



HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



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**LATE**

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF  
ANTHONY J. H. CHING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

ON

Friday, February 22, 2013

9:00 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

in consideration of

**S.B. 1143, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY CONTROL.**

**Purpose:** This bill will establish fees to support the Office of Environmental Quality Control (“OEQC”) effort to create/maintain a data base, conduct education outreach to State and County agencies, consultants, stakeholders and the general public, hire additional staff, and conduct environmental stewardship to fulfill its statutory functions. The bill will amend Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 341, to add three sections: 1) Section 341-A that establishes an environmental review special fund and provides for uses of the fund; 2) Section 341-B that establishes the fees necessary for the administration and management of the office and council; and 3) Section 341-C regarding annual reports to the Legislature.

**Position:** This testimony reflects my view only as the Authority has not had an opportunity to review and act on this measure while I recognize the relevance and position of the OEQC, and the importance of HRS, Section 341.4

Testimony reflects the view and position of the Executive Director and not that of the Authority.

note that State and County agencies should be exempt from paying the filing fees. Instead, I recommend that additional operating funds are appropriated through the Legislature 2013 for additional staff positions, the creation of a data base, for educational outreach, and the creation of an environmental review special fund with appropriated start up funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this proposal.



UNIVERSITY  
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MĀNOA

Water Resources Research Center  
Environmental Center



February 21, 2013  
RL: 2300

SB 1143 SD1  
RELATING TO THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY CONTROL

Senate Committee on Ways & Means  
Public Hearing – Friday February 22, 2013  
9:00 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 211

By  
David Penn, Environmental Center  
**SUPPORT**

Dear Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and committee members,

SB 1143 provides measures that would help the Office of Environmental Quality Control (OEQC), the Environmental Center, the Environmental Council, and their partners and constituents to more efficiently and effectively achieve the objectives of Chapter 343, and to better integrate the environmental review process with the broader pursuit of our state's environmental quality goals. It is standard practice for other state and county agencies in Hawaii to support essential, mandatory program operations through similar measures, and several other states collect filing fees to support the processing of environmental review documents.

The Hawaii Environmental Quality Control Act (1970) created a mandate for OEQC, the Environmental Center, and the Environmental Council to work together to “stimulate, expand, and coordinate efforts to determine and maintain the optimum quality of the environment of the State.” Haw. Rev. Stat. § 341-1. The Act assigned statutory duties to OEQC and the Environmental Council that go far beyond their shared administration of the state's environmental review process under Chapter 343 (*see* Haw. Rev. Stat. §§ 341-4(b) and 341-6), however existing resources are inadequate for the full suite of tasks at hand. The Environmental

Council is a volunteer organization that relies solely upon OEQC and Department of Health discretion for budget and staffing, and the Environmental Center's position count for permanent faculty is down to one. Therefore, creating an independent revenue stream to help fund the administration of the Chapter 343 environmental review process would also bolster the ability of our organizations to fulfill our broader mandate for optimizing environmental quality.

Thank you for hearing this proposed legislation. Please note that this testimony is advisory only and does not represent the official position of the University of Hawaii.



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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**LATE**

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 22, 2013, 9:00 A.M.  
(Testimony is 1 page long)

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1143 SD1

Chair Ige and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 10,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, **supports** SB 1143 SD1. This measure implements the recommendation to establish a special fund to support the Office of Environmental Quality Control from the Environmental Review Working Group.

Three years ago, this Committee assembled the Environmental Review Working Group, which brought together a wide range of stakeholders to evaluate and recommend approaches to improve Hawai'i's environmental review process. Despite the diversity of viewpoints -- representing business, agencies, and environmental nonprofits -- there was unanimous agreement that the Office of Environmental Quality Control needed basic reforms and funding to adequately function. Ensuring the agency has access to appropriate resources benefits everyone, whether they be developer or conservationist.

The proposal presented before you is the work of several weeks of discussions and compromise. We believe it important to keep this recommendation largely intact, particularly the agreement that this fund would supplement OEQC's budget and not replace it.

We respectfully ask this Committee to move this bill forward. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.