



**LATE**

THE LIMTIACO CONSULTING GROUP  
CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

February 16, 2009

**EMAILED TESTIMONY TO:** CPCtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

**Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 225  
(ENE/WTL Committees)**

Honorable Senators Mike Gabbard (Chair), J. Kalani English (Vice Chair), and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Honorable Senators Clayton Hee (Chair), Jill N. Tokuda (Vice Chair), and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

**Subject: SB 1057, Relating to Detention and Retention Ponds**

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Hee, and Senate Committee Members:

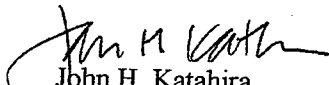
The Limtiaco Consulting Group, Inc. (TLCG), a locally-owned small business, **opposes SB 1057**, Relating to Detention and Retention Ponds, in its current form.

The bill seeks to set design standards for retention pond safety features through legislation. TLCG believes that such measures should, if determined to be necessary, be part of County Design Standards. County Design Standards currently set other design standards for storm water drainage systems and we believe that is the appropriate forum for these types of measures.

In the latter part of 2008, our company assisted to setup a meeting of various agencies to discuss detention pond safety issues. We feel that a good discussion occurred and believe that more discussion is needed to evaluate appropriate measures and settings. The local design professional community is willing to continue to participate in that effort, either in an informal working group or in a Task Force as proposed by HB 384 HD1.

As a life-long resident of Hawaii, I sincerely appreciate your commitment to protect and enhance our beautiful State. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Best Regards,  
*The Limtiaco Consulting Group, Inc.*

  
John H. Katahira  
Principal



**Gray • Hong • Nojima & Associates, Inc.**  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

**LATE**

Daniel S.C. Hong, PE  
Sheryl E. Nojima, PhD, PE  
Michael H. Nojima, PE, LEED AP  
Paul T. Matsuda, PE, LEED AP  
Rusty B. Bungcayao  
Gavin Y. Masaki, PE

**841 Bishop Street, Suite 1100**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3915**  
**Telephone: (808) 521-0306**  
**Fax: (808) 531-8018**  
**email@grayhongnojima.com**

February 17, 2009

EMAILED TESTIMONY TO: [ENETestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:ENETestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

**Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 225**  
**(ENE/WTL Committees)**

Honorable Senators Mike Gabbard, Chair, J. Kalani English, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Honorable Senators Clayton Hee, Chair, Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

**Subject: SB 1057, Relating to Detention and Retention Ponds**

Dear Chair Gabbard and Hee, and Senate Committee Members,

Gray, Hong, Nojima & Associates, Inc., a Hawaii-owned and -operated civil engineering firm, appreciates this opportunity to testify on SB 1057, Relating to Detention and Retention Ponds. **We oppose SB 1057 in its current form.**

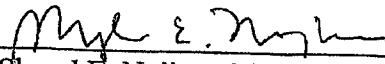
The bill seeks to set design standards for retention pond safety features through legislation. We believe that such measures should, if determined to be necessary, be part of County Design Standards. County Design Standards currently set other design standards for storm water drainage systems and we believe that is the appropriate forum for these types of measures.

In the latter part of 2008, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii assisted in facilitating a meeting of various agencies to discuss detention pond safety issues. We feel that productive discussion occurred and that more discussion is needed to evaluate appropriate measures and settings. The local design professional community is willing to continue to participate in that effort, either in an informal working group or in a Task Force as proposed by HB 384 HD1.

Thank you for an opportunity to express our views regarding this bill. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding our testimony.

Sincerely,

GRAY, HONG, NOJIMA & ASSOCIATES, INC.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheryl E. Nojima, PhD, PE  
President

LATE



THE LIMTIACO CONSULTING GROUP  
CIVIL ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

February 16, 2009

**EMAILED TESTIMONY TO:** CPCtestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov

**Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 225  
(ENE/WTL Committees)**

Honorable Senators Mike Gabbard (Chair), J. Kalani English (Vice Chair), and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Honorable Senators Clayton Hee (Chair), Jill N. Tokuda (Vice Chair), and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

**Subject: SB 1057, Relating to Detention and Retention Ponds**

Dear Chairs Gabbard and Hee, and Senate Committee Members:

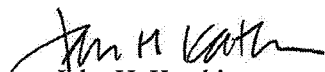
The Limtiaco Consulting Group, Inc.(TLCG), a locally-owned small business, **opposes SB 1057**, Relating to Detention and Retention Ponds, in its current form.

The bill seeks to set design standards for retention pond safety features through legislation. TLCG believes that such measures should, if determined to be necessary, be part of County Design Standards. County Design Standards currently set other design standards for storm water drainage systems and we believe that is the appropriate forum for these types of measures.

In the latter part of 2008, our company assisted to setup a meeting of various agencies to discuss detention pond safety issues. We feel that a good discussion occurred and believe that more discussion is needed to evaluate appropriate measures and settings. The local design professional community is willing to continue to participate in that effort, either in an informal working group or in a Task Force as proposed by HB 384 HD1.

As a life-long resident of Hawaii, I sincerely appreciate your commitment to protect and enhance our beautiful State. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Best Regards,  
*The Limtiaco Consulting Group, Inc.*

  
John H. Katahira  
Principal



**Gray • Hong • Nojima & Associates, Inc.**  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

**LATE**

Daniel S. C. Hong, PE  
Sheryl E. Nojima, PhD, PE  
Michael H. Nojima, PE, LEED AP  
Paul T. Matsuda, PE, LEED AP  
Rusty B. Bungcayao  
Gavin Y. Masaki, PE

**841 Bishop Street, Suite 1100**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3915**  
**Telephone: (808) 521-0306**  
**Fax: (808) 531-8018**  
**email@grayhongnojima.com**

February 17, 2009

EMAILED TESTIMONY TO: [ENETestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:ENETestimony@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

**Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 225**  
**(ENE/WTL Committees)**

Honorable Senators Mike Gabbard, Chair, J. Kalani English, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Honorable Senators Clayton Hee, Chair, Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

**Subject: SB 1057, Relating to Detention and Retention Ponds**

Dear Chair Gabbard and Hee, and Senate Committee Members,

Gray, Hong, Nojima & Associates, Inc., a Hawaii-owned and -operated civil engineering firm, appreciates this opportunity to testify on SB 1057, Relating to Detention and Retention Ponds. **We oppose SB 1057 in its current form.**

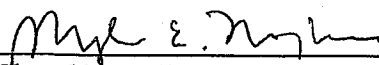
The bill seeks to set design standards for retention pond safety features through legislation. We believe that such measures should, if determined to be necessary, be part of County Design Standards. County Design Standards currently set other design standards for storm water drainage systems and we believe that is the appropriate forum for these types of measures.

In the latter part of 2008, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Hawaii assisted in facilitating a meeting of various agencies to discuss detention pond safety issues. We feel that productive discussion occurred and that more discussion is needed to evaluate appropriate measures and settings. The local design professional community is willing to continue to participate in that effort, either in an informal working group or in a Task Force as proposed by HB 384 HD1.

Thank you for an opportunity to express our views regarding this bill. Please contact us if you have any questions regarding our testimony.

Sincerely,

GRAY, HONG, NOJIMA & ASSOCIATES, INC.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheryl E. Nojima, PhD, PE  
President

I offer the following testimony in support of SB 1057:

I urge you to support SB 1057, which relates to retention, detention and catchment pond safety. Written in memory of a five-year-old girl who drowned in a Pearl City naval housing complex detention pond while trying to save the life of her childhood friend, the resolution seeks to improve the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state.

The death of Sharkey Schaefer could have been prevented. Those responsible for the construction of the pond were well aware of the hazardous conditions that this particular rain catchment basin presented. When developers start balancing their books by taking safety out of the equation, someone, like Sharkey Schaefer, is going to pay the ultimate price. Those responsible for the construction of the pond were well aware of the hazardous conditions that this particular rain catchment basin presented. If regulations had existed to ensure responsible parties had built and maintained a safe system, the Schaefer family would not have lost their precious child.

This death not only affected the Schaefer family, but our entire community. I am a close friend of the Schaefer family, and was also a neighbor at the time of Sharkey's death. I personally contacted the Navy almost a dozen times before Sharkey's death requesting that the retention pond be fenced, as my house was the closest to the area. I was also one of the adults who joined in the frantic search of the pond for Sharkey. There has not been a day since she died that I have not felt that I should have fought harder to get that area fenced in, it will haunt me for the rest of my life.

Hawaii has the highest drowning rate in the nation and must take action immediately to improve safety for citizens as well as to improve the state's image as a safe as well as pleasurable visitor destination and place to live. Unregulated and poorly maintained rainwater detention and retention ponds pose a serious health and safety risk, particularly to Hawaii's children.

Hawaii has many proactive laws that protect the environment, now it seems we need to advocate for laws that afford our citizens the same rights and privileges. I would appreciate your support for SB 1057 and I look forward to hearing a response from your office.

Sincerely,

Karen M. Eggers

Contact information:  
(410) 721-4396  
2498 Vineyard Ln  
Crofton, MD 21114  
Email – karene999@hotmail.com