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February 23, 2017

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

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 637, House Draft (HD) 2 Relating to the State Building Codes

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD offer the following comments on HB 637, HD 2, which proposes to expedite the review, update, and adoption of the most current Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) through amendments to the state building codes.

The bill requires that the State Building Code Council (SBCC) review and adopt amendments to the UPC within one year after it is published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials.

Presently, the 2006 UPC is the adopted state plumbing code. Although the amendments to the 2012 UPC have been completed, funds have never been appropriated to the SBCC for staff to guide the UPC amendments through the administrative rule process and provide notice of public hearings. As a result, only the fire, energy, and elevator codes are on the most current edition, as they have dedicated staff in other state departments to accomplish this task.

We hope this bill sheds light on the need for the state to fund the SBCC so all building codes can be updated to the most current edition.

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Page 2  
February 23, 2017

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7105 or [sbratakos@honolulu.gov](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MPN', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

MANUEL P. NEVES  
Chair

MPN/LR:clc

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 637 HD1 Relating to the State Building Codes  
House Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 24, 2017, 2:00PM, Room 308

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*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.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 637 HD1 that would expedite the review, update and adoption of the Uniform Plumbing Code as it relates to the Hawai'i State Building Codes.

We appreciate that the State Building Code Council (SBCC) does not have sufficient staff and funding and that the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce has recommended an appropriation to the SBCC to help address this situation.

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. Newer plumbing codes promote:

- More efficient designs, resulting in money saved and water resources conserved; and
- Expanded water reuse and recycling in many cases.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

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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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## Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth In Support of HB637 HD2 Relating to State Building Codes House Committee on Finance 24 February 2017, 2:00 pm, Room 308

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

**Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports HB637 HD2** to review and reform plumbing codes. Adoption of newer codes will promote more efficient designs that take into consideration advances in geological and environmental science. In many cases, these newer codes will expand water reuse and recycling which will support fresh water conservation and recharge.

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 **HB637 HD2**, 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 **HB637 HD2** and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.



# Wai Maoli

HAWAII 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



HAWAII COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

## Testimony of the Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative on H.B. 637 HD2 Relating to the State Building Codes House Committee on Finance Friday, February 24, 2017 Conference Room 308

The Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative strongly supports H.B. 637 HD 2, which encourages the conservation and efficient use of water resources by expediting updates of the Uniform Plumbing Code.

The Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative was launched in 2013 and gathered a diverse Fresh Water Council to develop a forward-thinking and consensus-based strategy to increase water security for Hawaii. The blue ribbon panel of water stakeholders jointly and unanimously recommend 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 the statewide water conservation goal of 40 mgd is to increase the use of non-potable water for irrigation and other non-potable uses.

The Uniform Plumbing Code establishes the minimum requirements and standards for the installation and maintenance of plumbing systems, for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

Under the current law:

- The State Building Code Council is required to review and adopt the new Code within 18 months of its publication by the Association; and
- The county is required to adopt the updated code and standards not later than 2 years after the Code is adopted by the State Building Code Council (which can be up to 42 months after the updated Code is published by the Association).

H.B. 637 HD 2 requires:

- The State Building Code Council to review and adopt the amendments to the Uniform Plumbing Code within one year of publication by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials; and
- The counties to adopt the amendments made to the Uniform Plumbing Code within one year after they adopted by the Council.

We support the bill and respectfully request that it continue to move forward, but we also recognize that the addition of appropriation language raises complexities for the bill. While we support the bill with the appropriation section, we also still support the bill even if it did not contain that section and in addition we are willing to work on other approaches to support the council's work. Importantly, H.B. 637 HD 2 will expedite the adoption of the revisions to the Uniform Plumbing Code published by International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials and help advance Hawai'i's water security goals.

For these reasons, we support H.B. 637 HD 2 and urge its passage.



**ONE WORLD ONE WATER, LLC**  
**677 ALA MOANA BLVD, SUITE 1100**  
**HONOLULU, HI 96713**  
[www.oneworldonewater.org](http://www.oneworldonewater.org)

Testimony on H.B. 637 HD2  
Relating to Water Conservation

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) 637 HD2 Relating to the State Building Codes

At One World One Water we are dedicated to reinvesting in water infrastructure and restoring natural environments, and **we support HB637 HD2**. Newer plumbing codes promote more efficient designs, resulting in money saved for building owners and water resources conserved. Also the newer codes promote protection of public health and safety and take into consideration advances in geological and environmental science. We respect the effort it takes to review and update codes and understand that a designated neutral entity needs to facilitate with stakeholders to responsibly adopt new codes. We are supportive of finding resources for this process to expedite adoption of the updated version of the plumbing code.

As an organization committed to improving the quality and efficiency of our global water systems and resources, **we ask your support of HB637 HD2** to invest in Hawaii's water future.

Please contact us at [globalwater@gmail.com](mailto:globalwater@gmail.com) should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,  
*One World One Water*

**Testimony of Michael G. Buck**  
**on**  
**H.B. 637, HD2**  
**Relating to State Building Codes**  
**House Committee on Finance**  
**Friday, February 24, 2017**  
**Conference Room 308**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 637, HD2. I am a member of Hawaii's Fresh Water Council, who 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.

This measure encourages the conservation and efficient use of water resources by expediting updates of the Uniform Plumbing Code. The Uniform Plumbing Code establishes the minimum requirements and standards for the erection, installation, alteration, repair, relocation, replacement, addition to, use, or maintenance of plumbing systems, for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare. HB 637 HD2 requires:

- The State Building Code Council to review and adopt the amendments to the Uniform Plumbing Code within one year of publication by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials; and
- The counties to adopt the amendments made to the Uniform Plumbing Code within one year after they adopted by the Council.
- H.B. 637 HD2 provides that if the amendments to the Uniform Plumbing Code are not adopted by a county in the one-year, the Code shall become the applicable as an interim county building code.

H.B. 637 HD2 will expedite the adoption of the revisions to the Uniform Plumbing Code published by International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials and help advance Hawai'i's water security goals. For these reasons, we strongly support H.B. 637 HD 2 and urge its passage.

# Caleb Trinidad

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Budget Director

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Caleb Trinidad  
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[\(808\)352-2921](tel:(808)352-2921)  
[caleb.d.trinidad@gmail.com](mailto:caleb.d.trinidad@gmail.com)

23 February 2017

## Testimony on H.B. 637, Relating to the State Building Codes.

In our island state, we are blessed with the opportunity to be able to live in a place surrounded of man's most important resource: water. Water is the very essence and the most critical of pillars that support survival of our culture and society. However, this our most pivotal luxury, is also the most overlooked one. The people of Hawai'i mistakenly consider water to be something that we will never run out of. However, this is simply not true. As more people are coming into or being born in Hawai'i, more water is required. Our water supplies are diminishing, and little is being done about it. Recycling, reducing, reusing water is absolutely of the utmost importance to contribute towards Hawai'i's future. However, we all know that water is not solely important for the survival of our island, but also absolutely necessary for the enjoyment of our lives. Our islands are famous for our tourism, our surfing, and our welcoming way of life. If we allow our wasteful water habits to continue, tourists will look elsewhere, and our economy will tank, and we will not be able to welcome others to our home if we cannot provide for them. That is why our group, Wai for Hawai'i, HB 637 to be a bill worth supporting. To be able to promote the protection of water through rules and regulations, and promote smart and safe water usage is absolutely critical towards our future. For these reasons and many more, our group, Wai for Hawai'i gives its full support towards HB637, and urges the committee to pass this bill not only to support Hawai'i's present water situation, but also to allow the future of Hawai'i's peoples to flourish in a hydrated society.

Caleb Trinidad



February 23, 2017

Dear Legislators,

I **STRONGLY support HB 637**, it is important to expedite the uniform plumbing code in our state for the following reasons:

- Updated codes produce more valuable buildings, benefiting both builders and owners.
- Newer codes promote more efficient designs, resulting in money saved for building owners and water resources conserved - including water reuse and recycling in many cases.
- This bill will promote the protection of public health, safety, and welfare through the safest, most up-to-date rules and regulations.
- Updated plumbing codes take into consideration advances in geological and environmental science, and will help align Hawaii with the national consensus on the minimum standards of new building performance.

Thank you for your consideration of these important reasons to protect our water resources and our environmental building standards with this important bill!

Sincerely,

Heather George  
Koloa, HI

hlg90266@yahoo.com

**LATE**

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

In Support of HB 637  
Plumbing Code Modernization

Before the House:  
Committee on Finance  
Friday, February 24, 2017  
2:00 p.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.

Our members are licensed by the State of Hawaii and take very seriously our obligation to provide the best service to our employers in behalf of the citizens of Hawaii who depend upon the work we perform as it relates to their health and safety in the distribution and delivery of potable water for consumption as well as the efficient and safe disposal of waste water.

We are fully supportive of every effort which expedites the modernization of our plumbing code and the objectives of increased efficiency in our potable water systems as well as the increasing need for strict standards for the handling and use of grey water.

Standards as developed by professional organizations such as the Uniform Plumbing Code are truly the first line of defense in the delivery of potable water to the public. As such Hawaii needs to maintain the most current version of those codes, such as is intended under the purpose of HB 637.

Respectfully,  
Reginald Castanares

FINTestimony

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 4:48 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: scoleman@surfrider.org  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB637 on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM



**HB637**

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for FIN on Feb 24, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stuart Coleman	Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair and Committee Members, As the Hawaii Manager of the Surfrider Foundation, I'm writing to express strong support for HB 637. We need to update our plumbing code so that we can conserve water and reuse more gray water. Mahalo for your support. Aloha, Stuart

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)