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STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, March 7, 2018  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

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

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.

**LATE**

**HB-1987-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/6/2018 12:14:36 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/7/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

PRESENTATION OF THE  
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

THE SENATE  
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, March 7, 2018

2:45 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224

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

To the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair; the Honorable Mike Gabbard, 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 repairation 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

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com), Tel.: (808) 258-8889

## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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




March 7, 2018

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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  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

Subject: House Bill 1987, HD 1, Relating to Streams

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 1987, House Draft (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.

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



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND  
Wednesday, March 7, 2018 — 2:45 p.m. — Room 224

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

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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*



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII  
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Wednesday, March 7, 2018 2:45PM Conference Room 224

**In SUPPORT of HB 1987 HD1** Relating to streams

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Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **supports HB 1987 HD1**, which appropriates funds to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) to conduct a 5-year study on streamflows in the State.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i supports any efforts to protect and preserve freshwater resources across the state. This measure would continue to provide the CWRM the funding it needs to effectively "protect the water of the state for the benefit of the citizens of the state"<sup>1</sup>. We also support the cooperative efforts with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), a federal agency that conducts and publishes peer-reviewed research on a multitude of topics, effectively providing the science needed to make important resource management and conservation decisions.

We urge the Committee to pass this measure, which will serve the continuation to preserve Hawai'i's precious water resources in perpetuity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1987 HD1.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/cwrm/>

**HB-1987-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2018 4:22:43 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/7/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**HB-1987-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/4/2018 6:11:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/7/2018 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

When you choose the people to engage in this study, perhaps the person could be selected from the Kanaka Maoli who understand the streams for generations upon generations? While I believe that there are others who might understand and be able to work with this project, too often the State ignores the people with the most expertise.

**HB-1987-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/4/2018 1:56:36 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/7/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard Reed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

If we don't quantify the norms we will never be able to determine the mid or long term trends.

**HB-1987-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/4/2018 9:58:32 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/7/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carl M Jellings Sr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**HB-1987-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/5/2018 12:05:23 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/7/2018 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brian F. Funai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Division of Aquatic Resources has information regarding the unique connection between the island freshwater resources, rainfall and the productivity of our nearshor fisheries. As a fisherman and someone concerned about the sustainability of our island food resources, I support this bill. Thank you for your time.