

**onishi2-Micah-Seth**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 23, 2014 6:56 AM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** ken.h.kakesako@hawaii.gov  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR243 on Mar 24, 2014 11:00AM

**HCR243**

Submitted on: 3/23/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 24, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ken Kakesako	Department of Agriculture	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: Second attachment is forthcoming.

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HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Testimony on:

**HCR243**

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CREATE A DROUGHT PLAN  
FOR MOLOKAI AND IMPROVE THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM.

March 24, 2014

11:00 AM

Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,832 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.

**HFB stands in strong support of HCR243, with amendments** urging the Department of Agriculture to address drought mitigation needs on Molokai.

Molokai is one of the most drought prone areas in the State. The Department of Agriculture is currently undertaking the completion of the Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan that is part of the Hawaii Water Plan as required by the Water Code and specifies the current and future water needs of agriculture. The section of the Water Code referencing this requirement is in HRS 174C-31(e):

Thereafter, each county shall prepare a water use and development plan and the appropriate state agency shall prepare the state water projects plan.

(e) The department of agriculture shall prepare a state agricultural water use and development plan for agricultural uses in the State in accordance with chapter 167 and this chapter, and subsequently modify and update the plan as necessary. The state agricultural water use and development plan shall include but not be limited to a master irrigation inventory plan that shall:

- (1) Inventory public and private irrigation water systems;
- (2) Identify the extent of rehabilitation needed for each system;
- (3) Identify sources of water used by agricultural operations and particularly those on lands identified and designated as important agricultural lands under part III of chapter 205;

- (4) Identify current and future water needs for agricultural operations and particularly those on lands identified and designated as important agricultural lands under part III of chapter 205;
- (5) Subsidize the cost of repair and maintenance of the systems;
- (6) Establish criteria to prioritize the rehabilitation of the systems;
- (7) Develop a five-year program to repair the systems; and
- (8) Set up a long-range plan to manage the systems.

As highlighted above the AWUDP addresses the needs identified in this resolution. A separate review will require additional staff time that should be focused on the Plan.

HFBF, therefore, respectfully requests that the Resolution be amended to specifically request that the needs of Molokai homesteaders and MIS be addressed in the Plan and the progress of such work be reported to the Legislature. In so doing, this will not be another unfunded mandate straining the resources within the HDOA.

Suggested language is as follows.

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty—seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2014, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Agriculture is urged to specifically address the needs of Hawaiian homestead farmers and other water users have requested for the Molokai Irrigation System in the Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture is requested to provide a report on the status of the AWUDP, specifically addressing the needs of the Molokai homesteaders and the MIS system to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2015;

The AWUDP is important to all of our farmers and ranchers. The Counties are waiting for it to include in their Water Plans. We respectfully request **your support of this measure with the amendments stated above.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on very important measure.

Adolph Helm - Testimony  
P.O. Box 391 Hoolehua, HI  
96729

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair  
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 24, 2014  
TIME: 11AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 312  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

**HCR 243 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CREATE A DROUGHT PLAN FOR MOLOKAI AND IMPROVE THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi and Fellow Committee Members;

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HCR 243. My name is Adolph Helm Homestead farmer and former Chairman of the Molokai Irrigation System User Advisory Board (MISUAB). The Molokai Irrigation System (MIS) serves an integral and vital role in sustaining agriculture on Molokai. Agriculture on Molokai also helps to drive the economy and the farmer's success is contingent upon a reliable and well managed water system.

The MIS for years have operated under a cloud of uncertainty with regards to providing a sufficient and consistent water supply for all of its customers. A "Drought Plan" for the MIS will give the Department of Agriculture the tools and mechanism to better mitigate and manage water shortages during periods of drought. Please support Molokai Agriculture by supporting HCR 243.

Mahalo,

Adolph Helm

**onishi2-Micah-Seth**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 18, 2014 3:20 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HCR243 on Mar 24, 2014 11:00AM\*

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

**HCR243**

Submitted on: 3/18/2014

Testimony for AGR on Mar 24, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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