



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
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LATE TESTIMONY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B.1310  
RELATING TO STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

SENATOR WILL ESPERO, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: February 17, 2015

Room Number: 229

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) strongly supports this bill. The  
3 purpose of this bill is to better protect Hawaii's natural resources and environment by allowing  
4 counties to charge user fees for stormwater management. Specifically, the fees would be used to  
5 create and maintain stormwater management systems or infrastructure. DOH strongly supports  
6 this bill because it addresses a statewide priority of making our waters cleaner for the health and  
7 benefit of all of Hawaii's people and visitors.

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

13 This bill would allow the counties to better prevent harmful pollutants from being washed  
14 or dumped into stormwater management systems. Such pollution prevention efforts may include  
15 increasing the amount of porous (or pervious) surfaces on developed property, or implementing  
16 best management practices in agricultural and conservation lands. These efforts would increase  
17 groundwater recharge and stormwater infiltration, which ultimately leads to less polluted  
18 stormwater runoff reaching the precious waters on which we depend.

1           The stormwater management projects that the counties would be able to carry out under  
2 this program complement the pollution prevention efforts of DOH. DOH could assist the  
3 counties in these efforts where applicable and collaborative funding opportunities for  
4 implementation projects addressing nonpoint source pollution.

5           Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Program  
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96817

# LATE TESTIMONY

Tel (808) 537-4508  
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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting S.B. 1310 Relating to Stormwater Management  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Tuesday, February 17, 2015, 1:05PM, Room 229

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life in these islands depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports S.B. 1310 authorizing counties to establish stormwater utilities and related infrastructure.

Scientists estimate that populations of many of Hawai'i's near shore reef fishes have declined by more than 75% over the past 100 years. Marine managers, community stewards, and scientists across the state are also cataloguing and working to address increased instances of coral disease, bleaching and reef smothering alien algae. Scientific analysis together with long-term community experience and observation suggest that a number of factors are contributing to and exacerbating these threats to Hawai'i's marine health, including over-harvesting of fishes, land-based sources of pollution, as well as higher temperatures and acidification due to human induced climate change. Degradation of Hawai'i's reefs and near shore environments is not only a detriment to our health and quality of life, but also a grave loss to Hawai'i's economy, safety, and to a cultural heritage that is unique in the world.

Caring for the health and future productivity of Hawai'i's fresh and marine waters requires a combination of strategies in an ahupua'a approach. Taking care of watershed forests, upgrading wastewater treatment systems, enhancing water re-use, preventing and controlling invasive species, encouraging responsible resource use, and retiring and replacing outdated infrastructure are all a part of the solution to the variety of threats we face. Encouraging the adoption of best practices and infrastructure investment by the counties to capture and retain rainfall before it becomes stormwater run-off is one important component of this collective effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL (SB) 1310  
RELATING TO  
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

By:  
Josh Stanbro  
Director, Environment & Sustainability Program  
Hawaii Community Foundation

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015; 1:05 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

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Hawai'i:  
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Parker Square, Room 203  
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4139 Hardy Street  
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Maui County:  
33 Lono Avenue  
The Kahului Building, Suite 390  
Kahului, Hawai'i 96732  
Phone: 808-242-6184

Chair Espero, Vice-Chair Baker, Members of the Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental and Military Affairs:

SB 1310 will prevent pollution and protect Hawai'i's fresh water resources by authorizing Hawai'i's four counties to establish "stormwater utilities" if they elect to do so—to collect fees to create and maintain stormwater management systems and infrastructure. The Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) strongly supports this bill.

HCF is one of the oldest and largest philanthropic foundations in the Islands. Recent scientific findings regarding a downward trend of overall precipitation in Hawai'i, coupled with a trend towards more intense weather events when they do occur, have led HCF to prioritize long-term fresh water security in our work. We believe that SB 1310 is a critical and positive step towards empowering our county governments to capture increased stormwater flow and replenish island aquifers that provide 99% of our drinking water.

HCF commissioned a study in 2014 regarding "Stormwater Best Practices for State and Counties of Hawai'i" from LMI and the Low Impact Development Center. The national study found over 1,400 storm water utilities successfully addressing runoff at the local government level across the United States, and yet none in operation in Hawai'i. SB 1310 provides our counties with this proven flexible and locally relevant tool to address the specific issues they face on each island, if they so choose.

While we understand that the primary focus and benefit of stormwater utilities are pollution and runoff control in our near-shore waters, HCF believes that the fresh water recharge that will result from successful stormwater retention is a critical secondary benefit that will help ensure our water supply long into the future.

We encourage your support for this innovative legislation that empowers local government to address an important environmental and economic issue.

HCF encourages your Committee to pass SB 1310 without amendment.



# LATE TESTIMONY

February 16, 2015

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF Senate Bill 1310

Dear Chair Yamane & Vice Chair Cullen:

The US Green Building Council Hawaii Chapter **supports** SB1325. We believe responsible and sustainable stormwater management is a key component of sustainable development and protecting water resources and public health. As Hawaii continues to develop, more natural drainage systems will be altered or completely replaced with impervious surface such as roads and houses. Fundamentally this means a loss of rainwater recharge back into the ground and the potential for increased pollution into Hawaii's streams and coastal environments. Presently in Hawaii, urban areas contribute trillions of gallons of stormwater runoff annually that carry bacteria, fertilizers, pesticides, heavy metals, oils and other noxious pollutants into our streams and oceans, killing coral reefs and affecting our recreational waters. For certain counties where MS4 permits for stormwater management are in place, this has also become problematic as meeting federal Environmental Protection Agency water quality requirements has become increasingly challenging.

State level support for a county municipal stormwater utility may be a solution. The passing of this bill will provide the level of support for the counties to create the programs required to move Hawaii towards more sustainable stormwater management practices.

We'd also like to acknowledge that this bill upholds the Hawaii State Constitution by helping to protect water resources for the benefit of the people and Hawaii's native ecosystems that rely on clean water. We strongly support SB 1310!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lauren C. Roth Venu".

Lauren C. Roth Venu  
Co-Chair  
USGBC Hawaii Chapter Advocacy Committee  
808-781-7583  
lauren@rothecological.com



LATE TESTIMONY

Feb. 16, 2015

Committee Chair & Members of Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs (PSM)

**RE: Strong Support for SB 1310 – Relating to Stormwater Management**

**Hearing on Tue., Feb. 17, State Capitol, Conf. Rm. 229, 1:05pm.**

Dear Chair Espero, Vice Chair Baker, and Committee Members,

As the Hawaii Regional Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, our five chapters strongly support passage of HB 1325. 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. Our Surfrider members helped form an informal task force that has been working with state and county officials to deal with this issue, and this bill is the result.

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, 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 U.S. 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.

HB1325 does NOT charge any fees but just allows counties to explore the option of utility fees, an increasingly popular and effective way of funding stormwater management that has successfully been utilized on the mainland for several decades. 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. Besides reducing polluted runoff, this bill would promote policies that clean our water and recharge our aquifer and drinking water supplies.

In Hawaii, our waters are an essential part of our lives and provide a key resource for fishing, swimming, surfing and recreation for residents and tourists alike. Our counties need adequate funding to meet the goals set by regulating agencies to keep our surface water clean. User fees are an effective, tested and equitable tool to provide this funding so I strongly urge the committee to pass this measure and allow the counties to further explore this option. 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 Regional Manager

Surfrider Foundation Hawaii Chapters \* 2121 Algaroba St., #1107 \* Honolulu, HI 96826  
808-381-6220 \* [scolemansurfrider.org](mailto:scolemansurfrider.org) \* [www.surfrider.org](http://www.surfrider.org)

LATE TESTIMONY

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 17, 2015 10:32 AM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** hawaii greengrowth@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1310 on Feb 17, 2015 13:05PM

**SB1310**

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for PSM on Feb 17, 2015 13:05PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hawai'i Green Growth	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports SB1310, which authorize the Counties to establish storm water utilities, including fees at the County level. This will help advance action on the Aloha+ Challenge's freshwater security goals. The Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'oaia is a joint leadership commitment to achieve six sustainability targets by 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The Aloha+ Challenge was unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature (SCR 69) and signed by Hawai'i's Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. It was also internationally recognized as a model of integrated sustainability at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa. Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 70 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

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LATE TESTIMONY

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2015 2:26 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** zacharyhitchcock@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1310 on Feb 17, 2015 13:05PM

**SB1310**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for PSM on Feb 17, 2015 13:05PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zachary Hitchcock	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Zachary Hitchcock Chairman, Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter 1533 Artesian Way Honolulu, HI 96822 Dear Senate, It is imperative that citizens and industry understand that what washes off or from their houses or place of business can be detrimental to our Ocean Environment. Fees for such negligence will bring awareness and, hence, a more responsible approach by citizens and businesses. I strongly support implementing storm water fees. Sincerely, Zachary Hitchcock 808-222-6960

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2015 11:35 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** vallohfoto@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1310 on Feb 17, 2015 13:05PM

LATE TESTIMONY

**SB1310**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for PSM on Feb 17, 2015 13:05PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Loh	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support our ability to protect our oceans from becoming polluted. Thanks very much!

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