



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

LATE

SENATE WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 30, 2017 1:40PM Room 211

In SUPPORT HB 636 HD1 SD1 Relating to Water Conservation

Aloha Chairwoman Tokuda, and members of the Ways & Means Committee,

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



HAWAII CHAPTER
U.S. GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

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March 29, 2017

2016-2017

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 636 HD1 SD 1

Dear Chairs: Sen. Tokuda and Sen. Dela Cruz

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 HB 636 HD1 SD1**. We believe responsible and sustainable water management is a key component of sustainable development, protecting resources and public health and providing resiliency and security. 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. Moreover the 2-year financial assistance program to county-owned water systems would provide the needed funding to take this action towards water security.

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 HD1 SD1!

Sincerely,

Lauren C. Roth Venu

Chair

USGBC Hawaii Chapter Advocacy Committee

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lauren@rothecological.com

The islands of Hawai'i will be a world leader in creating, developing, and sustaining self-sufficient communities.

Na Hawai'i alaka'i i ke kukulu'ana i na kaiaulu kupo

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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Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth In Support of HB636 HD1 SD1 Relating to Water Conservation Senate Committee on Ways and Means 30 March 2017, 1:40 pm, Room 211

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports HB636 HD1 SD1 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 SD1**, 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 SD1** 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 SD1** and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

In Support of HB 636 HD1 SD1
Relating Water Conservation

Before the Senate:
Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, March 30, 2017
1:40 p.m., Conference Rm. 211

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Vice Chair Dela Cruz

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

Our testimony in support of this critical measure is on the record. We appreciate the opportunity to restate, perhaps the most important argument in support, the need for efficient systems of conserving water, our vital resource.

We believe it is critical that the State initiate the necessary action to implement programs such as water conservation device rebates to promote a greater buy in by the general public.

Thus we are pleased to support this effort which community organizations such as the Hawaii Fresh Water Council and the Nature Conservancy are promoting as an effective long term water security policy.

As such we continue to support the adoption of HB 636 HD1 SD1

Respectfully,
Reginald Castanares

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 10:25 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: blackbird4aloha@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB636 on Mar 30, 2017 13:40PM*

HB636

Submitted on: 3/29/2017
Testimony for WAM on Mar 30, 2017 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Merle Hayward	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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HB636

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for WAM on Mar 30, 2017 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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