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GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

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March 21, 2016

TO: HONORABLE GLENN WAKAI, CHAIR, HONORABLE SAM SLOM, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

HONORABLE LORRAINE INOUYE, CHAIR, HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD,
VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND ENERGY

SUBJECT: **OPPOSITION TO H.B. 2030, HD1, RELATING TO POLLUTION**
Prohibits the discharge of treated wastewater into state waters after 12/31/2049
except when used to create clean energy. (HB2030 HD1)

HEARING

DATE: Monday, March 21, 2016
TIME: 1:20 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 414

Dear Chairs Wakai and Inouye, Vice Chairs Slom and Gabbard and Members,

The General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) is an organization comprised of over five hundred seventy general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. GCA's mission is to represent its members in all matters related to the construction industry, while improving the quality of construction and protecting the public interest.

H.B. 2030, HD1 proposes to prohibit the discharge of any treated wastewater into State waters after December 31, 2049, except when used to create clean energy. While GCA supports clean energy initiatives, this measure may be a premature approach to addressing how to best address discharge of treated wastewater. GCA opposes this measure because of the potential impacts this may have on future construction projects including public works construction and how this could increase costs to taxpayers. While we support initiatives to ensure discharge of wastewater is efficient, this matter requires further study to ensure such prohibition does not have any potential unintended consequences.

The implications could be grave and as currently written, there are numerous wastewater discharges currently permitted that would become prohibited, including, but not limited to:

- Discharges of treated effluent from underground storage tank remedial activities;
- Discharges of hydro-testing waters (for testing tanks and pipes);
- Discharges associated with construction activity dewatering;
- Discharges of treated process wastewater associated with well drilling activities; or
- Discharges of circulation water from decorative ponds or tanks.

GCA requests deferral of this measure to further study the matter and ensure affected agencies, public works projects and taxpayers are not impacted. Furthermore, study of compliance with federal requirements is important and should be examined to ensure that state regulations are proper and consistent with federal requirements. For these reasons, we respectfully request deferral of this measure. Thank you for your consideration.