



March 30, 2016

To: The Chairs and members of the Ways And Means (WAM) Committee

Position: Strong Support for HB 2040 (Relating to Water Security)

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Committee members,

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation's Hawai'i Chapters, I am writing in strong support of HB 2040, which establishes a two-year pilot project in DLNR to enable public-private partnerships to provide funds for projects that increase water security. Surfrider is working with the Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative to bring diverse parties together to develop a forward-thinking and consensus-based strategy to increase water security for Hawaii.

The two-year pilot program would do the following:

- Establish a water security advisory group of water managers, agricultural water system experts, landowners, watershed partners, Hawaiian cultural experts & conservationists;
- Authorize the advisory group to assign priorities for proposals by public and private agencies and organizations that can provide matching funds to increase water security; and
- Authorize the advisory group to recommend priorities to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the grant of matching funds for water security programs.

For the pilot project, the advisory group will encourage innovative proposals that:

- Establish new areas & increase existing ones supporting the recharge of groundwater;
- Reduce the use of potable water for landscape irrigation & encourage the reuse of water; and
- Improve the efficiency of potable domestic water or agricultural irrigation water use.

HB 2040 requires the selected projects to submit reports on the amount of water conserved, recharged, or reused, and requires the Department to track progress with the submission of an annual report on the pilot program to the Governor and to the Legislature.

This pilot program will double the impact of state funds deployed to increase water security in the near term, and establish base-line information for the implementation of longer-term programs and projects. Along with Surfrider, the RAP Coalition and many other groups, we ask you to support HB 2040. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,  
Stuart Coleman  
Hawaii Regional Manager

