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Governor

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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

FEBRUARY 6, 2018  
10:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 2886  
RELATING TO STATE BUDGET

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2886. This bill amends the description of the CIP project for East Maui Water Systems. The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

Act 119, SLH 2015 provided capital improvements project funding for irrigation and water delivery systems for agricultural enterprises and/or agricultural purposes in East Maui and for plans, design and construction for water systems in East Maui. In order for these funds to be released, the legislature needs to declare that the appropriations are in the public's health, safety, and general welfare of the State. The Department suggests re-appropriating these projects into the current budget to allow for project encumbrance. The current funding will lapse June 30, 2018.

The Department has been working with the Department of Land and Natural Resources on how the funding should be utilized. The Department is willing to take the lead on both projects in a lump sum project should this measure move forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**TESTIMONY REGARDING S.B. 2886  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2018  
10:00 a.m.**

**BY  
EDWARD WENDT, PRESIDENT  
NA MOKU AUPUNI O KO`OLAU HUI  
P.O. Box 961, Ha`ikū, Hawai`i 96708**



Aloha Chair and Members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee:

Our organization's membership are residents of Keanae-Wailuanui, East Maui. Most are active taro farmers.

In 2016, landslides severely damaged the most important, cliffside miles-long auwai (ancient water channel) above Wailuanui Valley. It is the major channel for supplying water to the taro farmers in the valley below. This auwai is located on state lands and several studies, including one commissioned by the County of Maui, have confirmed it to be of ancient origin. It has supplied water to, and been maintained by, the Wailuanui, East Maui taro farmers for many generations.

Since 2016, the water supply from this very important source has been compromised. As a result, the farmers are not getting their water and have also been prevented from performing maintenance. The auwai is severely and dangerously damaged from falling boulders and erosion. There are steep drop-offs that prevent access.

It would be deeply appreciated if funds could be made available through S.B. 2886 to repair this auwai.

Na Moku Aupuni o Ko`olau Hui was organized in 1996:

A. to promote the general welfare of the tenants and descendants residing in the Ahupua'a of Keanae-Wailuanui and elsewhere; in social. spiritual. cultural, educational and economic affairs;

B. to preserve and protect, and enhance the quality of the existing life of the people within the Keanae-Wailuanui Ahupua'a;

C. to provide and improve communication and mutual understanding among the tenants and descendants of Keanae-Wailuanui Ahupua'a themselves and with other community associations concerning their mutual welfare;

D. to provide a formal voice and organization through which the residents of the community can participate fully and more meaningfully in the determination and development of policies and decisions affecting their destiny.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony regarding S.B. 2886.