

**Bobbie Patnode Testimony on Bill 79, 83 and 104 6-1608-23 to ADEPT  
Committee for the Kula Community Association**

**Aloha Chair Johnson and Councilmembers-**

**My name is Bobbie Patnode. I am here as President of the Kula Community Association. This week, the KCA Board has voted unanimously to support all three of the bills you have before you today.**

**Bills 83 and 104 are corrections to how our water bills are processed. Of course we want the homeowner or parcel owner to be notified if the meter on their property is in jeopardy. Let's make sure the precious meters don't get pulled due to lack of communication.**

**Let's make sure that no rightfully verified ag water rate consumer pays the household rate when there is no house on the ag property. If there are only cows or crops, the water bill should be 100% at the ag rate.**

**Bill 79 is a key change to enable farmers and ranchers in Maui County to continue to raise crops and livestock even when parts of the county are low on water. The current law gives ag water consumers an exemption for the first 90 days of a drought declaration and the bill will extend that exemption to 180 days.**

**This extension would enable farmers and ranchers to weather the usual drought season and continue to provide a steady source of local food to our community. It would enable farmers to plan their crops and manage their herds successfully with a steady supply of water.**

**The drought comes every year. When I last testified on this Bill, I said let's ask DWS to create a plan to continue to supply the farmers and ranchers with water. In a recent meeting with Director Stufflebean, he said he has a plan which will deliver water, and that is very good news.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.**