

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 16, 2018  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1987, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO STREAMS**

House Bill 1987, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii an undetermined amount of funds for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 for the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) to contract with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to conduct a study on streamflows in the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request and offers the following comments.**

The Commission in cooperation with USGS has been conducting intensive low-flow stream characterization studies over the last 20 years. These studies have covered portions of Windward Oahu and most of Maui. Other agencies including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the county water departments have also been cooperators on the same or similar projects. In June 2015, the Commission entered into a Joint Funding Agreement with USGS to conduct another low-flow stream study in Southeast Kaua'i that will assess the streamflow characteristics from Wailua in the north to Hanapēpē in the south. Phase 2 of this study began in June 2017 and is expected to be completed by September 2019.

The Commission has another Joint Funding Agreement with the USGS to study and estimate low-flow characteristics for all streams on the islands of Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Maui, and Hawai'i. Phase 1 of the study began in June 2013 and was completed in September 2015, with the purpose of providing estimates of natural, low-flow conditions at gaged sites, and developing methods to estimate natural low-flow conditions at ungaged sites. Phase 2, with funding from the 2016 Legislature in the amount of \$1,500,000, began in January 2017 and will involve more intensive field data collection, development of regional regression equations to estimate natural low-flow

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

condition at ungaged sites, and implementation of a web-based tool called StreamStats. Work on the study is expected to be completed in September 2021.

Despite previous and current efforts to assess streamflow statewide, there are various other streams studies that can be conducted that will continue to increase our understanding of Hawai'i streams and contribute to the data needed to develop measurable instream flow standards. Such studies and data monitoring needs include the following:

- Understanding the hydrology and flow characteristics of intermittent and ephemeral (rainfall-dependent) streams, and developing a classification of perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams in Hawai'i.
- Identifying and studying multiple streamflow metrics for developing better predictability models for Hawaiian streams.
- Continuing intensive, site-specific low-flow streamflow studies including, but not limited to: 1) East Maui area diverted by the East Maui Irrigation System, but not studied in previous work; 2) diverted streams on Moloka'i, particularly Waikolu Stream to understand the ground- and surface water interaction and the effects of pumping, 3) North Kaua'i from Lumaha'i River to Moloa'a Stream; 4) Hāmākua region on Hawai'i; and 5) Kohala region on Hawai'i.
- Initiating for USGS stream gaging including, but not limited to, the: 1) establishing instream flow monitoring stations; 2) converting some existing crest-stage (flood) gaging stations to continuous streamflow stations for instream flow standard monitoring; 3) installing index stations proposed by USGS to aid in better long-term trend study; and 4) establishing more rainfall stations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**HB-1987-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 9:05:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018  
Friday, February 16, 2018  
2:00 p.m.**

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

**RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1987 HD1 RELATING TO STREAMS**

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No.1987 HD1 relating to the Commission on Water Resource Management to conduct a 5-Year Stream Flow Study.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No.1987 HD1 and supports its passage.

House Bill No.1987 HD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it requires the Commission on Water Resource Management to conduct a five-year study on streamflows in the State and appropriates funds to the Commission for the study.

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 freshwater resources. (Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 422-425 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 1987 HD1 requires the Commission on Water Resource Management to conduct a five-year study on streamflows in the State and appropriates funds to the Commission for the study, 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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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Friday, February 16, 2018 — 2:00 p.m. — Room 308

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 1987 HD 1, Relating to Streams**

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

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and better management of waste and fresh water. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

**Ulupono strongly supports HB 1987 HD 1**, which requires the Commission on Water Resource Management to conduct a study on streamflows in Hawai'i, because it aligns with our goal of preserving Hawai'i's water resources.

Streamflows are a vital data point in determining the amount of clean potable water. Yet, while there is agreement that water issues are important, critical decisions require quality data on which to base those decisions on. At this stage, there is a strong need for increased data collection. As greater data is established, this should bring together the various stakeholders that govern water issues in Hawai'i.

As Hawai'i's water issues become more complex and challenging, we appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that protect our water resources.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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February 16, 2018

ROSS S. SASAMURA, Ex-Officio  
JADE T. BUTAY, Ex-Officio

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

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

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

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1987, House Draft (HD) 1, Relating to Streams

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply supports HB 1987, HD 1, which requires the State Commission on Water Resource Management to conduct a five-year study on stream flows in the State and appropriates funds to the Commission for the study.

With climate change affecting rainfall trends in the State, stream flows need to be regularly studied to determine any detrimental impacts to habitat and surface water diversions.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on HB 1987, HD 1.

Very truly yours,

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