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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2012, 9:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2831  
RELATING TO IRRIGATION

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2831. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for various irrigation systems and agricultural parks. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not impact the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget.

The State's irrigation systems provide one of the essential resources to farm. The systems listed in this bill provide irrigation water to over 11,000 acres of farm land. Some of these systems are approaching or are over 100 years old and are in need of significant improvements to reduce water losses and maintenance costs. These funds are necessary to help extend the life of these systems for many decades to come and to continue to move Hawaii toward a more sustainable future.

The Attorney General's Office has raised concerns regarding the funding for the Ka'u irrigation system. The concerns regarded whether this system was a private



sector operation. We are working with the Attorney General's Office to clarify the situation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.