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HB 2030, Relating to Pollution House WLA/EEP Committee - Monday, February 8, 2016 11:00 am - Conference Room 325 Written Testimony by: Larry Jefts Position: Support

Chair Yamane and Chair Lee, and Members of the House WAL/EEP Committee:

I am Larry Jefts, owner and operator of Larry Jefts Farms, LLC, which is part of our family-run business of farms on Oahu and Molokai, under the administrative umbrella of Sugarland Growers, Inc. We have more than 35 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu.

Support is given for this bill that proposes that discharge of treated water into state waters is prohibited after 12/31/2049 except 1) when used to create clean energy and 2) does not prohibit the use of recycled or reclaimed water for a beneficial purpose as provided by law.

Accessible and affordable land and water are needed for agriculture in Hawaii. The use of well water is expensive because in addition to digging the well, the water must be pumped to the crops using electricity. Recycled or reclaimed water, surface water, is a less expensive way to water crops. It is safely used on many mainland crops imported to Hawaii markets.

Reclaimed water alleviates the unnecessary cost and use of potable water for agriculture. In times of drought, the appropriate use of treated water for agriculture and other uses is critical in managing scarce water resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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HB2030

Submitted on: 2/6/2016 Testimony for WAL/EEP on Feb 8, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Room 325 Monday February 8, 2016 11AM In Support HB2030 Relating to Pollution

Aloha Chairs Yamane and Lee, and Members of the WAL and EEP Committees:

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports HB2030 to prohibit the discharge of treated wastewater into state waters after 12/31/2049 except when used to create clean energy.

This bill would prohibit the discharge of treated wastewater into State waters after Dec. 31, 2049. This will decrease pollution of our water resources, protecting our drinking water, streams, and oceans. The Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports the intent of this bill, but would like to see a sooner deadline to express the urgency in remediating this important issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo,

U.L.d.

Martha Townsend Director