

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1147 SD1  
A BILL FOR RELATING TO STATE DISASTER RELIEF

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

EDWARD T. TEIXEIRA  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF CIVIL DEFENSE

March 19, 2009

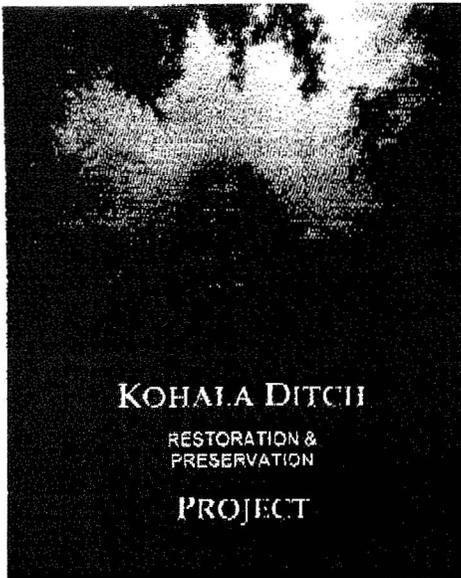
Chair Hanohano and Committee Members:

I am Ed Teixeira, Acting Director of Civil Defense, State Department of Defense. I am providing testimony in support of Senate Bill 1147 SD1.

We believe that providing a preliminary report within 90 days and a follow-up report within 180 days from date of an emergency proclamation is an appropriate action for State Civil Defense. These reports will provide an opportunity to present recommendations to remedy problems contributing to the emergency or disaster and also measures to mitigate natural or man-made hazards.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

Are there any questions?



A project to restore and preserve the historic Kohala Ditch to provide water security for farms, ranches, dairies, aquaculture, recreation and ecological stewardship throughout the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and to sustain the community traditions of the people of Kohala.

#### COMMUNITY PARTNERS

USDA Rural Development Office  
 State of Hawaii Civil Defense  
 North Kohala Community Resource Center  
 Surety Kohala Corporation  
 Kamehameha Schools  
 AT&T Foundation

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#### THE KOHALA DITCH PROJECT

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March 18, 2009

#### RE: SB 1147, SD1, RELATING TO STATE DISASTER RELIEF

Hearing: Committee on Public Safety  
 Representative Faye P. Hanohano, Chair  
 Thursday, March 19, 2009 – 8:30 a.m.  
 State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Dear Representative Hanohano and Committee Members:

We are writing to request your committee to amend SB 1147, SD1 to extend the authority for emergency expenditures under Act 78, SLH 2007, throughout the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.

As you know, Act 78 was adopted in response to the disastrous Kiholo Earthquake of October 15, 2006. One of the most destructive consequences of the earthquake was severe damage to the Kohala Ditch irrigation system, including the structural collapse of several flumes and much landslide debris. Flow of the Kohala Ditch providing 8-10mgd was suspended, causing severe losses to crops and livestock operations in North Kohala, including the Cloverleaf Dairy, one of the last two remaining dairies in Hawaii.

Since the earthquake, Hawaii State Civil Defense has performed ably to oversee the expenditure of Act 78 funds, as well as USDA funds and other private contributions supporting the Kohala Ditch restoration effort. Remarkable progress has been made to rebuild the Kohala Ditch. Tunnels have been cleared of landslide debris, flumes rebuilt and repaired, and a new dam/intake installed in the backcountry valley of Honokane Nui. However, the crisis is not over. Work remains to be done to prevent seepage loss in open ditch extending from the Kahei Road to the Hawi #3 Reservoir. Installation of a 24" pipeline will assure that water will reliably reach the dairy and other farmers in Kohala.

Accordingly, we beseech your committee to extend the timeline for remaining, unspent Act 78 funds until June 30, 2010 to assist in these critical repairs to the Kohala Ditch irrigation system.

Provision of state funds may assist also in obtaining matching federal funds. In his letter dated January 13, 2009 to our committee, Senator Daniel K. Inouye stated: "While I am delighted with the progress to date, I am fully aware that there is much more to be done... I remain committed to assisting the community in a full restoration of the Kohala Ditch so as to spur the long term well-being of the entire community."

Thank you for your faithful consideration of our ongoing emergency.

KOHALA DITCH PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

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**From:** jim cain [kinglulau@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 18, 2009 7:56 PM  
**To:** PBStestimony  
**Subject:** sb1147

Aloha Chair Hanohano and committee members,

My name is Jim Cain, my family and I live and farm taro in Waipi'o Valley on the Big Island. We also operate a family run poi shop and provide poi for our Big Island Community. I am writing in support of sb1147 and would like to include amendments to extend Act 78 from sessions law 2007 which is due to expire this year. I would recommend extending Act 78 to July 30, 2010. Our Waipi'o Community has been working with State Civil Defense, NRCS, and other agencies to try to mitigate flooding concerns in Waipi'o that threaten our farms and homes. To this end, we have developed the Waipi'o Stream Management Plan (the full plan can be viewed by going to the USDA website and searching for Waipi'o Stream Management Plan.) Instead of waiting for disaster to happen, we are being proactive in trying to mitigate flooding concerns. The earthquake of Oct. 15, 2006, caused huge landslides in the back of Waipi'o Valley, covering the intakes to the Lower Hamakua Ditch. Monies from Act 78 were used for the recently completed repairs to the intakes. It has taken a while, but the incredible amount of baseload consisting of rocks, sand and gravel has now made its way down the river into the front part of the valley, causing increased flooding and threats to our existence. Having access to Act 78 funding would allow us to take care of the belated problems that have arisen because of the earthquake. Mahalo for your support, Jim Cain Waipi'o Stream Management Council Community Representative, 775-9001

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