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To : Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
: Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government
Operations and Military Affairs
: Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Hearing Date : February 7th 2012
Re : Testimony in Strong Support of SB2290 (2 pages)

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Espero and DelaCruz and members of the
Committees,

My name is Anthony Aalto. I am a resident of Honolulu, a taxpayer
and a voter, and I thank you for this opportunity to testify.

I strongly support this bill and I urge you to do the same.

I was a member of the City & County of Honolulu's Sustainable
Building Task Force 2010- 2011. We had long discussions about the
issues addressed by this bill and in our recent report to the Council
recommended that they adopt some of these provisions.

Potable water on Hawai'i is a finite resource. Our major aquifers are
approaching their maximum sustainable yield. The Board of Water
Supply on O'ahu was sufficiently concerned about this eventuality
that it conducted an EIS and carried out all the requisite planning
necessary to build a \$48 million desalination plant at Barbers Point
which it originally anticipated would need to come on line by 2018.
That date has been pushed back by a decade or so, but the problem
still looms. In the meantime the state and counties are doing a very
poor job of educating the public and making the building, mechanical
and plumbing codes more efficient. They clearly need pushing.

In the average home 30% to 40% of potable water is flushed down the toilet.

Concerns about the cost of these measures is misplaced. Already sewer bills on O'ahu will rise 3% to 5% until 2035. Potable water costs will increase by 70% over the next 5 years. Clearly more efficient plumbing will save ratepayers over the long term. More advanced and more efficient codes will also lead to more highly skilled, better paid jobs. Pushing less water around means we will consume less energy which will help us meet the Clean Energy Initiative targets the state has adopted by statute.

In truth, this bill is a no-brainer opposed only by nervous nellies and and I urge you to support it.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.