

**SB 2978**

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

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Lt. Governor



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Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE**

February 8, 2016  
10:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

**SENATE BILL NO 2978  
RELATING TO FRESHWATER RESERVOIRS**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2978. The bill requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) as necessary, to identify, purchase, and rehabilitate suitable freshwater reservoirs in central Maui that are appropriate to: (1) Stock with freshwater game fish; and (2) Assist farmers who need access to fresh water while also serving as freshwater fishing areas. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this measure and defers to DLNR.

Access to fresh water is important to all livestock industries including aquaculture. The Department will support DLNR by assessing the impact access to fresh water may have on livestock industries including aquaculture. Reservoirs also represent a critical component of agriculture. Improvements to make these structures safe benefit the State's drive toward food sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure



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 Committee on  
**WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE**

Monday, February 8, 2016  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
**SENATE BILL 2978**  
**RELATING TO FRESHWATER RESERVOIRS**

Senate Bill 2978 proposes to authorize the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), working with the Department of Agriculture, to identify, purchase or rehabilitate freshwater reservoirs in central Maui to stock gamefish and provide water for farmers and aquaponics. **The Department appreciates the intent of this measure but is concerned that the appropriation could impact other priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget request or any existing Department appropriated funding. The Department also provides the following comments.**

Developing, operating and maintaining reservoirs to support agricultural purposes are beyond the scope of the Department's mission. Therefore, the Department typically sets aside reservoirs to other agencies such as the Department of Agriculture, the Agribusiness Development Corporation and the Counties.

The Department acknowledges its support of freshwater reservoirs at Kokee, Kauai and Wahiawa, Oahu, which are on public and private lands with agreements in place for the Department to manage the reservoirs for recreational fishing. However, the Department is concerned about the long-term costs and administrative burden to manage, operate and maintain a reservoir system into perpetuity. If the Department is directed to purchase and rehabilitate reservoirs, our concerns would include the costs associated with the need to develop road access and other infrastructure improvements. Liability and access easements through neighboring private properties would also be necessary.

Reservoirs are a part of a larger water system that includes the water sources and the outflow. Existing reservoirs use a water source, which may include water tunnels, pipelines, or ditches, that

SUZANNE D. CASE  
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

are typically maintained by a private agriculture business that use the water for irrigation purposes so the state doesn't pay for those costs. Also, the dam to manage the water in the reservoir and the maintenance of the dam and outflow are also necessary. These additional costs are not included in this bill and the Department would need authority to cover these expenses.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.