



LAND USE RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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March 31, 2017

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Senate Committee on Water and Land



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Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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Senate Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

**Strong support of HB 1509 - Relating to the Water Management (Requires the State and counties to consider storm water management in the development of the Hawaii Water Resource Protection Plan.)**

**WTL/AEN/PSM Hrg: Friday, March 31, 2017, at 2:45 p.m., in Conf. Rm. 224**

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, agricultural operations, renewable energy and housing for Hawaii residents of all income levels, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF is in **strong support** of **HB 1509**, which requires the State and counties to include storm water management, reuse, reclamation, and remediation in the development of the Hawaii Water Resource Protection Plan.

**LURF's Position.** This measure is both necessary and consistent with State and county water plans.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (Hawaii Farm Bureau) is in strong support of HB 1509, based on the fact that storms and other extreme weather conditions have severe impacts on Hawaii's agricultural operations, including crop losses, destruction and damage to fields and increased incidences of crop disease; and the fact that proper storm water management, storage and aquifer recharge can prevent flooding and

damage to agricultural fields, create water resources to help manage droughts and result in beneficial infiltration and recharge of groundwater aquifers.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has taken the puzzling position that *“this measure is unnecessary,”* however DLNR also states that it *“appreciates the intent of this measure”* and that it *“supports storm water capture, reuse and reclamation for augmenting and conserving Hawaii’s fresh water supplies.”* Curiously, the comments in DLNR’s testimony actually support HB 1509, and confirms that this measure is consistent with current government water initiatives and plans:

*“...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.*

*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.*

*We also note that each respective County Water Use and Development Plan will address the unique storm water reuse opportunities available within its jurisdiction.”*

**Conclusion.** For the reasons set forth above, LURF **strongly supports HB 1509** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

Testimony in support  
HB 1509  
3/31/2017

From Carl Jellings

Photo attachments





























