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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 1, 2016
1:35 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

**SENATE BILL NO. 2788
RELATING TO THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM WATER USERS ADVISORY
BOARD**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2788. The purpose of this measure is to allow listed members of the Molokai irrigation system water users' advisory board to be represented by agents, officers, or employees of their respective organizations. The Department respectfully offers the following comments.

The department respectfully recommends that the language for §167-23, HRS be amended to reflect the original language prior to the 2010 amendment. The statute was amended by inserting a new §167-23(b). The new section set criteria that members had to meet and added a seventh board member. Since the change, the department has found it difficult to recommend new board members. The board currently has two out of seven seats filled.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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February 29, 2016

TO: Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Stacy Helm Crivello
Councilmember 

DATE: March 01, 2016

SUBJECT: **TESTIMONY OFFERING COMMENTS ON SB 2788, RELATING TO THE MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM WATER USERS ADVISORY BOARD**

Thank you for the opportunity to **offer comments** on this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to authorize Molokai Irrigation System users advisory board members to designate an agent, officer, or employee and removes the requirement that members be an active general excise tax licensee.

1. The Molokai Irrigation System (MIS) is the only agricultural water source on Molokai. Its advisory board was created to advise the department on matters of concern to the users of the system and to provide support to the irrigation facilities, to participate in the long-range planning of the system, and to act as liaison between the users and the Department of Agriculture. Originally the board consisted of six members but was amended in 2010 to add a seventh.
2. After the amendment to HRS 267-23 in 2010, the Department of Agriculture has had a harder time filling seats on the MIS User Advisory Board. Presently, the board has only 2 of 7 member positions filled. Not having sufficient member positions filled to even constitute a quorum is of obvious concern for the users of the system as they have no representation or input regarding the system.
3. The ability for the board members to designate agents, officers or employees of their respective organizations and removing certain requirements like the need be an active general excise tax licensee would greatly alleviate the problems of filling board seats as well as quorum issues now experienced.

Thank you for your consideration.