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

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SUZANNE D. CASE
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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Friday, February 10, 2017
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In Consideration of
HOUSE BILL 636
RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION**

House Bill 636 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 amount out of the general revenues from Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for this two-year pilot program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this initiative as long as it does not replace our priorities requested in the Executive Budget.**

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 proposes to provide funding to county-owned water utilities on a one-to-one cost share basis. Providing a state-funded cost share will incentivize these utilities to implement water conservation programs and to stretch available county funding.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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February 10, 2017

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water & Land
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 420
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane and Members:

Subject: House Bill 636, Relating to Water Conservation

We strongly support House Bill 636, 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.

Very truly yours,

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

waltestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 11:44 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: deanjokimoto@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB636 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM

HB636

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dean Okimoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Dean Okimoto, owner/ President of Nalo Farms, Inc. I have been a farmer for over 34 years, and former President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation. I am writing this in strong support of HB636. Water is essential for agriculture, and Agriculture is one of the largest users of water, if we had access to affordable water monitoring technology, it would save a great amount of our potable water, and also help farmers with using less water thereby saving money. Any the of help in getting money back to acquire water saving technology would be helpful. Especially since farmers are now taxed to use more potable water for washing edible produce and fruits. thank you for the chance to express my opinions.

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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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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Homelands

Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth In Support of HB636 Relating to Water Conservation House Committee on Water and Land 10 February 2017, 9:00 am, Room 325

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports HB636 to establish a two-year water conservation financial assistance pilot program for 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**, 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 in 2016. This bill is an opportunity to continue important local action on sustainable development and resiliency.

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



Wai Maoli

HAWAI'I FRESH WATER INITIATIVE

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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

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Howard Killian

Patrick Kobayashi

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Keith Okamoto

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Monty Richards

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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
Relating to Water Conservation
House Committee on Water and Land
Friday, Feb 10, 2017
9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 325**

The Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative strongly supports H.B. 636, 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 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, and request that the WAL Committee pass this measure.



The Nature Conservancy
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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 636 Relating to Water Conservation
House Committee on Water and Land
Friday, February 10, 2017, 9:00AM, Room 325

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 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
Relating to Water Conservation
House Committee on Water and Land
Friday, Feb 10, 2017
9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 325**

The Hawaii Community Foundation strongly supports H.B. 636, 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 will establish this important program.

HCF strongly supports H.B. 636 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."

waltestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 7:14 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB636 on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM*

HB636

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 10, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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