

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE

MARCH 23, 2012, 10:00 A.M.
ROOM 312

LATE TESTIMONY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 207

REQUESTING THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP LONG-RANGE GOALS
AND PLANS FOR THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Concurrent Resolution No. 207. The purpose of this resolution is to have the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture convene a task force to develop long-range goals and plans for the Molokai Irrigation System. The department respectfully believes this measure is unnecessary.

During meetings with Molokai Irrigation System (MIS) water users and the general public in August, September, and October 2007, the department developed a roadmap process which lead to building trust and improve the relationship between the department and the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board (MISWUAB) and through the MISWUAB, the MIS user community. By working together, the department, the MISWUAB, and the user community had improved the efficiency of the Molokai Irrigation System and its ability to deliver dependable and affordable quantities of water to Molokai's agricultural community.

Additionally, the MIS's operation, maintenance, and capital improvement planning are addressed within the Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan (revised 2004), and include the implementation of one of the recommended

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capital improvement projects that entails the installation of a new modern telemetry system to replace the existing antiquated system. Further, to address persistent and prolonged low rainfall periods, the department, this year, continues to work closely with the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board and has initiated discussions with the owner of an existing, but unused brackish well, for supplemental use during low rainfall or drought periods.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 4:49 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ray.foster@monsanto.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR207 on 3/23/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/23/2012 10:00:00 AM HCR207

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Raymond Foster
Organization: Monsanto Molokai
E-mail: ray.foster@monsanto.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

This resolution provides the Department of Agriculture Chairman the Congressional support and direction. Both are necessary to begin searching for long term solutions to the chronic shortage of irrigation water on Molokai. There can be a significant improvement in our island's agricultural economy if more water can be made available. I respectfully request that you pass this resolution. Best regards, Raymond Foster

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 8:43 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kumuman2@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR207 on 3/23/2012 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/23/2012 10:00:00 AM HCR207

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Grant Schule
Organization: Kumu Farms
E-mail: kumuman2@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

As a 30 year Ag producer on MKK, employing 24 people, I can attest to the FACT that the MIS is a dangerously low levels, and that if any Ag is to survive this 3 yr drought, we need to approve emergency Pumping protocols quickly.....pumping to be ongoing to avert an Ag crisis on Molokai.

Mahalo for your sincere support !

Grant Schule
Kumu Farms
Molokai - Maui

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 22, 2012 11:31 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rob@molokaichamber.org
Subject: Testimony for HCR207 on 3/23/2012 10:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for AGR 3/23/2012 10:00:00 AM HCR207

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Stephenson
Organization: Molokai Chamber of Commerce
E-mail: rob@molokaichamber.org
Submitted on: 3/22/2012

Comments:

Being that agriculture is the backbone of the Molokai economy, the Molokai Chamber of Commerce humbly asks for your support of this measure.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if we can be of service. We're here to help.

With kindest sincere regards,

Robert Stephenson
President & CEO
Molokai Chamber of Commerce

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Friday, March 23, 2012
TIME: 10:00am
PLACE: Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

LATE TESTIMONY

REQUESTING THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP LONG-RANGE GOALS AND PLANS FOR THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT
HCR 207

Honorable Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hasem, and Respected Committee Members,

Each irrigation system represents the most critical juncture in Agriculture – the fundamental ability to have reliable access to water, and its continued flow. For Molokai specifically, our Molokai Irrigation System (also known as the MIS) is in need of significant repair to simply achieve its meant capacity. Of other concern is the resultant loss of needed revenue as well as reduced acres planted. The inability of the only agricultural water source on Molokai to use its actual capacity is an earnest reason to not only assess, but develop a comprehensive plan for the successful future of Molokai's agriculture.

Moreover, there is actual potential to increase Ag production on Molokai by further developing the MIS. If definitive improvements can be made to support increased acreage, Molokai could increase employment in the Agricultural sector as well as create additional revenue for the system itself, which could be used for maintenance and/or improvements making the MIS less dependent on State funding.

To be sustainable, Agriculture needs responsible foresight and cooperative partnerships from all sectors.

I humbly ask for your support of HCR 207.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dawn Bicoy
Kaunakakai, Molokai

LATE TESTIMONY

LATE TESTIMONY



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
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
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March 23, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HCR 207
REQUESTING THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE TO
CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP LONG-RANGE GOALS AND PLANS FOR
THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Room 312
10:00 AM

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

I am Dean Okimoto, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF is in strong support of HCR 207, which requests that the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture convene, and chair, a task force to develop long-range goals and plans for the Molokai Irrigation System.

Reliable and affordable water is essential to viable farms and ranches. The Molokai Irrigation System (MIS) represents the most critical juncture in Molokai's agricultural industry. The MIS is in need of significant repair to simply achieve its meant capacity, and this resultant loss of needed revenue as well as reduced acres planted, is a valid concern. The inability of the only agricultural water source on Molokai to use its actual capacity is an earnest reason to not only assess, but fund its much needed repairs.

Moreover, there is potential to increase agricultural production on Molokai by further developing the MIS. If improvements can be made to support increased acreage, Molokai could increase employment in the Agricultural sector as well as create additional revenue for the system itself, which could be used for maintenance and/or improvements making the MIS less dependent on State funding. But none of this can be accomplished until we address the basic needed repairs.

To be sustainable, Agriculture needs responsible foresight and cooperative partnerships from all sectors. We respectfully request your strong support of HCR 207.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 9:22 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: rosiedavis777@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR207 on 3/23/2012 10:00:00 AM

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for AGR 3/23/2012 10:00:00 AM HCR207

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rosie F. Davis
Organization: Individual
E-mail: rosiedavis777@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/23/2012

LATE TESTIMONY

Comments:

Aloha, I support HR207, I am a homesteader from Molokai. Please pass HR207 Malama pono Rosie