

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 House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Thursday, March 3, 2016
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2033
RELATING TO THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

House Bill 2033 proposes amending Section 174C-7 (b), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to authorize the Department of Health (DOH) Director's designee to serve as an ex officio voting member on the Commission on Water Resource Management (Water Commission). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources strongly supports this measure.**

Currently the DOH Director does not have discretion to designate someone to serve on the Water Commission. Due to DOH's broad mandate, staff within DOH may have subject matter expertise particularly relevant to the duties of the Water Commission. When the DOH Director has schedule conflicts, DOH cannot be represented at the Water Commission meeting. This is especially relevant when the DOH Director has a conflicting service schedule on another DOH commission, the Water Commission meetings are held on the neighbor islands, or when a public health or environmental crisis emerges. Authorizing the DOH Director to assign a designee helps ensure quorum and provides flexibility and constancy and subject matter expertise for DOH representation in monthly Water Commission meetings.

We note that the Hawaii Board of Agriculture allows for ex-officio board members or their designated representatives to serve as ex-officio voting members under Section 26-16 (5), HRS.

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
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



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**WRITTEN
TESTIMONY
ONLY**

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 2033
RELATING TO THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: March 3, 2016

Room Number: 308

Time: 2:00 pm

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None for Department of Health.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** Currently, the Director of Health does not have discretion to designate
- 3 someone to serve on the Water Commission. Due to the Department of Health's broad mandate,
- 4 staff within DOH may have subject matter expertise particularly relevant to the duties of the
- 5 Water Commission. When the DOH Director has schedule conflicts, DOH cannot be
- 6 represented at the Water Commission meeting. This is especially relevant when the DOH
- 7 Director has a conflicting service schedule on another DOH commission, the Water Commission
- 8 meetings are held on the neighbor islands or when a public health or environmental crisis
- 9 emerges. Authorizing the Director to assign a designee provides flexibility and constancy and
- 10 subject matter expertise for DOH representation in monthly Commission meetings.
- 11 Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this measure.
- 12 **Offered Amendments:** None.