

# BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96843  
www.boardofwatersupply.com




February 13, 2017

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Water and Land

**LATE**

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety,  
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

The Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 633, Relating to Water Security Financing

We are unable to support Senate Bill 633 and recommend its deferral pending the results of the two-year water security pilot program authorized pursuant to Act 172, Session Laws of Hawaii 2016. We understand the State Commission on Water Resource Management will be convening the first meeting of the Water Security Advisory Committee this spring and the Honolulu Board of Water Supply will be participating.

Senate Bill 633 imposes a water security fee on water withdrawn from municipal and private water systems and establishes a water security fund administered by the commission for the purposes of providing matching grants for water security projects to increase the recharge of groundwater resources; encourage the reuse of water and reduce the use of potable water for landscaping irrigation; and improve the efficiency of potable and agricultural water use. The Honolulu Board of Water Supply has adopted its Water Master Plan of October 2016 that provides a comprehensive, long term plan for water resources and systems requirements for the next 30 years. Specific programs are identified for the increase of recharge, storm water capture, reuse and conservation including research to anticipate and adapt to climate change and other emerging impacts. We are currently undergoing a long range financial plan and water rate study with our Stakeholder Advisory Group to fund the Water Master Plan recommendations.

We are also concerned about our water bill being used for the collection of the fee.

The Honorable Chair Rhoads,  
The Honorable Chair Nishihara,  
The Senate,  
and Members  
February 13, 2017  
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Currently, in addition to water charges being reflected on our bills, we also collect sewer charges. We are constantly dealing with customers who associate the sewer fee as being part of the water bill. To add a water security fee to our regular billing to our customers will cause additional confusion and frustration.

Moreover, we are very wary that the water security fee is not being imposed on other water users, for example, the military, agricultural, commercial and industrial users of water.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on Senate Bill 633.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Y. W. Lau', written in a cursive style.

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



**HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
*Amplify the Power of Giving*

**LATE**

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**O'ahu**

827 Fort Street Mall  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
*Telephone* 808-537-6333  
*Facsimile* 808-521-6286  
*Toll-free* 1-888-731-3863

**Hawai'i Island**

65-1279 Kawaihae Road  
Parker Square, Room 203  
Kamuela, Hawai'i 96743  
*Telephone* 808-885-2174  
117 Keawe Street, Suite 108  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
*Telephone* 808-935-1206

**Kaua'i**

4139 Hardy Street, Suite C  
Lihu'e, Hawai'i 96766  
*Telephone* 808-245-4585

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33 Lono Avenue  
Kahului Building, Suite 390  
Kahului, Hawai'i 96732  
*Telephone* 808-242-6184

**Testimony of the  
Hawai'i Community Foundation  
on  
S.B. 633**

**Relating to Water Security Financing  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Monday, February 13, 2017  
3:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 224**

The Hawaii Community Foundation supports the intent of S.B. 633, which establishes a mechanism to provide funds for projects and programs to increase water security in the State of Hawaii.

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 2013. 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 of a long-term funding mechanism to support watershed protection and water security in Hawaii. S.B. 633 is an important step toward ensuring a viable, dedicated source of funds to preserve Hawai'i's most important resource.

HCF supports S.B. 633 and urges the committee to listen to water stakeholder input and pass the bill with amendments that ensure equity. We stand ready to assist in helping implement this important program and all elements of the Council's "Blueprint for Action."



**LATE**

P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 13, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 633**  
RELATING TO WATER SECURITY

Room 224  
3:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Rhoads and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, and Members of the Committees:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB agrees with the intent of SB 633, which establishes a fund to promote investments in water infrastructure.

Viability of agricultural operations are correlated to expenditures. We find great disparity across the state, one being water rates. Water for agriculture will face additional cost challenges for farmers and new Food Safety rules come into effect, forcing testing beyond that provided by the municipal water department. The global nature of the marketplace does not allow farmers to pass these costs on to consumers. For this reason we are very concerned about the provision authorizing collection of fees from municipal and private water users.

HFB agrees with the intent of the measure but has concerns regarding the details.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.





# Wai Maoli

HAWAI'I FRESH WATER INITIATIVE

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

**LATE**

## 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  
S.B. 633  
Relating to Water Security Financing  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
Monday, February 13, 2017  
3:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 224**

The Hawaii Fresh Water Council strongly supports the intent S.B. 633, which would provide dedicated funding for projects and programs that increase water security in the State of Hawaii.

The Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative was launched in 2013 and assembled a 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 the group identified to achieve this statewide water goal over the long term is to have consistent, dedicated funds available for watershed protection and maintenance. Dedicated funds can also support recharge, reuse, and conservation programs over the long term, as well as important data collection and monitoring activities. S.B. 633 would:

- Establish a small fee (amount to be determined) to be assessed on every 1000 gallons extracted from the state's public trust underground water aquifers;
- Authorize a Water Security Advisory Group to establish criteria to evaluate and assign priorities for proposals by public or private agencies/organizations that provide 1-1 matching funds for projects that increase water security; and
- Provide an annual report to the Legislature on the water security projects approved by the Commission.
- Support projects that establish or increase existing areas for the recharge of groundwater resources;
- Support projects that reduce the use of potable water for landscape irrigation and encourage the reuse of wastewater; and
- Support projects that improve the efficiency of potable domestic water or agricultural irrigation water use.

The Council believes that S.B. 633 can be strengthened by:

- Ensuring that there is a close nexus between the origin of the water security fees and the benefit of the selected projects, ie: the commission should hold fees that originate in each county in separate sub-accounts that can be awarded to valid water security projects in the same county of origin.
- Ensuring that a portion of the water security fees are able to be used to help offset the administrative costs of the Commission on Water Resource Management and water security activities that benefit water users statewide.

With these additions, we strongly support S.B. 633 and urge its passage.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2017 4:03 PM  
**To:** WTL Testimony  
**Cc:** surf77@mac.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB633 on Feb 13, 2017 15:00PM

**LATE**

**SB633**

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL/PSM on Feb 13, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
ROBERT DUERR	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I fully support SB 655, allowing media access during declared emergencies. I am a long-time writer for Hawaii Fishing News and a member of the Big Island Press Club Inc., a 50 year old Hawaii professional news organization with members statewide and on the mainland. During emergencies Hawaii citizens and taxpayers have the right and want to be informed and updated by professional journalists. The U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of the press. Why? Because single-sourced government briefings and press releases are not enough in a free society. Please support SB 655. Mahalo, Robert Duerr Treasurer Big Island Press Club PO Box 1920 Hilo, Hawaii 96721 808-937-9104 surf77@mac.com

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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