

HB 1749,  
HD1

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE  
and  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Monday, March 21, 2016  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1749, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO WATER MANAGEMENT**

House Bill 1749, House Draft 1 proposes to amend Section 174C-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to add "The attainment of one hundred percent utilization of reclaimed water in all state facilities" as an objective of the Hawaii Water Plan. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this bill to commit to water reuse on a broad scale throughout Hawaii, but notes that one hundred percent utilization may be difficult to attain.**

There are numerous state facilities scattered throughout the islands, ranging from small base yards to schools, harbors, parks, hospitals, prisons, office buildings, etc. Most of the facilities are not proximal to a wastewater reclamation facility or within or near the service areas of existing recycled water distribution systems. In order to achieve this objective, either reclaimed water would have to be trucked in to each facility on a regular basis or separate dual water systems or many new wastewater reclamation facilities would have to be constructed throughout the State, which would be extremely costly. There are also costs associated with operation and maintenance of these systems.

The Department of Health (DOH) has just released its updated Reuse Guidelines (January 2016). The Reuse Guidelines identify areas within the State where recycled water application is conditional and restricted. Conditional Areas are areas where recycled water application is currently allowed, but may, in the future, be subject to monitoring requirements or restrictions. Restricted Areas are areas where recycled water application is prohibited. It is very likely that state facilities are located in Conditional and Restricted Areas.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

The bill should clarify what “one hundred percent utilization” means. Many state facilities have a potable component of water use. Direct potable reuse is not currently practiced in the State of Hawaii. Does the bill intend to include the potable component of water use at state facilities as well? If not, state facilities would be required to be retrofitted with dual water systems, which would also be very costly. An appraisal of opportunities and a feasibility study with cost-benefit analysis should be conducted to provide a better understanding of the human, financial and technological resources that would be needed to meet this objective and the likelihood of success.

The Department’s Commission on Water Resource Management has no authority or jurisdiction over the development and use of reclaimed water and defers to DOH regarding their rules, regulations, standards and guidelines on recycled water use.

We note that Act 229, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, appropriated funds for the Airports Division of the Department of Transportation to conduct a feasibility study on the use of water scalping technology in state airport facilities and to develop a process design for the processing portion of the implementation of water scalping technology. A similar bill, Senate Bill 2097, has been introduced this session for the Department of Public Safety, Corrections Divisions’ Halawa Correctional Facility. We respectfully recommend that these studies be allowed completed and better information obtained regarding the feasibility of scalping projects before establishing global policies regarding reclaimed water use in state facilities.

**DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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ROBERT J. KRONING, P.E.  
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MARK YONAMINE, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 14, 2016

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture  
State Capitol, Room 201  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Government Operations  
State Capitol, Room 218  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Kim, and Members:

**SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1749 HD1, Relating to Water Management**

The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) respectfully provides the following comments on House Bill No. 1749 HD1, which amends the goals of the Hawaii water plan to include the one hundred per cent utilization of reclaimed water in all State facilities.

DDC supports the maximum practical use of reclaimed water, which is the apparent intent of the bill. However, the use of reclaimed water to achieve such a goal at any cost and without full consideration of the efficiency of water supply systems would be potentially detrimental to efficient provision of public water infrastructure. The bill, as written leaves too many questions unanswered, including the following:

- Would the requirement to use 100 percent reclaimed water apply to all county facilities?
- How is reclaimed water to be made available to all state (and county) locations that use water?

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
and Members  
The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair  
and Members  
March 14, 2016  
Page 2

- What is the intended use of the reclaimed water? Department of Health regulations restrict reclaimed water use to specific uses under specific conditions to protect public health.

Based on the above considerations, DDC considers House Bill No. 1749 HD1 to be overly broad and vague and has serious concerns that the bill might result in impractical and unintended consequences.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,



Robert J. Kroning, P.E.  
Director

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1749 on Mar 21, 2016 14:45PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2016 9:49:36 AM

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**HB1749**

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for WLA/GVO on Mar 21, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ruston Utu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1749 on Mar 21, 2016 14:45PM\*  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2016 8:54:37 PM

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**HB1749**

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for WLA/GVO on Mar 21, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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