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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018
3:01 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**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.

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 4:01:29 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 3:01:00 PM

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

Comments:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **HB1984 HD1** relating to a Water Security Study; Climate Change; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **HB1984 HD1** and supports its passage.

HB1984 HD1 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it 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 and makes an appropriation.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage. To handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

We support democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in management of coastal resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous peoples in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions. (Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 422-439 (2016)).

Given that **HB1984 HD1** 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 and makes an appropriation, it

is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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March 14, 2018

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

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Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

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

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 1984, House Draft (HD) 1, relating to Water Security, which directs the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) to conduct a statewide water security study including water resources, potential alternative sources of water, future needs, conservation, sustainability and water recharge opportunities to 2050 and makes an appropriation.

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

HB-1984-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2018 4:34:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/14/2018 3:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments: