



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

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND AND PUBLIC SAFETY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Thursday, March 16, 2017 2:15PM Room 229

In SUPPORT **HB 636 HD1** Relating to Water Conservation

LATE

Aloha Chairs Rhoads, Nishihara and members of the respective Committees,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports HB636 HD1, 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

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



In Support of HB 636 HD1
Relating to Water Conservation

Before the Senate:
Committee on Water and Land
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Thursday, March 16, 2017
2:15 p.m., Conference Rm. 229

Aloha Luna Ho`omalu e Rhoads a me Nishihara, a oe Hope Luna Ho`omalu e Gabbard a me
Wakai

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 HD1 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 HD1 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 HD1.

Respectfully,
Reginald Castanares

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 7:40 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: angkpix@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB636 on Mar 16, 2017 14:15PM*

HB636

Submitted on: 3/16/2017
Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 16, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ANGELA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: WTL Testimony
Cc: treasurer@oahu.surfrider.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB636 on Mar 16, 2017 14:15PM

LATE

HB636

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Mar 16, 2017 14:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Oahu Treasurer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I vote in Support of this bill!

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Wai Maoli

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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
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Thursday, March 16, 2017
2:15 P.M.
Conference Room 229**

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. 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.

The rebate program established by H.B. 636 HD 1 has the potential to preserve 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. While the current bill calls for the Commission on Water Resource Management to administer the program, we believe the program can be equally effective through direct allocations to the county water departments based on their individual match ability and need.

Based on recent estimations, we believe that water conservation programs can be effectively launched at the county levels with state investment in the form of a \$335,000 appropriation in FY 2018 and a \$540,000 appropriation in FY 2019. Funds would require 1-1 match at the following levels from each county in FY 2018: Honolulu (Up to \$210,000); Maui (Up to \$60,000); Hawai'i (Up to \$50,000); Kaua'i (Up to \$15,000).

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