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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Wednesday, March 1, 2017
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In Consideration of
HOUSE BILL 636, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION**

House Bill 636, House Draft 1 proposes to establish within the Commission on Water Resource Management a two-year water conservation financial assistance pilot program for county-owned public water systems to implement their respective water conservation incentive programs. This measure also appropriates an unspecified sum out of an unspecified special fund for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and the same sum for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for this two-year pilot program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this measure as amended.**

House Bill 636, House Draft 1 changes the source of funding from general funds to special funds. Due to the limited nature of special fund accounts and the fact that the majority of funding is used to cover operational expenses, there is no guarantee that funding will be available to support this pilot program.

Fresh water is Hawaii's most precious natural resource. It is imperative that water utilities and their customers become as efficient as possible when it comes to using water. Water conservation is one of the most cost-effective long-term water supply options for a utility. Successful water conservation programs can help to preserve our limited water supplies to provide for society's growing needs while ensuring abundant water for future generations. County-owned water utilities can reduce their customer per-capita water use by carefully implementing demand-side water conservation programs and measures – which will require funding resources.

House Bill 636, House Draft 1 proposes to provide funding to county-owned water utilities on a one-to-one cost share basis. Providing a state-funded cost share directly to the county water supply departments will incentivize these utilities to implement water conservation programs and to stretch available county funding.

The Department notes that a Senate companion bill, Senate Bill 635, Senate Draft 1, proposes that funding be expended by each of the four county water supply departments, and the Department prefers this version of the initiative. Appropriating funding directly to the county water supply departments would make the proposed water conservation program more efficient and would streamline implementation of the respective program activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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March 1, 2017

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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

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

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

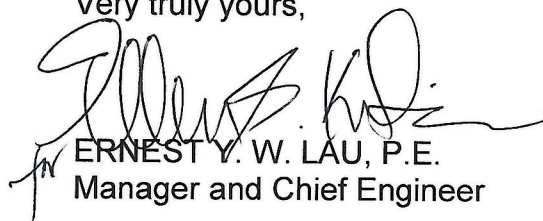
Subject: House Bill 636, House Draft 1 Relating to Water Conservation

We strongly support House Bill 636, House Draft (HD) 1, which establishes a two-year water conservation financial assistance pilot program, within the Commission on Water Resource Management, to provide financial assistance to county-owned public water systems to implement their respective water conservation incentive programs.

This financial assistance program will provide incentives to encourage a greater number of residents to take part in an important sustainability goal to improve Hawaii's long-term water security.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on House Bill 636, HD1.

Very truly yours,


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

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 636 HD1 Relating to Water Conservation
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 1, 2017, 11:00AM, Room 308

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 depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 636 HD1 that would provide funding for county-owned public water systems to offer rebates or direct replacement programs for installation of water conserving technologies in homes and businesses.

Easily available fresh water is not a limitless resource here in the middle of the Pacific. In recent years, several locations in the state experienced prolonged drought. The University of Hawai'i's Rainfall Atlas catalogues fewer trade wind days and declining rainfall over the past century. Temperature records were broken across the state in recent summers and increased heat brings greater evaporation of surface water and soil moisture. Native 'ōhi'a and koa forests that are proving to be better at capturing and retaining rain water and moisture are being impaired by non-native plants like strawberry guava, ginger and albizia.

In response to these conditions, we must plan and implement mitigative and adaptive measures to ensure the resilience of our natural and human systems. One important strategy is to ensure that we have healthy Hawaiian forests that act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture and delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers. **Additionally, we must improve efficiencies and reuse of our fresh water resources. An incentive program to support the installation of water conserving technologies in our homes, businesses and other institutions is an excellent step in this direction.**

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**Testimony of the
Hawai'i Community Foundation
on
H.B. 636 HD1
Relating to Water Conservation
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 1, 2017
11:00 A.M.
Conference Room 308**

The Hawaii Community Foundation strongly supports H.B. 636 HD1, which establishes a rebate program to support the adoption of residential water conservation systems.

The Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) became concerned about long-term fresh water security issues in 2012, as research emerged from the University of Hawaii linking climate change and negative trends in Hawaii's fresh water supply. HCF assembled a blue ribbon panel of water stakeholders to provide collaborative solutions, and in concert with their recommendations launched the Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative in 2014. The Fresh Water Initiative has a goal of creating 100 million gallons per day in additional, reliable fresh water capacity by 2030.

HCF supports the findings of the Fresh Water Council and strongly supports the policy recommendations found in their "Blueprint for Action." One of the key recommendations from the Council is the establishment a statewide program to encourage the adoption of water saving devices in the home. H.B. 636 HD1 will establish this important program.

HCF strongly supports H.B. 636 HD1 and urges passage, and we stand ready to assist in helping implement this important program and all elements of the Council's "Blueprint for Action."



Wai Maoli

HAWAI'I FRESH WATER INITIATIVE

827 Fort Street Mall | Honolulu, HI 96813 | (808) 537-6333

HawaiiCommunityFoundation.org

Fresh Water Council Members

William Aila

Stephen Anthony*

Michael Buck

Suzanne Case

Reginald Castanares

Meredith Ching

Derek Chow

Ka'eo Duarte

Sumner Erdman

Mark Fox

Thomas Giambelluca

Timothy Johns

Howard Killian

Patrick Kobayashi

Ernest Lau

Keith Okamoto

Jerry Ornellas

Monty Richards

Kapua Sproat

David Taylor

Dennis Teranishi

Barry Usagawa

*US Geological Survey
Liaison/Scientific Advisor to HCF

**Testimony of the
Hawai'i Fresh Water Council
on
H.B. 636 HD1
Relating to Water Conservation
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 1, 2017
11:00 A.M.
Conference Room 308**

The Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative strongly supports H.B. 636 HD1, which proposes to establish a water conservation device rebate program.

The Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative was launched in 2013 and assembled our diverse Fresh Water Council to develop a forward-thinking and consensus-based strategy to increase water security for Hawaii. Our Council jointly and unanimously recommended key strategies and policies with an ultimate goal of creating 100 million gallons per day (mgd) in additional, reliable fresh water capacity by 2030. One of the key strategies to achieve this statewide water goal is to increase water conservation by 40 mgd over the next 15 years.

Several states facing water supply issues have successfully promoted the adoption of water saving devices, including rainwater harvesting systems to replace potable water use for yards and landscaping, soil moisture sensors for landscape irrigation, and water circulation pumps. The following considerations convinced the Council that encouraging water saving device adoption in Hawai'i homes should be a top priority:

- Among all 50 states, Hawai'i ranks in the top five in terms of our daily per capita water use at 156 gallons per day. Forty-four states use less than 120 gallons per day.
- The Honolulu Board of Water Supply estimates that up to half of all potable water delivered to residences is actually used for landscape irrigation.
- A single hot water recirculation pump is estimated to save 11,000 to 15,000 gallons of water per year in a typical home.

The rebate program established by H.B. 636 HD 1 has the potential to preserve hundreds of millions of gallons of fresh water per year, and is a critical component of a multi-pronged strategy to improve Hawaii's long-term water security.

For these reasons, we strongly support H.B. 636 HD 1, and respectfully request that the Finance Committee pass this measure.



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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 636 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 advocated 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 registered Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) professionals and includes 250 local Hawaii organizations in both the private and public sectors.

The USGBC Hawaii Chapter strongly **supports HB636 HD1**. We believe responsible and sustainable water management is a key component of sustainable development and protecting resources and public health. As Hawaii continues to develop, there is expected to be increased demands on our precious water supplies and, moreover, research regarding the impacts of climate change in the Hawaiian Islands suggest a significant decline in participation over the next decades. It is imperative that we support water conservation efforts and innovation that will support the sustainable management of our water resources.

We'd also like to acknowledge that these bills uphold 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 HB 636!

Sincerely,

Lauren C. Roth Venu

Chair

USGBC Hawaii Chapter Advocacy Committee

808-781-7583

lauren@rothecological.com



Hawai'i Green Growth is a public-private partnership that catalyzes action across government, private sector and civil society to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals and serve as a model for integrated green growth

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William J. Aila Jr.

Department of Hawaiian
Homelands

Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth In Support of HB636 HD1 Relating to Water Conservation House Committee on Finance

01 March 2017, 11:00 am, Room 308

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

Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports HB636 HD1 to establish a two-year water conservation financial assistance pilot program to provide financial assistance to county-owned public water systems.

The quantity and quality of fresh water directly impacts the health, welfare and quality of life of Hawai'i's residents and the affects the economy. Based on global climate disruption, increasingly severe weather and natural disasters, and projected long-term decline of rainfall, there is an urgency to invest in Hawai'i's freshwater supplies. Water conservation is among the least expensive and most efficient ways to increase the available supply of fresh water.

Hawai'i Green Growth partners agreed that fresh water security, including **HB636 HD1**, is an important priority to support implementation on Hawaii's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals. The Aloha+ Challenge is a joint leadership commitment launched by the State Legislature (SCR69), Governor, four County Mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Hawai'i Green Growth public-private partners. This statewide framework outlines six ambitious 2030 sustainability goals in the areas of clean energy, local food, natural resource management, solid waste, smart sustainable communities, and green education and workforce. The Aloha+ Challenge has been recognized nationally and internationally as model that can be scaled to support the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

With leadership and support from the State Legislature, Hawai'i hosted the first U.S. held IUCN World Conservation Congress with over 10,000 global partners from 190 countries. **HB636 HD1** is an opportunity to continue important local action for Hawai'i's sustainable future.

As a public-private partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports **HB636 HD1** and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.



ONE WORLD ONE WATER, LLC
677 ALA MOANA BLVD, SUITE 1100
HONOLULU, HI 96713
www.oneworldonewater.org

Testimony on H.B. 636 HD1
Relating to Water Conservation

House Committee on Finance
March 1st, 2017
11:00 A.M.
Conference Room 308

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

Subject: House Bill (HB) 636 HD1 Relating to Water Conservation

At One World One Water we are dedicated to reinvesting in water infrastructure and restoring natural environments, and **we strongly support HB 636 HD1** and the establishment of a two-year water conservation financial assistance pilot program. Water is essential not only for drinking but also for energy and food production, making it an important component of our economy. Unlike other states we cannot rely on our neighbors to provide water when we need it, therefore we must do everything we can to wisely manage our wai, our water, and our wealth.

Constrained freshwater resources in Hawaii and will only become more limited as climate change persists, meaning we must act now to promote water conservation, recharge, and reuse throughout our islands. Water conservation starts with efficiency, and this bill will help promote water efficiency through financial assistance to county-owned public water systems. Conserving potable water now is a proactive way of reducing future negative impacts of climate change or additional pressures on our water system.

As an organization committed to improving the quality and efficiency of our global water systems and resources, **we ask your support of HB 636 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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, March 1, 2017 — 11:00 a.m. — Room 308

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 636 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 636 HD 1, which provides funding for water conservation for county owned public water systems, 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 water conservation 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

Testimony of
Christopher Delaunay
Pacific Resource Partnership

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, March 1, 2017
TIME: 11:00 am
PLACE: Conference Room 308

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

PRP strongly supports HB 636, HD1, Relating to Water Conservation, which establishes a two-year water conservation financial assistance pilot program to provide financial assistance to county-owned public water systems.

Water conservation programs are essential in order to sustain and protect Hawaii's water supplies for future generations. This water conservation program will provide financial assistance to county-owned public water systems and their customers to help implement water conservation technologies in our homes, businesses, institutions, and industrial buildings, which will limit water use and waste.

As such, we respectfully request your support for HB 636, HD1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

About PRP

Pacific Resource Partnership (PRP) is a not-for-profit organization that represents the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters, the largest construction union in the state, and more than 240 of Hawaii's top contractors. Through this unique partnership, PRP has become an influential voice for responsible construction and an advocate for creating a stronger, more sustainable Hawaii in a way that promotes a vibrant economy, creates jobs and enhances the quality of life for all residents.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**



**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Wednesday, March 1, 2017
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In Consideration of
HOUSE BILL 636, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION**

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House Bill 636, House Draft 1 proposes to provide funding to county-owned water utilities on a one-to-one cost share basis. Providing a state-funded cost share directly to the county water supply departments will incentivize these utilities to implement water conservation programs and to stretch available county funding.

The Department notes that a Senate companion bill, Senate Bill 635, Senate Draft 1, proposes that funding be expended by each of the four county water supply departments, and the Department prefers this version of the initiative. Appropriating funding directly to the county water supply departments would make the proposed water conservation program more efficient and would streamline implementation of the respective program activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LATE

Public Testimony
of
Reginald Castanares, Business Manager
Plumbers and Fitters Local 675
Honolulu, Hawaii

In Support of HB 636
Relating to Water Conservation

Before the House:
Committee on Finance
Wednesday, March 1, 2017
11:00 a.m., Conference Rm. 308

Aloha Chair Luke and Members.

My name is Reginald Castanares; I have the privilege to represent the Plumbers and Fitters Local 675.

The members of Local 675 are genuinely concerned about the future of Hawaii's precious life sustaining resource, Water. House Bill 636 provides an important avenue which will encourage all of our citizens to take an active role in its conservation.

Water saving devices which HB 636 proposes has proven effective in other states which face this same situation. It is important that we take immediate action to implement programs such as water conservation device rebates.

We are pleased to join in this effort along with other community organizations such as the Hawaii Fresh Water Council and the Nature Conservancy in promoting a long term water security policy.

For those reasons we strongly support the adoption of HB 636.

Respectfully,
Reginald Castanares



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

LATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 11AM Room 308

In SUPPORT HB636 Relating to Water Conservation

Aloha Chairwoman Luke and members of the House FIN Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports HB636, which establishes a rebate to commercial and residential property owners for water conservation devices.

Since 1968, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i has been working to protect the unique natural and cultural resources of our islands. We are deeply concerned about the long-term viability of freshwater resources in our islands.

This bill would establish a program to incentivize the installation of water conservation systems in homes and businesses. This program is a voluntary partnership with the counties that leverages state funds in a 1-to-1 match to save water.

This program is essential because we know that climate change is resulting in reduced rainfall. More extensive water conservation measures are needed to prevent extreme hardship in the future. It is estimated that implementing a program like this today could save 6 million gallons a day of freshwater by 2030.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to provide testimony on this important issue.

Mahalo,

Marti Townsend
Director



LATE

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY • COUNTY OF HAWAII

345 KEKŪANAŌ'A STREET, SUITE 20 • HILO, HAWAII 96720

TELEPHONE (808) 961-8050 • FAX (808) 961-8657

February 28, 2017

Honorable Chair Sylvia Luke, Honorable Vice-Chair Ty Cullen, and Committee Members
Committee on Finance
State House of Representatives
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

Subject: House Bill 636, HD1 – Relating to Water Conservation
Hearing: March 1, 2017, 11:00 a.m.

The Department of Water Supply, County of Hawai'i (HDWS), supports House Bill (HB) 636 HD 1, which establishes, within the Commission on Water Resource Management, a two-year water conservation pilot program to provide financial assistance to county-owned public water systems in order to implement their respective water conservation incentive programs. This program would provide a financial incentive to our water customers and encourage them to participate in sustaining Hawai'i's fresh water resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration on HDWS' testimony for this proposed bill. Should you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at (808) 961-8050.

Sincerely yours,

Keith K. Okamoto, P.E.
Manager-Chief Engineer

KKU:dmj

... Water, Our Most Precious Resource ... Ka Wai A Kane ...

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