

**HB 1483 HD 1**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



ALBERT "ALAPAKI" NAHALE-A  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

ROBERT J. HALL  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

P.O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF ALAPAKI NAHALE-A, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS & AGRICULTURE  
IN SUPPORT OF

HB 1483 HD 1, RELATING TO THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM

March 21, 2011

Aloha Chair Galuteria, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands supports the purpose and intent of this bill to carry out the objectives of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act as it relates to our Molokai agricultural lessees and their ability to adequately access the Molokai irrigation system (MIS). This bill restores a benefit to these lessees and we appreciate this, and similar measures, that enable our agricultural lessees to be successful.

The department supports this measure provided that sufficient funding is made available to the Department of Agriculture to cover the operational costs of the MIS. We recommend thorough discussion and consultation with the Department of Agriculture (the lead agency) and the MIS users to ensure this reduced rate is pragmatic and sustainable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Hawaii Farm Bureau**  
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819  
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272  
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March 19, 2011

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1483 HD1  
RELATING TO THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM.  
Room 224  
3:15 PM

Aloha Chairs Nishihara and Galuteria and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation respectfully **opposes HB1483, section 2(b)** in accordance with testimony submitted by the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Chairman Russell S. Kokobun. The department and Molokai Irrigation System Users Advisory Board members have invested significant effort to resolve the current delinquency balance in manner that is fair and equitable for all MIS users. Their recovery plan is entering the implementation phase. HDOA is charged with the economic solvency of the State's Irrigation Revolving Fund while maintaining water costs at a level to support agricultural development. HFBF opposes complete forgiveness of irrigation system user delinquency without a concurrent legislative appropriation to cover the revenue shortfall.

The Department of Agriculture and HFBF cautiously **support Section 3** of the bill, a reasonable reduction in billing rates for MIS users who lease land under section 207 of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act. This support is contingent on continued supplemental funding to the HDOA Irrigation Revolving Fund at the minimum level recommended by the HDOA Agricultural Resource Management Division.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation

**nishihara1 - Dale**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**ant:** Tuesday, March 15, 2011 11:03 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony  
**Cc:** info@schha.org  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1483 on 3/21/2011 3:15:00 PM

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Testimony for AGL/HWN 3/21/2011 3:15:00 PM HB1483

Conference room: 224  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Michael Kahikina  
Organization: Sovereign Councils of the Hawaiian Homelands Assembly  
Address:  
Phone:  
E-mail: [info@schha.org](mailto:info@schha.org)  
Submitted on: 3/15/2011

Comments:

**nishihara1 - Dale**

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**From:** Lynn Decoite [molokaisweetpotato@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2011 9:27 AM  
**To:** AGL Testimony; HWN Testimony; Rep. Mele Carroll  
**Cc:** boswellj@hawaii.edu; Viola Wichman Mundrick; rosiedavis777@yahoo.com; Rollanda Faraon; Jose Faraon; Tania Joao; Moke Kim; kammy@wave.hicv.net; Faith Tuipulotu; Fred Aki; Noah  
**Subject:** HB 1483, HD1 (HSCR 873)

THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Chair  
Senator Pohai Ryan, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE:Monday, March 21, 2011  
TIME:3:15 p.m.  
PLACE:Conference Room 224  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony of Support with **RESERVATIONS**

Aloha Senator Nishihara, Senator Galuteria and Committee Members

I support HB 1483, HD1 (HSCR 873) with reservations I am a third generation sweet potato farmer on the island of Molokai and I have been farming for over 30 years. Each individual needs to be responsible for the use of water. It is not fair to those who have paid there bills, if you set that precedent now it will encourage others not to pay their bills.

**I DO SUPPORT:** (1) A reduction in rate and  
(2) Appropriating funds to cover the operational cost of the Molokai irrigation system.

**But I DO NOT SUPPORT:** (1) Forgiving loans to Molokai homesteaders or anyone else for that matter.

On another note those that do have delinquencies a chunk of that is based on the acreage assessment which is an ongoing charge every month whether or not they are using water. That I believe should be waived because you should only be charge acreage on how much you are farming we need to look at that carefully I don't believe that is fair.

Thank you for allowing me to give testimony.

Mahalo,  
Lynn DeCoite, Homestead Farmer

**From:** Viola Mundrick-Wichman [tippy711@live.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 19, 2011 6:36 PM  
**To:** AGL Testimony; HWN Testimony; Rep. Mele Carroll  
**Cc:** LOynn DeCoite  
**Subject:** HB 1483, HD1 (HSCR873)

THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2011

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair

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Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Chair  
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NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE:Monday, March 21, 2011  
TIME:3:15 p.m.  
PLACE:Conference Room 224  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Testimony of Support with **RESERVATIONS**

Aloha Senator Nishihara, Senator Galuteria and Committee Members

I support HB 1483, HD1 (HSCR 873) with reservations I have been farming on the island of Molokai in Hoolehua on homestead lands for the past 12 years. Each individual needs to be responsible for the use of water. It is not fair to those who have paid their bills, if you set that precedent now it will encourage others not to pay their bills and become more dependent on government. I do not believe that Prince Kuhio intent was to make us a welfare peoples or state.

**I DO SUPPORT:** (1) A reduction in rate and  
(2) Appropriating funds to cover the operational cost of the Molokai irrigation system.

**But I DO NOT SUPPORT:** (1) Forging loans to Molokai homesteaders or anyone else for that matter.

On another note those that do have delinquencies a chunk of that is based on the acreage assessment which is an ongoing charge every month whether or not they are using water. That I believe should be waived because you should only be charge acreage on how much you are farming we need to look at that carefully I don't believe that is fair.

Thank you for allowing me to give testimony.

Mahalo,  
Viola K. Mundrick-Wichman, Homestead Farmer