

TESTIMONY
GM 458

03 – 19 -2209

Subject: Response to the Information Requested

From: Steven L. Arce

To: Chairman, Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

Aloha Senator Clayton Hee;

As a user of the Molokai Irrigation System (MIS) and a member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, I was nominated again by the Molokai Chapter to serve another term on the Molokai Irrigation Water User Advisory Board (MISWUAB) as the Molokai Farm Bureau Representative. I want to serve and protect the interests of the MIS users and farmers. I take this nomination seriously and look forward to hopefully serving another term.

As a farmer myself I understand the many challenges farmers face in their efforts to stay in business. Maintaining fuel, transportation, labor and input cost such as materials and supplies including water affordable are critical to sustaining agriculture on Molokai. I want to continue to serve on the MISWUAB as I believe the MISWUAB and the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture (HDOA) has started to implement processes to improve the MIS. I want to continue to be a part of the effort to assure the system is properly maintained and provide enough irrigation water for the farming community at an affordable rate.

I believe that I can be a contributing member of the advisory board. In addition to my farming experience, I believe I have the ability to work well in a group setting, as I listen well and try to see issues from all angles to problem solve. I have spent my life growing up in the farming community and I know the issues facing the farmers. I also know the farmers, the system, and the area the system services. I am willing to use my knowledge and skills to serve our farming community.

I also believe members who sit on the MISWUAB to some degree have conflicts of interest as this community is small and we participate or are engaged in many activities that could be perceived as conflicts. If confirmed I will within reason make every effort to excuse myself from acting on matters which I may have a conflict of interest.

Yours truly,

Steven L. Arce
P.O Box 165
Hoolehua, HI 96729

Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board

Adolph Helm, Chairman
PO Box 391
Hoolehua, HI 96729
Phone: 808 - 567-6580

Testimony for **GM 438, STEVEN L. ARCE**
Molokai Irrigation Water Users Advisory Board
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Friday, March 20, 2009
3:00 pm, Room 219

Position: Support

Chairman Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and fellow committee members:

My name is Adolph Helm. I am a Molokai resident and Chairman of the Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board (MISWUAB). I am offering supportive testimony on behalf of Mr. Steven L. Arce for consideration and confirmation to the Molokai Irrigation Water Users Advisory Board.

MR. ARCE is a third generation Hawaiian Homesteader. He is the grandson of Richard Hanckett a retired homestead hay farmer. Today Steven has continued in his grandfather's footsteps producing and supplying bales of hay to the Molokai community. MR. ARCE is also a part time farm equipment operator for Mycogen Seeds a seed research and production company operating on Molokai. His background in production and small scale agriculture provides valuable insight into the needs of farmers on Molokai. He is also familiar with the history of the Molokai Irrigation System (MIS), supports agriculture and advocates a holistic and inclusive approach in managing the MIS. MR. ARCE is currently serving on the MISWUAB as the Molokai farm bureau representative. He continues to be a key contributor to the process of improving the MIS.

It is for the above reasons I offer supportive testimony on his behalf. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



Molokai Farm Bureau



An Affiliate of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and the American Farm Bureau Federation

March 19, 2009

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Senator Clayton Hee, Chairman

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Hearing on Friday, March 20, 2009, 3:00 p.m., Room 229, State Capitol

**RE: GM 458, SUPPORT FOR MOLOKAI IRRIGATION SYSTEM WATER USERS
ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER STEVEN ARCE FOR NEW TERM EXPIRING 6-30-2013**

Dear Senators Hee and Tokuda,

As President of the Molokai Farm Bureau, I would like to express our support for Steven Arce to continue his role as a Molokai Irrigation System Water Users Advisory Board member.

As a farmer and resident of Hawaiian Homelands, Steven has represented the Molokai farming community and the Farm Bureau well with issues concerning the Molokai Irrigation System.

I hope that you will consider and confirm Steven Arce to continue his role on the MIS Advisory Board for the term to expire June 30, 2013.

Mahalo nui loa,

Donald Maum,
President, Molokai Farm Bureau
P.O. Box 339,
Ho'olehua, HI
Phone: 567-6871 Fax: 567-9426

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(END)