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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 House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Wednesday, January 31, 2018
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1987
RELATING TO STREAMS**

House Bill 1987 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

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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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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.

Again, the Commission supports this measure and looks forward to providing more input to developing a clearer and more defined scope.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 11:00:04 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:



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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, January 31, 2018 10:00AM Conference Room 325

In SUPPORT of HB 1987 Relating to streams

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, 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**, which appropriates funds to the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) for a study on streamflows in the State for the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

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"¹. 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.

¹ <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/cwrm/>

HB-1987

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 1:41:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 1/31/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane and members of the Committee on Water & Land:

I urge you to **support** this measure as part of the data resource gathering that should occur as we encounter more significant weather events leading to concerns regarding water both underground and surface water for the myriad of uses done within the State.

By having a baseline of instream flow for our streams now, predictions could be made to help plan for the future development within the State whether it be for housing or farming. By knowing what we have, what is promised and what the declining amounts will be can help more realistically guide planning in the future with less turmoil and confrontation of who gets what based on what intents for use are made.

Mahalo,

Cynthia K.L. Rezentes