

SCR148

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO PURCHASE THE KOHALA DITCH SYSTEM IN THE DISTRICT OF NORTH KOHALA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
AGRICULTURE AND WATER AND LAND**

**MARCH 31, 2015
2:50 P.M.
ROOM 414**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 148/SENATE RESOLUTION 91
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO
PURCHASE THE KOHALA DITCH SYSTEM IN THE DISTRICT OF NORTH KOHALA
ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII**

Chairperson Ruderman and Thielen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 148 and Senate Resolution 91. These resolutions request that the Departments of Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural Resources develop a plan to purchase the Kohala Ditch System in the district of North Kohala on the Island of Hawaii. The Department of Agriculture wishes to respectfully identify the following concerns.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) has conducted studies of irrigation systems in the past. These studies were done as Environment Impact Statements and National Environmental Policy Act documents. They took over two years a piece to complete with an estimated current day costs of over \$1,000,000 each. These documents are necessary to address all of the issues and more that this resolution identifies. Additionally, it is our understanding that the expenditure of State funds requires that Chapter 343, HRS be satisfied. Given the scoping magnitude of this resolution, lack of resources, lack of funding, and compressed time schedule, the HDOA



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AND WATER AND LAND
MARCH 31, 2015, 2:50 P.M.
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has serious concerns regarding the feasibility of this resolution. We respectfully request that this project be added to the capital improvement project budget for the HDOA and offer our assistance to the legislature to draft appropriate wording and costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Tuesday, March 31, 2015
2:50 PM
State Capitol, Room 414**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 148/SENATE RESOLUTION 91
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND DEPARTMENT OF
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO PURCHASE THE
KOHALA DITCH SYSTEM IN THE DISTRICT OF NORTH KOHALA ON THE ISLAND
OF HAWAII**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 148/Senate Resolution 91 requests the Department of Agriculture (“DOA”) and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (“Department”) to develop a plan to purchase the Kohala Ditch System in North Kohala, Hawaii and develop the optimal management plan for the ditch. The resolution further directs DOA to determine the estimated cost of purchasing Kohala Ditch and report its findings to the Legislature prior to the convening the Regular Session of 2016. **The Department offers the following comments.**

The State may already own the portion of the Kohala Ditch that passes through the forest reserve in the Pololu Valley area (Tax Map Keys: (3) 5-1-001:005 and 019). However, ditch maintenance has always been the responsibility of the sugar cane concerns who built the system and their successors in interest. The Department’s mission does not include the maintenance of agricultural irrigation systems, nor does the Department have the resources to assume such maintenance obligations.

The Department notes that DOA assumed management of the Hamakua Ditch System (also located on Hawaii Island) some years ago. In the event that DOA and the Legislature determine that acquiring the privately owned portions of Kohala Ditch is feasible and desirable, the Department is available to assist with the due diligence required for the land acquisition. Finally, the Department notes that the mission of the Agribusiness Development Corporation (“ADC”) does extend to the

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INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

acquisition and management of agricultural irrigation systems,¹ and ADC has the authority to acquire title to real property. Accordingly, DOA and/or ADC may be able to conduct the necessary acquisitions themselves.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ See ADC's website at: <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/chairpersons-office/agribusiness-development-corporation/>

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2015

March 30, 2015

Testimony in Support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 148

Chair Ruderman and Committee Members:

Chair Thielen and Committee Members:

We are pleased to see members of the Hawaii Legislature take an active interest in the future of the Kohala Ditch. Constructed over a hundred years ago to support the needs of the sugar industry in North Kohala, this important irrigation system continues to provide a critical supply of water to farmers, ranchers, growers, and other businesses. Indeed, the introduction of Senate Concurrent Resolution 148 could not be timelier as a focus on Ditch maintenance and related infrastructure improvement projects are relevant issues. These, including the sustainability of agriculture in North Kohala, are important matters for open discussion.

As a non-profit organization, the Kohala Ditch Foundation was created for the purpose of assuming the management of ditch irrigation operations to benefit agriculture in North Kohala. The Foundation remains open to any and all planning initiatives by either government or non-government organizations that affect the current and future operations of the Kohala Ditch.

Additional information on the Kohala Ditch Foundation may be found at

www.kdfhawaii.org.

Robert Lindsey, President, Kohala Ditch Foundation

Ed Teixeira, Vice President

Cheri Gallo, Secretary/Treasurer

Scott May

Ed Boteilho

Guido Giacometti

David Fuertes



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Leimana DaMate
Executive Director (AMAC)

Before the Senate Committees on
Agriculture
Water and Land

Tuesday, March 31, 2015
2:50 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

**In SUPPORT of
Senate Concurrent Resolution 148 and Senate Resolution 91**

SCR 148 and SR 91 requests the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) develop a plan to purchase the Kohala Ditch System in the District of North Kohala on the Island of Hawai'i.

AMAC strongly supports this resolution.

The AMAC works with moku and ahupua'a communities through the Aha Moku System (System), a traditional land and ocean management system that dates from the 9th century and has been restored by the kupuna, mahi'ai (farmers) and practitioners on all of the main Hawaiian Islands. On Moku O Keawe, Island of Hawai'i, within the Moku of Kohala, the traditional farming techniques are numerous and active. Through the Aha Moku System, generational resource knowledge and methodology is still used in farming and sustainability throughout the ahupua'a of Honokane Nui, Honokane Iki, Awini, Pololu, Niulii, Makapala, Halawa, Halaula, Iole, Hanopueo, Laaumama, Kapua, Hawi, Kahei, Opihipau, Kealahewa, Puuipa, Kokoiki, Opolu and Honoipu. The Kohala Ditch weaves through all of these ahupua'a in Kohala.

Water is life to Native Hawaiians – and the Kohala Ditch, since its completion in 1906 has been a main source of providing water to mahi'ai who farm in its vicinity. The progression of different private land owners throughout the years have caused great stress and uncertainty among native Hawaiian mahiai who depend on their crops to feed their families. Currently, the Kohala Ditch System is owned and operated by the Morrison Grove Capital Investment Company – a company from and based on the mainland. And, although Kamehameha Schools owns the land on the Honokane Nui Ahupua'a – the source of the water for the Kohala Ditch, that is not enough to ease the concerns of those who depend on the Kohala Ditch for sustenance.

The Kohala Community Development Plan (CDP) has, as one of its main goals, to have Kohala Farmers, ranchers and other food-producers supply 50% of the food that is consumed in Kohala and the Kohala Ditch System is a critical element in achieving this goal.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Aha Moku supports this resolution as it calls for a collaboration with private landowners, Kohala Ditch users (which include the mahiai of the Aha Moku System for Kohala Moku), and the Kohala Ditch Foundation. We ask that the Kohala Community Development Plan Committee be a part of this collaboration as it includes Native Hawaiians and others with the generational knowledge of the Kohala Ditch – an endeavor considered by the proud people of Kohala to be an engineering marvel and a cherished cultural and historical artifact of Kohala’s legacy.

We thank our Aha Moku kupuna and Mahi’ai for their ‘ike and mana’o on writing this testimony and we urge the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Water and Land to support and approve this resolution.

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SCR148

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for AGL/WTL on Mar 31, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Capsun M. Poe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SCR148

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kama Hopkins	Individual	Support	No

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SCR148

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert K. Lindsey, Jr.	Individual	Support	No

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