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Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 1, 2016
1:40 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

**SENATE BILL NO. 2217 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2217 SD1. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the operation, repair, maintenance, and improvement of the East Kauai Irrigation System by the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative. The department supports this bill provided that it does not impact the priorities submitted in the department's executive budget.

Water is a vital component in order for agriculture to flourish. Efficient and reliable irrigation systems transport this resource to where it can be effectively used best. These systems are called upon to provide billions of gallons of agricultural water every year. Well-kept irrigation systems are necessary to provide much needed water to agriculturalists across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 1, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2217, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 211
1:40 PM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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 strongly supports SB 2217, SD1, which appropriates funds for the operation, repair, maintenance, and improvement of the East Kauai Water Irrigation System by the East Kauai Irrigation Users' Cooperative irrigation systems.

The East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative, a volunteer group, has operated the East Kauai Irrigation System for more than nine years, servicing more than 12,500 acres of agricultural land. Without the volunteer effort of the cooperative, the 21-mile irrigation system would have been abandoned and Kauai farmers left without water.

The repair and maintenance of our irrigation systems is critical. Our farmers and ranchers depend on these irrigation systems for their operations. Water availability is a basic necessity needed by farmers and ranchers to maintain and expand their production, particularly in times of drought. Having a reliable water supply is a key factor when Hawaii's farmers and ranchers are making decisions to start new or to expand existing operations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2217 on Mar 1, 2016 13:40PM*
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 3:04:19 PM

SB2217

Submitted on: 2/29/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 1, 2016 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TESTIMONY TO SUPPORT SB 2476

Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senators:

Our agency, **Isle Interpret, LLC** of Honolulu, HI, urges you to lend support to SB 2476 and vote in favor of it.

SB 2476 requires the state's Department of Health to assess, monitor, and track the language development of Deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind (DHHDB) children with an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or an Individual Education Plan (IEP). We support SB 2476 because, currently, a significant proportion of Deaf children between the ages of 0-5 have minimal to no language instruction and arrive at kindergarten with inadequate and delayed language development. This makes it extremely difficult for them to achieve academic success and social and emotional growth. It is time to end this tragic statewide epidemic with accountability.

As a community, we must ensure that all DHHDB babies and toddlers have full access to acquiring a language and experience the same milestones as their hearing peers. The delays caused by language deprivation are a common problem that is not addressed by the various professionals working with DHHDB infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and their families. Language acquisition is a basic human right.

Some important **facts**:

- Most deaf children are born from hearing parents
- Most hearing parents do not know about deafness and look to medical professionals for guidance.
- The medical model works to "fix" the problem with hearing aids and Cochlear Implants.
- The success of a hearing aid/Cochlear Implant depends on the individual's type of hearing loss and remaining hearing. These devices do not make the child hearing.
- Most medical professionals do not encourage learning sign language
- Most hearing parents do not learn sign language
- Birth to 2 years is the critical time for language acquisition
- Deaf children use lipreading as their primary access to a spoken language they don't know
- Only about 30% of English speech is lipread-able
- Most words are unidentifiable on the lips
- As a result families do not share a language in their own homes
- Deaf children are often isolated in their own homes
- They miss "incidental learning" that happens when hearing children over people speaking on the phone, in the store, on the bus, on the playground, etc
- Deaf children in non-signing homes are only exposed to a small fraction of language in comparison to their hearing peer with hearing parents – or deaf peers with signing parents who are constantly exposed to language
- Some families create their own "home-signs" as a last resort
- Children do not learn English or ASL at home
- When a deaf child in a non-signing environment enters school, this is often the first time they are exposed to language via sign language. They have already lost many important language learning years.

Please support SB 4276 and provide healthy access to language development to all DHHDB children in Hawaii.

With warm regard,
Isle Interpret, LLC
PO Box 1380
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Tamar Lani, President
Susan Kroe-Unabia, Vice President

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: ashman.janet@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2217 on Mar 1, 2016 13:40PM
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 12:42:44 AM

SB2217

Submitted on: 2/29/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 1, 2016 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this measure. Funding for this irrigation system is critical to keep it operating and to keep East Kauai farming alive. Thank you.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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