recommended by DHHL or the homesteaders associations. This individual would need to be actively farming his or her homestead, and not employed by the corn company, which is what occurred in the past.

We still face many challenges with the management of the Molokai Irrigation System (MIS), and this main issue is DOA's lack of understanding as it relates to the purpose and intent of the Hawaiian Homes Act and also the MIS. DOA has attempted to superimpose their administrative rules on the MIS when the Hawaiian Homes Act trumps any of their rules. Examples include only allowing homestead lots larger than 2 acres from gaining access to this water, when the Act states that all homesteaders have access to this water. Another DOA condition is that the minimum meter size should be 2". Again, their administrative rules run contrary to the Hawaiian Homes Act.

The Legislature's long term goal in providing oversight of the MIS is that it be returned to the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, then to a community-based entity comprised of users with 2/3's of the governing entity composed of

homesteaders. This starts with a move toward having the membership of the MIS Users Advisory be composed of 2/3's homestead farmers representing homesteaders. DOA has continued to put a spin on this fact by stating that the MIS advisory already has 2/3's homesteaders, but has failed to state that they represent non-homestead based entities such as the Soil and Water Conservation District, Farm Bureau, and other organizations. The only time the homesteaders can sleep at night is when they control their destiny and this means having control over the Molokai Irrigation System. Mahalo for this opportunity to respond.

**Rep. Maile Shimabukuro**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 17, 2010 8:49 AM  
**To:** HAWtestimony  
**Cc:** annie@schha.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB633 on 3/17/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for HAW 3/17/2010 10:00:00 AM SB633

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**LATE TESTIMONY**

Comments: