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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Wednesday, February 28, 2018
12:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In Consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1984, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO WATER SECURITY**

House Bill 1984, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate unspecified fund to conduct a study examining the current state of water resources in the State, potential alternative sources of water, and the future needs of water in the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) acknowledges the intent of this measure and offers the following comments and amendments.**

The Department's Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) notes that Section 174C-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), provides for the development of the Hawaii Water Plan, a long-range, comprehensive, multi-component plan that seeks to address the problems of supply and conservation of water. Virtually all of the study elements outlined in House Bill 1984, House Draft 1 are already elements of the Hawaii Water Plan.

The Hawaii Water Plan is intended to serve as a continuing long-range guide for water resource management. The Hawaii Water Plan consists of five constituent parts: 1) a Water Resource Protection Plan which is prepared by the Commission, 2) a Water Quality Plan which is prepared by the Department of Health, 3) a State Water Projects Plan which is prepared by the Engineering Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, 4) an Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan which is prepared by the Department of Agriculture, and 5) Water Use and Development Plans prepared by each separate county. The Commission recommends that the Hawaii Water Plan components be updated on a five-year cycle.

Section 174C-31(n), HRS, provides that the Commission may add to the Hawaii Water Plan any other information, directions, or objectives it feels necessary or desirable for the guidance of the counties. Under this authority, the Commission adopted the Statewide Framework for Updating the Hawaii Water Plan in 2000. The Framework is a guidance document that provides recommended elements for inclusion in each component plan so that updated plans are more useful and may be more easily integrated and coordinated with respect to water source development by the State and county (<http://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/cwrp/planning/framework.pdf>). For example, the 2000 Framework established an integrated planning approach, and as a result, all of the counties are now considering the use of alternative water sources and incorporating water conservation measures and programs as strategies to meet future demands.

With many of the components being updated for the first time since initial adoption in 1990, the Commission recommends the intent of House Bill 1984, House Draft 1 be revised to address the need for a comprehensive review of its Framework based on the experiences and lessons learned by the various agencies responsible for updating the individual component plans. Better guidance will provide the basis for more holistic water planning thereby increasing our future water security.

Specifically, the Commission requests the following amendments:

(1) In SECTION 1, page 2, after line 8, insert:

Lastly, the legislature finds that the state water code, chapter 174C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires that the commission on water resource management implement and utilize comprehensive water resources planning in its protection and management of our State's water resources. The water code sets forth the requirement for initial development and updating of the Hawaii water plan to guide the commission on water resource management in executing its general powers, duties, and responsibilities assuring economic development, good municipal services, agricultural stability, and environmental protection. The Hawaii water plan is intended to serve as a continuing long-range guide for water resource protection and management. The Hawaii water plan currently consists of five major components (plans) identified as the: 1) water resource protection plan, prepared by the commission on water resource management; 2) water quality plan, prepared by the department of health; 3) state water projects plan, prepared by the department of land and natural resources' engineering division; 4) agricultural water use and development plan, prepared

by the department of agriculture; and 5) county water use and development plans, prepared by each of the four counties.

(2) Amend SECTION 1, lines 9 to 13, as follows:

The purpose of this Act is to direct the commission on water resource management to ~~[conduct a study examining the current state of water resources in the State, potential alternative sources of water, and the future needs of water in the State]~~ provide additional guidance for future Hawaii water plan updates to address emerging issues such as of climate change and to include any other useful or necessary elements to ensure the long-term protection and wise management of water resources.

(3) Amend SECTION 2 (a) as follows:

(a) The commission on water resource management shall conduct ~~[a study examining the current state of water resources in the State, potential alternative sources of water, and the future needs of water in the State]~~ an update of the statewide framework for updating the Hawaii water plan to provide additional guidance for updating the Hawaii water plan.

(4) Delete SECTION 2 (b).

(5) Replace SECTION 2 (c) with the following:

Tasks and elements of the statewide framework update shall include but not be limited to:

(1) Facilitated interagency meetings with all agencies responsible for updating a component plan to identify information gaps that need to be filled in order to better integrate the components and coordinate water source developments between the State, county, and private entities;

- (2) Consultation with federal, state, and county agencies having an interest in water resource science, protection, management, development, or use;
- (3) Inclusion of emerging issues in the county water use development plans, such as climate change, watershed protection, protection of public trust uses, and drought planning;
- (4) Comprehensive review and revision, as needed, of current planning elements for each component plan;
- (5) Extension of the planning horizon from twenty years to a longer time period;
and
- (6) Any other useful or necessary elements that are identified through the interagency meetings and consultation processes.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 28, 2018
TIME: 12:00 P.M.
PLACE: Conference Room 308

HB 1984 HD1 – RELATING TO WATER SECURITY.

Directs the Commission on Water Resource Management to conduct a statewide water security study reviewing past water supply, present water use, and future water availability by 2050. Makes an appropriation.

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

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 150+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **offers comments** on HB 1984 HD1 as this bill may have the unintended consequence of limiting the future needs of water for agricultural use.

This measure seeks to study the future needs of water for all potential uses in the state. As ranchers, we seek to conserve everything we can on our operations including water. Water is critical for our operations and for all agricultural production. Without water, we cannot produce food, we cannot provide for our animals and we can't provide for our families.

Some of our member ranchers are conducting trials across the state in the use of irrigated pasture as a drought mitigation tool. During the last drought, our industry experienced a loss of 15% of the state's cattle herds, loss of available forage for remaining herds, increases in invasive plant species, increases in the number of cattle shipped to the mainland, and an overwhelming influx of cattle to our processing facilities. By targeting our water use in irrigated pasture, we are reducing the amount that is lost to evaporation by delivering the water to the plants roots through subsurface irrigation.

In studying future water needs for the state, the study may not adequately consider the water needs for agricultural production. As the state is charged with protecting and ensuring land for agricultural production, the state should also consider water usage for agricultural production an integral component for these lands. Therefore, we ask that a provision be added to the language of the bill to ensure current water use levels for agricultural production remain as a critical component when considering the future water needs of our state.

We respectfully ask that this provision be included in the bill's language and we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 11:50:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2018 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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February 28, 2018

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Manager and Chief Engineer

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

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members
Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

Subject: House Bill 1984, HD 1: Relating to Water Security

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 1984, House Draft (HD) 1. This bill directs the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) to conduct a statewide water security study examining past water supply, current state of water resources and future water needs until the year 2050. The study shall also include a review of water usage by each county, and identify potential alternative sources of water for conservation, sustainability and water recharge opportunities.

The BWS is committed to doing its part to ensure water security on Oahu by understanding climate change and its implications on water resources and the impact of sea level rise and coastal erosion on water distribution infrastructure. The BWS will collaborate with CWRM on this study.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on HB 1984, HD 1.

Very truly yours,

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