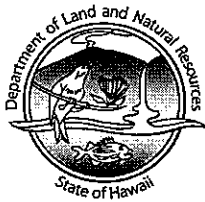


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**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

On Senate Bill 2486, Senate Draft 1- RELATING TO WATER

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

February 25, 2008

Senate Bill 2486, Senate Draft 1 proposes to allow the Special Land Development Fund (SLDF) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to be used for the protection, planning, management, and regulation of water and irrigation systems by amending Section 171-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The Department opposed this measure as being unnecessary.

Under the State Water Code (Chapter 174C, HRS) and Section 171-19, HRS, the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) has existing authority to achieve its goals and objectives, including the appropriate use the SLDF for the statewide protection, planning, management, and regulation of water resources – which include water and irrigation systems.

An example of using the SLDF for water and irrigation systems is the Commission's current project to review the water use permits issued by the Commission. Using the SLDF, the Commission hired consultants to conduct a comprehensive study of all water use permits issued to determine the degree of compliance with permits conditions. This review includes many public and private water and irrigation systems.