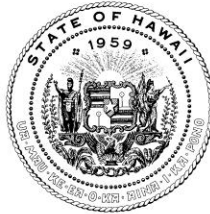


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, Jr.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 21, 2014
12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2204, HD1
RELATING TO STORM WATER MANAGEMENT**

House Bill 2204, HD1 proposes to: 1) amend Hawaii Revised Statutes ("Haw. Rev. Stat.") §46-1.5(5) by adding a new sub-paragraph (E) to authorize any county to "establish and charge user fees to create and maintain any storm water management system or infrastructure;" and 2) require the Director of the Department of Health to convene and chair a working committee to investigate and prepare a work plan about how to support storm water management systems and infrastructure in Hawaii.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Commission on Water Resource Management STRONGLY SUPPORT HD1.

1. Reclaiming storm water is important: a) as an alternative supply of non-potable irrigation water; b) to help prevent polluted run-off into Hawaii's near-shore ocean waters and reduce land based threats to coral reefs and aquatic resources; and c) to retain storm water on land to recharge groundwater aquifers as aggregate rainfall over the Hawaiian Islands may be declining.
2. Reclaiming storm water (both municipal and private) opens up a whole range of alternative strategies, including conservation, reuse, efficiency, storage, non-potable water use, among others.
3. Storm water management includes both large scale urban runoff from impervious surfaces as well as agricultural land.

4. There are currently no rules or standards for stormwater reclamation as there are for wastewater. Pollutants and contaminants that may be carried in stormwater are site-specific and a function of upstream land uses. Drainage and polluted runoff control (non-point source pollution) come under the Department of Health, but are also subject to federal and county requirements.
5. Stormwater reclamation and reuse projects will need to characterize the stormwater quality, design appropriate treatment, secure appropriate end uses, protect public and environmental health, and ensure the project is economically sound.
6. Financing will be important. There are a wide range of options. Many organizations throughout the mainland are shifting to fee-based enterprise funds as an alternative to tax-based funding in order to comply with stormwater management permits and regulations. There are an estimated 600 stormwater utilities in the U.S. Funding for these utilities is based on the amount of impervious surface area for a given property. A 2007 nation-wide survey found average monthly residential stormwater service rates ranged from \$0.75 to \$16.82 per month. Establishing stormwater utilities in Hawaii could provide a source of revenue to fund stormwater and reuse management.

We believe the working committee provides an excellent opportunity to explore these options, investigate models being applied elsewhere in the nation, and evaluate the experience of other jurisdictions.

For these and other reasons, both the Department and the Commission **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB2204, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

HB 2204, HD1, RELATING TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Testimony of Gary L. Gill
Deputy Director, Environmental Health Administration

February 21, 2014
12:00 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this bill.

2 **Fiscal Implications:** This bill authorizes counties to establish and charge user fees for stormwater
3 management, and appropriates an unspecified amount of funds to establish a working committee and
4 prepare a work plan to support stormwater management systems and infrastructure.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this bill is to better protect Hawaii's water resources and
6 environment by allowing counties to charge user fees to maintain stormwater management systems or
7 infrastructure, and by establishing a working committee to prepare a work plan. The department
8 strongly supports this bill because it addresses a statewide priority of keeping our waters clean for the
9 health and benefit of all of Hawaii's people and visitors.

10 Effective stormwater management is necessary for our health and economy because polluted
11 stormwater runoff is discharged untreated into our streams and ocean through stormwater management
12 systems. Stormwater runoff often contains motor oil and other toxic chemicals, sediment, fertilizers,
13 pesticides, bacteria, nutrients, and debris, which potentially harm drinking water supplies, public
14 recreation, fisheries, coral reefs, and other wildlife.

1 This bill would allow the counties to better prevent harmful pollutants from being washed or
2 dumped into stormwater management systems. Such pollution prevention efforts may include
3 increasing the amount of porous (or pervious) surfaces on developed property, or implementing best
4 management practices in agricultural and conservation lands. These efforts would increase groundwater
5 recharge and stormwater infiltration, which ultimately lead to less polluted stormwater runoff reaching
6 the precious water resources on which we depend.

7 The issues surrounding stormwater management, including nonpoint source pollution prevention,
8 stormwater reuse and reclamation, and public education and outreach, fall under the legal responsibility
9 of multiple federal, state, and county agencies. Therefore, the department strongly supports the
10 establishment of a working committee and development of a work plan to ensure effective coordination
11 and decision making based on sound data and analysis.

12 The department proposes an appropriation amount of \$250,000, taking into consideration the
13 costs associated with coordinating agency representatives and other stakeholders, facilitating meetings,
14 investigating stormwater management programs and methods of financing in other states, preparing a
15 work plan, and writing a report for the legislature by the regular session of 2016.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

1000 ULUOHIA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3487 • WEBSITE: <http://envhonolulu.org>

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



LORI M.K. KAHIKINA, P.E.
DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY A. HOUGHTON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:
WAS 14-29

February 20, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2204, HD1, Relating To Stormwater Management

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services supports that portion of House Bill (HB) 2204, HD1, Relating to Stormwater Management, that would authorize the counties to establish and charge user fees to maintain stormwater management systems and infrastructure.

With the authorization given to the counties, we see no value in the proposal in Section 3 to have the Department of Health convene a working committee to, in part, investigate alternative models and methods of financing used throughout the United States. That investigation and determination should be done by the counties who would have the authority to establish and charge the user fees. Specifically, we recommend that the second paragraph in Section 3 (b) of the bill be removed as inappropriate and unnecessary.

We recommend the committee pass HB 2204, HD1 with the removal of the second paragraph in Section 3 (b) of the bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori M.K. Kahikina".

Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E.
Director

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Stormwater management system user fee

BILL NUMBER: HB 2204, HD-1

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Water and Land

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS section 46-1.5 to allow a county to establish and charge user fees to maintain any stormwater management system or infrastructure.

Requires the director of health to convene a working committee to prepare a work plan to support stormwater management systems and infrastructure throughout the state and to report its findings to the 2016 legislature.

Also appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for fiscal 2015 for the convening of a working committee to prepare the work plan to support stormwater management systems and infrastructure in the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/1/50

STAFF COMMENTS: This measure would authorize the counties to establish and charge another user fee - in this case for stormwater management systems or infrastructure. While it is a user fee, it is questionable to whom the fee will be charged - will it be assessed to everyone, like a sewer fee?

While the amount of the fee is unspecified, if insufficient revenues are generated from this fee, there is no doubt that the amount of the fee will be increased or other sources of revenue may be tapped for the desired programs, in this case stormwater management or infrastructure.

Digested 2/20/15



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 21, 2014 at 12:00 P.M.
State Capitol - Conference Room 308**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2204, HD1 RELATING TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Chair Luke and Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and members of the committee:

The Chamber **opposes** H.B. No. 2204 HD1 which would authorize the counties to establish and charge user fees for storm-water management. The bill proposes to create a working committee in the Department of Health to prepare a work plan to support storm-water management systems and infrastructure.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Ordinary government functions performed as part of the service our taxes pay for are now being funded by permitting and user fees and exactions. We understand that the Counties raise funds through real property taxes and the State's Transit Accommodations Tax, along with other taxes and fees. We also understand that drainage is normally a County or Municipality service. As such, rather than arbitrarily impose a new user fee to address storm-water management, perhaps other municipal services should be reduced to meet the anticipated budget.

Serious discussions are warranted on how much revenue is brought in by the Counties from real property taxes, TAT, and other revenue sources, then prioritizing the services the Counties should provide based on the projected revenue. Sewer, solid waste, and building permit review fees have already been increased in the City and County of Honolulu. If there is no accountability for the revenue now, the Counties will continue to increase fees as a means to balance the budget.

For the foregoing reasons, the Chamber opposes H.B. No. 2204 H.D. 1. Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.

Name/Title: Rafael Bergstrom, Surfrider Oahu Chapter Administrator; Junior Researcher, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management, UH Manoa

Committee: Committee on Finance

Date/Time: Friday February 21 2014, 12:00 PM

Measure Number: HB2204

Aloha Committee Members,

Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this testimony regarding HB 2204 and efforts to find innovative ways to help with a very serious issue affecting our precious near-shore marine resources – stormwater runoff. After passing through the Committee on Water & Land, HB 2204 was amended based on recommendations from DLNR, committee members, and those who testified. These amendments were thoughtful changes to the location of the legislation to a statutory section that relates to general county powers rather than to water resource management, and also makes clear the need for a working group headed by the Director of Health. It should be emphasized that HB 2204 places no burden on Hawai‘i counties to enact user fees, but gives protections to them should they pursue these progressive stormwater mitigation options in the future. Also of great importance is the working group – this stipulation to the bill is a responsible first step in educating the legislature and the public about stormwater runoff and solutions to it, but also a necessity in making sure future considerations for a stormwater utility are explored based on feasibility and equity directly related to each county of Hawai‘i.

Honolulu, and Hawai‘i in general, has undergone rapid urbanization in recent decades to the point that much of our land has been covered with impervious roof, roads, and parking. An associated consequence of such development is the increase in stormwater runoff into our streams and surrounding oceans. As more and more land is paved over the ability of rain water to return to the soil and ground water storage areas is lost as rain water hits impervious surface, picks up pollutants like gasoline, animal waste, and debris and washes directly into streams that connect to the ocean. This is already having serious consequences for our most precious resources. A stroll along the ala wai canal or a snorkeling trip anywhere on Oahu, but especially in the most heavily developed areas, tells the story of stormwater pollution. There is no denying this anymore, there is no reason to ignore this anymore. We need to begin a proactive campaign to reverse these degradations and take responsibility for our actions.

I am a student of natural resources management and have had a particular interest in progressive urban planning to reshape our cities into more livable areas. I choose to see the problems that we are faced with as an opportunity to be leaders in change, to making this place an example of how we can take responsible and creative action to live with our beautiful environment and not against it. We must return to being stewards of our natural resources and not just takers.

Myself and a group of dedicated individuals has been researching stormwater reduction methods for over a year in an effort to come up with plans to reduce its impact in Hawai‘i.

Across the nation, states, cities and counties are having success with storm water utilities and user fees which give local governing authorities the resources needed to not only ramp up cleanup, but also to incentivize change through the implementation of green infrastructure and low impact development such as rain gardens, green roofs, rain catchment, and grey-water systems. These are all mechanisms that represent the future of urban design and Honolulu could sorely use an accelerated implementation of such methods.

Please consider this HB 2204 as an important first step in recreating our urban environment to one that protects our most precious resources here in Hawai'i – our near shore reefs, coastlines, recreational meccas, fisherieies, and fresh water sources.

Cheers,

Rafael Bergstrom



Name: Annie Lovell, Project Coordinator

Committee: Committee on Water & Land

Date/Time: Friday, February 7, 2014, 8:30am

Measure Number: HB2204

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee,

My name is Annie Lovell and I have been focusing on storm water management issues for the past five years as an environmental scientist with a private consulting firm in Honolulu and now as a project coordinator for a non-profit watershed management organization based in Kailua. I am in **strong support of House Bill 2204** relating to storm water management in Hawai'i.

Hui o Ko'olaupoko (HOK) is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization working on protecting ocean health by addressing non-point source (NPS) pollution across the numerous watersheds from Makapu'u to Kualoa. Ko'olaupoko moku, and its eleven ahupua'a, is the largest water producing area on the island of Oahu¹. In speaking specifically to the NPS issues that affect the watersheds within our region, HOK has found through extensive research, field investigations, observations and anecdotal support that NPS pollution, as a result of urban development and impervious surfaces, is a leading cause of water quality impairment and natural resource degradation. Within the urban areas of the Ko'olaupoko watershed, impervious surfaces reach nearly 60% in some areas and through water quality efforts conducted by Hawaii Pacific University, we see water pollutant parameters spike in the stream running through urban areas². Many of these pollutants are coming from impervious surfaces in commercial and residential properties. Rain fall in these developed areas runs directly off the land into storm drains and/or hardened conveyances, which transport the storm water and many pollutants, including motor oil, metals from brake pads, trash, organic debris, fertilizers and pesticides. This storm water is then dumped into our streams and oceans causing a multitude of environmental and human health problems.

In order to protect our waters, counties must comply with increasingly strict permit requirements enforced by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and State Department of Health. Programs for municipal storm water management are extremely broad in scope, chronically underfunded and are not adequately protecting water and environmental resources, nor are they meeting the needs of the citizens or the requirements of the law. The current scheme of using the General Fund to finance storm water management programs is not only providing inadequate resources to municipal efforts, but it also does nothing to incentivize businesses and homeowners to reduce runoff that is generated on their properties.

HB2204 would explicitly permit counties to explore the use of user fees, a mechanism of funding municipal storm water management programs, which has successfully been utilized in many other municipalities for decades.

¹ Kailua Bay Advisory Council (2007) Ko'olaupoko Watershed Restoration Action Strategy. Kailua, Hawaii. June.

² Carstenn, Susan (2013) He'eia Stream Nutrients. Unpublished

There are a variety of options for managing storm water that both businesses and homeowners can implement to address runoff generated on their properties. In 2011, HOK developed a residential rain garden program to teach residents how to install rain gardens to capture runoff on their property. Additionally, in September 2011, HOK completed an Urban Sub-basin Action Plan which identified 220 low-impact development and low-impact retrofit sites that could be implemented to address storm water runoff. Since the completion of this plan, HOK has implemented two of the identified projects. These programs have been highly successful, but the ability to protect water resources could be elevated with laws that incentivize these types of storm water management and low-impact development projects.

User fees are an effective, tested and equitable tool to secure this funding for municipal storm water management programs as well as incentivize Hawai'i residents to implement their own measures for urban NPS reduction. Therefore, I strongly urge the committee to pass this measure and allow the counties to further explore this funding source.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Name/Title: Phil Potter, Environmental Consultant

Committee: Committee on Finance

Date/Time: Friday February 21 2014, 12:00pm

Measure Number: HB2204

Aloha Ladies and Gentleman of the Committee,

My name is Phil Potter and as an environmental consultant with over five years of experience addressing water resource management issues in Hawaii, I **strongly support** House Bill 2204 relating to stormwater management.

As Oahu's resident population has doubled since 1950, so too have the hard surfaces we create in the form of rooftops, parking lots and roads. As rain falls on these developed areas, it quickly moves through our system of hardened pipes and conveyances, increasing the frequency and severity of flooding and inundating our inland and coastal waters with land-based pollutants like fertilizers, motor oils and pet waste.

To keep our surface water clean, counties must comply with increasingly strict permit requirements enforced by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and State Department of Health. Traditionally, the funding needed to screen for pollution, maintain drainage networks and educate the public on best practices has come from general tax funds, whose allocation can change from year to year. Also, the current funding scheme provides little incentive for property owners to reduce the runoff that their properties generate. **HB2204 would explicitly permit counties to explore the use of user fees, a mechanism of funding stormwater management which has successfully been utilized on the mainland for several decades.**

In this funding scheme, user fees are charged to property owners by a stormwater utility for the service of managing the stormwater runoff and associated pollutants coming from their property. The fee is calculated based on the demands a property places on the drainage system, which provides an incentive for property owners to reduce the runoff that they generate. Also, this fee is usually administered separately from general tax fund, ensuring adequate and dedicated funding for these critical services.

HB2204 does not *mandate* that counties enact stormwater user fees, nor does it dictate the particulars of such fees. If counties opt to pursue this funding strategy, the details of how a fee may be assessed (billing mechanisms, commercial versus residential considerations, credit schemes) will be thoroughly investigated with support from the working committee that this bill creates at the State level. This bill simply gives the counties *explicit authority* to establish user fees and provides assurance to the counties that the State supports their efforts.

In Hawaii, our waterbodies are an essential part of our way of life. They provide a key resource for fishing, swimming, and recreation for residents and tourists alike. Our counties need adequate funding to meet the ambitious goals set by regulating agencies to keep our surface water clean. **User fees are an effective, tested and equitable tool to secure this funding, and as such I strongly urge the committee to pass this measure and allow the counties to further explore this funding source.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Phil Botter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

finance1

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 11:09 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: aagbanna@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2204 on Feb 21, 2014 12:00PM

HB2204

Submitted on: 2/20/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2014 12:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Antonia Agbannawag	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Email comments / written testimony to FIN

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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LATE

Feb. 20, 2014

Committee Chair & Members of Finance (FIN)

RE: Strong Support for HB 2204 – Relating to Stormwater Management

Hearing on Fri., Feb. 7, State Capitol, Conf. Rm. 325, 8:30am.

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto & Johanson, and Committee Members,

My name is Stuart Coleman, and I am the Hawaii Coordinator of the Surfrider Foundation. With more than 5000 activists and members across the state, Surfrider's Hawaii Chapters strongly support passage of HB 2204. This bill is designed to address the harms of stormwater runoff, which is the leading source of water pollution and a threat to the environment and human health.

Since 1950, Oahu's resident population has doubled and so have the hard surfaces we create in the form of rooftops, parking lots and roads. As rain falls on these hard surfaces, it quickly moves through our system of storm drains and inundates our coastal waters with land-based pollutants such as fertilizers, motor oils and pet waste. This toxic soup of pollution flushes into the ocean via waterways like the Ala Wai Canal, a highly-used recreational waterbody which regularly fails state water standards. The frequent brown water advisories and polluted water cast a dark shadow on our shorelines and could dramatically affect our tourism industry.

Right now, counties are being forced to comply with increasingly strict permit requirements enforced by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency and State Department of Health. Traditionally, the funding needed to screen for pollution, maintain drainage networks and educate the public on best practices has come from general tax funds, whose allocation can change from year to year. Also, the current funding scheme provides little incentive for property owners to reduce the runoff that their properties generate. HB2204 would allow counties to explore the use of user fees, an increasingly popular and effective way of funding stormwater management which has successfully been utilized on the mainland for several decades.

In this funding structure, user fees are charged to property owners by a stormwater utility for the service of managing the stormwater runoff and associated pollutants coming from their property. The fee is calculated based on the demands a property places on the drainage system, which provides an incentive for property owners to reduce the runoff that they generate. Also, this fee is usually administered separately from general tax fund, ensuring adequate and dedicated funding for these critical services.

In Hawaii, our waterbodies are an essential part of our lives and provide a key resource for fishing, swimming, and recreation for residents and tourists alike. Our counties need adequate funding to meet the lofty goals set by regulating agencies to keep our surface water clean. User fees are an effective, tested and equitable tool to provide this funding, and as such I strongly urge the committee to pass this measure and allow the counties to further explore this funding source. Mahalo for your time and consideration and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,
Stuart Coleman
Stuart H. Coleman
Hawaii Coordinator

Surfrider Foundation Hawaii Chapters * 2121 Algaroba St., #1107 * Honolulu, HI 96826
808-381-6220 * scolemansurfrider.org * www.surfrider.org

LATE

From: Antonia Agbannawag <aagbanna@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2014 8:34 PM
To: FINTestimony
Subject: (FIN: 2/21, 12pm) HB2204 HD1 Testimony / Comments

Testimony by Antonia Agbannawag

Student, University of Hawaii at Manoa

To the House Committee on Finance

Friday, February 21, 2014

(Present)

HB 2204 HD1 – RELATING TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

Chair Luke, Vice Chairs Nishimoto and Johanson, and honorable members of this committee:

In Hawaii, water is a culturally significant resource that sustains the life of the people as well as the vitality of the land. "When the skies weep, the earth lives," and it is the salient features of our climate and environment that allow this life force to flow from mauka to makai. However the water surrounds us, and the ocean is grand, water is indeed a finite resource.

I feel I have a deep concern and appreciation for this gift, given that I hail from the desert where the rain don't come easy to our desolate plains. But when the storms roll our way, we know what to do to make the most of a life-giving shower. But sometimes here, when it rains we fear, because the DOH Clean Water Branch routinely issues beach warnings, advisories, and closures due to bacterial contamination attributed to rainfall and subsequent stormwater runoff.

I understand that the DLNR is in charge of watershed management projects, however the water system truly extends to our shores. The rains find the forest, but as it falls and makes its way to the sea, it will likely pick up debris and microbial contamination as it flows across land surfaces. Can you imagine how filthy the runoff is that traverses urban Honolulu? On my street, the stormwater comes to a standstill because it has nowhere to go. Here, the city and county have jurisdiction over the impermeable streets and the lack of storm drainage infrastructure. Clearly, this is an interagency affair.

Given that perspective, stormwater is proof of poor planning, although the proposed legislation with

the language of HB2204 HD1 provides opportunities for the cities, counties and state to pursue the HRS and HAR that already exist and enable smart stormwater management practices. The beautiful thing about this bill is that it does not actually mandate any agency to take immediate or drastic action that would affect any citizen or business. Instead, it grants general powers to the counties to take action on the issues related to stormwater if appropriate, and the capacity for the DOH to support management and infrastructure moving forward. These will be critical components to the responsible development and redevelopment of our lands.

Whereas stormwater management is currently funded by general funds of the counties and the state, an approach that assesses fees based on impervious surface area could create revenue for water reclamation and reuse, CIP funding, and a storm water management system that is self-supporting. (Appraisal of the Statewide Framework for Stormwater Reclamation and Reuse in Hawaii conducted in 2008)

Since infrastructure for stormwater reclamation and reuse is not included in drainage standards, developers do not incorporate it into designs de facto; but as we push low-impact development, stormwater user fees, which are inherently incentive, will ensure mindfulness of runoff, pollution, groundwater recharge, reclamation and reuse. Smart storm water management that has emerged here on a small scale, such as pervious paving, green roofs, and rainwater harvesting can be expanded by this bill; it could potentially lay the foundation for the large-scale capture and reuse of stormwater on our islands that can help replace some potable water being used currently for non-potable uses, such as irrigation. Solutions such as these allow communities to envision their role and responsibility to the spaces we occupy. The outcomes of this legislation are tangible and long-term benefits are invaluable for the long-term security of our state resources.

Appraisal of the Statewide Framework for Stormwater Reclamation and Reuse in Hawaii, 2008

http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/cwrm/planning/hsrar_element1.pdf

User Fee Structures

<http://stormwaterfinance.urbancenter.iupui.edu/PDFs/Nprie.pdf>

Eugene, Oregon

http://www.mwmcpartners.org/AboutMWMC/RatesSDCs/eugene_rates.pdf

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Antonia Agbannawag