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BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 06 SEP 10 3:25

STATE OF HAWAII

COMMISSION ON WATER  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

In the Matter of Petitions to Amend Interim )  
Instream Flow Standards for East Maui )  
Streams )  
) DAVID NOBRIGA BRIEF IN SUPPORT  
) OF HAWAIIAN COMMERCIAL AND  
) SUGAR COMPANY'S MOTION TO  
) CONSOLIDATE PETITIONS TO AMEND  
) INTERIM INSTREAM FLOW  
) STANDARDS FOR EAST MAUI  
) STREAMS AND COMPLAINT  
) RELATING THERETO FILED MAY 29,  
) 2008  
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**DAVID NOBRIGA BRIEFS RE: HAWAIIAN COMMERCIAL AND SUGAR  
COMPANY'S MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE PETITIONS TO AMEND INTERIM  
INSTREAM FLOW STANDARDS FOR EAST MAUI STREAMS AND COMPLAINT  
THERETO FILED MAY 29, 2008**

I, David "Buddy" Nobriga submit this brief regarding Hawaiian Commercial and Sugar Company's ("HC&S") Motion to Consolidate Petitions to Amend Interim Instream Flow Standards ("IIFS") for East Maui Streams and Complaint Thereto Filed May 29, 2008. I support the motion to consolidate because it is the best way to fairly address continued availability of water for those dependent upon the East Maui Irrigation ("EMI") system. All good decision-making, regardless whether it be in business or policy, should be done based upon research and review of all available information on all aspects of the issue at hand.

I am a third generation generation owner/proprietor of Nobriga Ranch, encompassing 250 acres in Kahakuloa, Maui. Additionally the ranch operates a feedlot in Central Maui utilized by cattlemen on Maui to stage calves in preparation for shipment to mainland markets. The feedlot is also a cornerstone to a newly formed partnership, called Maui Cattle Company, of five ranches on Maui--Haleakala Ranch, Ulupalakua Ranch, Kaupo Ranch, Hana Ranch and Nobriga Ranch

and Olomau Ranch on Kauai Maui Cattle Company seeks to reverse the trend of shipping calves to the mainland (for fattening? Slaughtering?) and then processed beef back to Hawaii. I also served on the Commission of Water Resource and Management from 1991 to 1998 and for 52 years as a leader of the Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts and the West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District, involved in and leading many water resource projects in West Maui and throughout the State.

Maui stands unique in the State by having a feedlot. This is because of the presence of large agricultural operations that have agricultural residues that can be used as livestock feed. Viable feedlot operations must have affordable feed – both imported feed and input costs make cultivated feed grown solely for livestock unreasonable. In the past, pineapple silage from Maui Pineapple Company's cannery operation was used for this purpose. However, with the closure of the cannery operations, an alternative feedstock was needed and today the feedlot is dependent on cane tops left from the seedcutting operation and molasses from HC&S. The cane tops and molasses are ensiled resulting in silage that provides an affordable option to the pineapple silage. Without the silage the viability of the feedlot will be in jeopardy and as a result, Maui Cattle Company.

HC&S provides us with the cane tops at no charge. Livestockmen are responsible to collect and transport the cane tops for their use. Our removal of the cane tops from HC&S' fields reduces their operating costs and provides us with a valuable resource. It is this win-win partnership that makes the feedlot on Maui feasible. It is this kind of synergy between agricultural operations that makes agriculture on Maui viable. Please know that the survival of our feedlot depends on HC&S's continued viability.

Rising feed and transportation costs have put the livestock industry in Hawaii in jeopardy. There were many skeptics as Maui Cattle Company embarked on their venture to keep

calves in Hawaii, raising them for beef production. Traditional knowledge stated that feed costs would make this cost prohibitive. Yet, Maui Cattle Company was able to prove this wrong and has built a successful business that is growing. Other livestock entities across the State are looking to the model to duplicate it in other locations.

I strongly believe that the Motion to Consolidate as advocated by HC&S is important to allow us to continue to expand our ability to increase Maui and ultimately Hawaii's agricultural self sufficiency. As a ranch we regularly face droughts, increases in feed costs, increased regulatory challenges and other factors beyond our control. As a State everyone says they support agriculture. This represents a way policymakers can do what they say. I therefore respectfully urge you to grant this motion to consolidate and to take into consideration information on all the impacts of the offstream uses of this water before making your decision.

DATED: Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii, September 17, 2008.



David "Buddy" Nobriga

Nobriga Ranch