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April 6, 2009

TO: Honorable Rida Cabanilla, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Gladys C. Baisa
Council Member

DATE: April 6, 2009

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF APRIL 6, 2009; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 266,
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO
AUTHORIZE GRAY WATER RECYCLING SYSTEMS FOR RESIDENTIAL
PREMISES UNDER APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish programs regulated by the Department of Health for the recycling of gray water from residential units for the purpose of irrigating lawns and gardens.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Gray water recycling calls for the conservation of natural resources.
2. It will help with the serious lack of water.
3. The use of gray water recycling will help alleviate some of the demand for water for the purposes of irrigation.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

GCB:dna

LATE TESTIMONY



Mālama Kauaʻi

M A L A M A K A U A I . O R G

Aloha Representative Cabanilla and Committee Members,

Please except the following statements from Malama Kaua'i in support of HCR266.

The Garden Island, known for its ample rainfall and verdant tropical landscape, is home to the wettest spot on earth. Why then, would we possibly ask our community to focus on our water supply when there are so many other critical energy issues to be addressed? Simply put, in most Island homes, our water supply is completely oil dependent. Without petroleum to generate electricity, we simply cannot deliver water to a majority of Island residents on Kauai. And we're not talking about a few small generators and some extension cords here. To deliver water to Kauai's residents every year, the County Department of Water spends millions of dollars on electricity.

In response to this, Malama Kauai, Apollo Kaua'i, and several other community organizations, have initiated a campaign to bring focus to the vulnerability of Kauai's water supply. Further study of this critical issue reveals what is so often the case: Where there is a problem, there is also an opportunity. Numerous strategies exist that can safely and dramatically reduce our water use and protect our access to Kauai's ample rainfall. It is time for us to come together and take action to ensure the stability of this vital resource.

As we see the problem: Reliable, affordable water on Kauai is completely dependent on reliable, affordable electricity. Reliable electricity is completely dependent on a reliable affordable petroleum supply. Petroleum can no longer be considered reliable, and it's price will continue to be highly volatile. Given this reality, the possibility of municipal water supply disruption on Kauai is real and we currently have no control over it. So what can we do? Given the political will, there is much that can be done to mitigate this problem, and with it significant community benefit including economic savings on energy costs, environmental benefits through more sound water and waste management, and more.

One of the main strategies that has the potential to greatly reduce our water demands, and/or secure our supply is gray water recycling. Locally, significant barriers exist for those who are willing to attempt to implement this solutions. Health codes and other regulations, which evolved during times of cheap, stable petroleum supplies, do not take into account the adverse impacts of today's energy outlook on water use.

We urge you to begin to act this legislative session by passing HCR 266.

Mahalo nui for your hard work,

Andrea Brower and Keone Kealoha