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GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on  
WATER AND LAND  
and  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
and  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Friday, March 31, 2017  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1509  
RELATING TO WATER MANAGEMENT

House Bill 1509 proposes to amend Section 174C-31(d)(4), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include plans for storm water management, reuse, reclamation and remediation in the Water Resource Protection Plan. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department supports storm water capture, reuse and reclamation for augmenting and conserving Hawaii's fresh water supplies. However, the Department believes this measure is unnecessary because the Department's Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) is currently updating its Water Resource Protection Plan, which will include provisions for storm water capture and reuse, wastewater recycling and reuse, and other fresh water augmentation and conservation programs and measures. In addition, the Commission has completed separate studies on storm water reclamation and reuse and a statewide wastewater reuse survey report, and these will be included in the updated Water Resource Protection Plan.

Since the Commission is not a capital project implementing agency and does not own or operate infrastructure, plans for actual storm water reuse projects are usually prepared by county or state agencies responsible for storm water management. To facilitate storm water projects and services, Act 42, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, authorized the Counties to establish and charge user fees to create and maintain any storm water management system or infrastructure. The

Department also notes that each respective County Water Use and Development Plan will address the unique storm water reuse opportunities available within its jurisdiction.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.