DBEDT comments were poorly worded

In comments filed with the Public Utilities Commission, the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism submitted a filing that some have construed as criticizing the HEI Companies for subordinating the interests of customers relative to maximizing profits.

This was the result of a not-so-artfully worded phrase on the final page of DBEDT's comments on HEI's Power Supply Improvement Plans that it filed with the PUC.

For this we apologize, as it was not our intent to question the motives of HEI.

We believe HEI was acting in good faith, seeking solutions for the good of Hawaii. The plans were submitted as a starting point for further discussion. We don't agree with some of the assumptions and conclusions, but it was not our intent to convey or imply that those differences were the result of questionable motives.

As in previous filings, our comments were intended to provide a constructive critique. While our filing delineates a number of areas of disagreement, we share a common vision for Hawaii's energy future.

Mark Glick
Administrator, Hawaii State Energy Office

Amendments 2 and 5 deserve support

In its recent editorial, "'Yes' to bonds for dam repairs," the Star-Advertiser clearly articulates the reasons why voters should approve Amendment 5 (Our View, Oct. 15).

As a local rancher and president of the statewide Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, I also support this state amendment and appreciate the Star-Advertiser's recommendation to Hawaii voters.

There's another proposed amendment on the ballot that also deserves a "Yes" vote.

Amendment 2, relating to agricultural enterprises, would allow ranchers like me, as well as farmers, nursery owners and others in agriculture, to access low-interest loans and invest in much-needed infrastructure.

Ranchers and farmers throughout the state need access to reliable water systems. The availability of special purpose revenue bonds would allow ranchers, and perhaps huis of ranchers in a community, to work together to develop needed water infrastructure or infrastructure for other projects to move agriculture