

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
www.boardofwatersupply.com



February 24, 2017

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Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer *EW*

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 306
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

Subject: House Bill 630, House Draft 1 Relating to Drought Mitigation

The Board of Water Supply strongly supports House Bill 630, House Draft (HD) 1. This bill provides funds for drought mitigation projects and measures in each county of the State and supports drought mitigation planning by updating the Hawaii drought plan.

Hawaii's changing climate requires updated mitigation strategies and planning to protect water conservation efforts and continued refinement of the Hawaii drought plan.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on House Bill 630, HD1.

Very truly yours,



ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**FEBRUARY 24, 2017
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 630 HD1
RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 630 HD1. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for county drought mitigation projects and measures and appropriate funds for one full-time equivalent permanent planner IV position within the Commission on Water Resource Management to update the Hawaii Drought Plan. HD1 also includes language that contractors and third parties who receive funds under this measure are subject to review and inspection by DLNR, the Attorney General, or the Auditor. The department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The effects of drought on agriculture can be devastating. With the possibility of drought lasting for years, crop yields can fall dramatically and farms can close. In 2004, the Commission on Water Resource Management assisted in the creation of drought committees in each county. The committees then came up with prioritized, potential projects, including reservoir construction, to implement in order to mitigate the effects of drought. This request represents recognition of the importance and need for this plan and these projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
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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 House Committee on
FINANCE

Friday, February 24, 2017
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In Consideration of
HOUSE BILL 630, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION

House Bill 630, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate an unspecified amount of funding from an unspecified special fund for drought mitigation measures and projects in each county of the State for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and the same sum for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. This measure also proposes to establish a full-time Planner IV position within the Commission on Water Resource Management to carry out the purposes of this measure and appropriates an unspecified amount of funding from an unspecified special fund in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and the same sum for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to fund this position. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this initiative provided that the appropriation from any proposed funding source does not adversely impact the Department's programs and initiatives.**

The Department recognizes the need to mitigate the effects of drought and this need is acknowledged in the Hawaii Drought Plan. Droughts have severely affected Hawaii in the past, including significantly increasing wildfire risk in Hawaii, and as part of a natural climate cycle, droughts will impact the State in the future. In addition to agriculture and livestock industries, drought-induced impacts will also affect other sectors of the community, such as water supply, business, the environment, and public health and safety.

The Department concurs with the importance of drought planning and the effective implementation of mitigation measures and strategies. The Department strongly suggests that funding for drought mitigation projects be provided directly to the respective counties in order to streamline and expedite the implementation of drought mitigation projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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February 24, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 630, HD1
RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION

Room 308
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 630, HD1, which expands the capacity of the State of Hawaii to address drought mitigation.

We have seen extremes during the past years, ranging from extreme droughts to severe storms. Long range forecasts all predict extremely variable weather in the future with severe rainfall periods followed by extended droughts. It is very likely that on "average" there will be enough water, however, looking at annual rainfall and averaging it through the year, will not provide a true picture of how much water is available to meet our needs.

Drought mitigation efforts will facilitate our capacity to persevere through extended droughts. This is critical not only for the safety and well-being of society but to ensure that agriculture is sustainable through extreme droughts to meet the needs of our people.

Recently at the meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts, Brian Richter, Chief Scientist for the Water program of The Nature Conservancy, an international conservation organization, where he promotes sustainable water use and management with governments, presented a thoughtful presentation about Water and the future. He emphasized the need for collaboration and taking from one to meet the needs of another is not in the long term interest of society. He cited California where water from agriculture is shifted to population centers. He asked, where will our food come from? He emphasized that conservation alone is not the solution. Populations are growing and so needs are expanding. Weather is dynamic so access to water is not constant. He gave examples of projects capturing storm waters for future use.

Hawaii has already embarked on that journey but we have not maintained our progress in this area. In 2007, HB 400 (Act 238) was passed resulting in significant projects across the State. Maui was able to line a reservoir in the Kula Ag Park while Oahu made strides in water conservation toilet fixtures.

The Hawaii Drought Council has proposed projects. At the same time the changing weather patterns may warrant a review of priorities and begin implementing the proposals. Focused efforts to this end is needed. This measure will provide that direction.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of this measure to strengthen Hawaii's resilience to periods of drought.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this important subject.



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Testimony on HB 630 HD1
Relating to Drought Mitigation and Appropriation

House Committee on Finance
Feb 24, 2017
2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

Subject: House Bill (HB) 630 HD1 Relating to Drought Mitigation

At One World One Water we are dedicated to reinvesting in water infrastructure and restoring natural environments, and **we strongly support HB 630 HD1** and the provision of funds to support drought mitigation projects. Freshwater resources are already constrained in Hawaii and will only become more limited as climate change persists and drought becomes more common and aggressive. The best way to prepare for drought is through drought mitigation, which includes actions that reduce the overall risk of drought and ultimately reduce the severity of drought impacts. With available funding, the mitigation projects described in the Hawaii Drought Plan can help reduce the impacts of drought, making Hawaii less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

As an organization committed to improving the quality and efficiency of our global water systems and resources, **we ask your support HB 630 HD1** to invest in Hawaii's water future.

Please contact us at globalwater@gmail.com should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,
One World One Water



2016-2017

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 630 HD 1

Dear Chair: Representative Sylvia Luke

The US Green Building Council Hawaii Chapter is a 501 c3 membership organization that educates, motivates, provides resources and advocates for industry transformation to build and maintain sustainable communities. USGBC-Hawaii Chapter is part of a network of approximately 65 USGBC Chapters throughout the United States which represent USGBC in their respective regions. The USGBC Hawaii Chapter has over 1300 local registered Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) professionals and includes membership of 250 local Hawaii organizations in both the private and public sectors.

The USGBC Hawaii Chapter strongly **supports HB 630 HD1**. We believe responsible and sustainable water management and drought planning are key components for protecting our water resources. As Hawaii continues to develop, there is expected to be increased demands on our precious water supplies from all sectors and, moreover, research regarding the impacts of climate change in the Hawaiian Islands suggest a significant decline in precipitation over the next decades. It is imperative that we support drought planning and water conservation efforts that will enhance the sustainable management and protection of our water resources.

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 water. We strongly support HB 630 HD1!

Sincerely,

Lauren C. Roth Venu

Chair

USGBC Hawaii Chapter Advocacy Committee

808-781-7583

lauren@rothecological.com



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Friday, February 24, 2017 — 2:00 p.m. — Room 308

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 630 HD 1, Relating to Water Conservation

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and reduce waste. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono strongly supports HB 630 HD 1, which provides funding for drought mitigation projects, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

Hawai'i's agricultural industry relies on a constant supply of water, but in times of drought, farmers and ranchers often struggle to keep their businesses alive. In recent years, the state has suffered through severe drought conditions including a two to three decade downward trend in rainfall, which heavily impacts our local agricultural communities. As droughts are increasing, it becomes more important for the Legislature to fund drought mitigation measures to protect our island's most valuable natural resource.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become more complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i