

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

**MARCH 15, 2017  
2:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 630 HD1  
RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION**

Chairperson Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 630 HD1. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for county drought mitigation projects and measures and appropriate funds for one full-time equivalent permanent planner IV position within the Commission on Water Resource Management to update the Hawaii Drought Plan. HD1 also includes language that contractors and third parties who receive funds under this measure are subject to review and inspection by DLNR, the Attorney General, or the Auditor. The department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

The effects of drought on agriculture can be devastating. With the possibility of drought lasting for years, crop yields can fall dramatically and farms can close. In 2004, the Commission on Water Resource Management assisted in the creation of drought committees in each county. The committees then came up with prioritized, potential projects, including reservoir construction, to implement in order to mitigate the effects of drought. This request represents recognition of the importance and need for this plan and these projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
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

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

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

**Wednesday, March 15, 2017  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In Consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 630, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION**

House Bill 630, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate an unspecified amount of funding from an unspecified special fund for drought mitigation measures and projects in each county of the State for Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and the same sum for Fiscal Year 2018-2019. This measure also proposes to establish a full-time Planner IV position within the Commission on Water Resource Management to carry out the purposes of this measure and appropriates an unspecified amount of funding from an unspecified special fund in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 and the same sum for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to fund this position. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this measure.**

While the Department recognizes the need to mitigate the effects of drought, as acknowledged in the Hawaii Drought Plan, and appreciates the provision of additional staff resources, due to the limited and restricted nature of the special fund accounts and the fact that the majority of funding is used to cover operational expenses, there is no guarantee that available and appropriate funding will be available to support this measure.

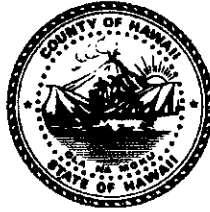
Droughts have severely affected Hawaii in the past, including significantly increasing wildfire risk in Hawaii, and as part of a natural climate cycle, droughts will impact the State in the future. In addition to agriculture and livestock industries, drought-induced impacts will also affect other sectors of the community, such as water supply, business, the environment, and public health and safety.

The Department concurs with the importance of drought planning and the effective implementation of mitigation measures and strategies. Should funding be available, the Department strongly suggests that funding for drought mitigation projects be provided directly to

the respective counties in order to streamline and expedite the implementation of drought mitigation projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i  
Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553  
KONA. 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy, Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740  
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 14, 2017

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chairman  
and Committee Members  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
State of Hawaii Legislature  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96815

Dear Chairman Rhoads and Committee Members,

**RE: HB 630 HD1  
Relating to Drought Mitigation**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony regarding HB 630, HD1 relating to the appropriation of funds to support county drought mitigation measures and projects and a planner within the Commission on Water Resource Management. The County of Hawai'i strongly supports this bill.

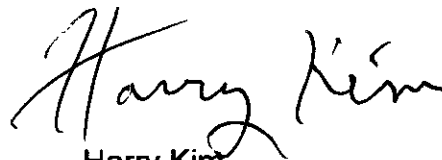
Drought can be one of the more wide spread and damaging of natural disasters causing negative economic impacts due to crop and livestock losses; degrading natural areas and negatively impacting plants and wildlife; increasing the risk and extent of wildfires; generating water restrictions for domestic and commercial customers and expanding the risk of inadequate water supplies for fighting fires. Additionally, thousands of residents, especially in the districts of South Kona, Ka'u and Puna, rely solely on rain catchment for their daily drinking water, cooking, bathing and sanitation needs.

With the intent of increasing preparedness to effectively address drought conditions, the State of Hawai'i previously funded and collaborated with each county to develop drought mitigation strategies. In 2004, the Hawai'i Drought Committee convened to compile an inventory of drought mitigation programs; identified gaps in data and risk areas; and prioritized and recommended drought mitigation as expressed through the *County of Hawai'i Drought Mitigation Strategies*. Over the course of years'

work continued on the implementation of the Mitigation Strategies, and in 2012, the report was updated.

With a lapse in five (5) years since the last round of funding, HB 630, HD1 serves as a critical vehicle to support continued efforts to apply new knowledge relating to climate change and drought mitigation and to continue efforts to implement mitigation strategies that will support more resilient businesses, communities and the natural environment during times of drought.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Kim". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "H".

Harry Kim  
Mayor

## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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




March 15, 2017

KIRK CALDWELL, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair  
ADAM C. WONG, Vice Chair  
DAVID C. HULIHEE  
KAPUA SPROAT  
KAY C. MATSUI

ROSS S. SASAMURA, Ex-Officio  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI, Ex-Officio

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
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  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:


Subject: House Bill 630, HD1 Relating to Drought Mitigation

The Board of Water Supply strongly supports House Bill 630, HD1. This bill provides funds for drought mitigation projects and measures in each county of the State and supports drought mitigation planning by updating the Hawaii drought plan.

Hawaii's changing climate requires updated mitigation strategies and planning to protect water conservation efforts and continued refinement of the Hawaii drought plan.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on House Bill 630, HD1.

Very truly yours,

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



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
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March 15, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**TESTIMONY ON HB 630, HD1**  
RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION

Room 224  
2:45 PM

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **strongly supports HB 630, HD1**, expanding the capacity of the State of Hawaii to address drought mitigation.

We have seen extremes during the past years, ranging from extreme droughts to severe storms. Long range forecasts all predict extremely variable weather in the future with severe rainfall periods followed by extended droughts. It is very likely that on and "average" there will be enough water but life is not made up of averages. Just as a 60 year old person cannot say they are an average of 30 years old, looking at annual rainfall and averaging it through the year, will not provide a true picture of how much water is available to meet our needs.

Drought mitigation efforts will facilitate our capacity to persevere through extended droughts. This is critical not only for the safety and well-being of society but to ensure that agriculture is sustainable through extreme droughts to meet the needs of our people.

Recently at the meeting of the National Association of Conservation Districts, Brian Richter, Chief Scientist for the Water program of The Nature Conservancy, an international conservation organization, where he promotes sustainable water use and management with governments presented a thoughtful presentation about Water and the future. He emphasized the need for collaboration and taking from one to meet the needs of another is not in the long term interest of society. He cited California where water from agriculture is shifted to population centers. He asked, where will our food come from? He emphasized that conservation alone is not the solution. Populations

are growing and so needs are expanding. Weather is dynamic so access to water is not constant. He gave examples of projects capturing stormwaters for future use.

Hawaii has already embarked on that journey but we have not maintained our progress in this area. In 2007, HB400 (Act 238) was passed resulting in significant projects across the State. Maui was able to line a reservoir in the Kula Ag Park while Oahu made strides in water conservation toilet fixtures.

The Hawaii Drought Council has proposed projects. At the same time the changing weather patterns may warrant a review of priorities and begin implementing the proposals. Focused efforts to this end is needed. This measure will provide that direction.

HFBF respectfully requests your **strong support of this measure by restoring the funding in the measure** to strengthen Hawaii's resilience to periods of drought. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this important subject.





**ONE WORLD ONE WATER, LLC**  
**677 ALA MOANA BLVD, SUITE 1100**  
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[www.oneworldonewater.org](http://www.oneworldonewater.org)

Testimony on HB 630 HD1  
Relating to Drought Mitigation and Appropriation

Senate Committee on Water and Land  
March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017  
2:45 P.M.  
Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

Subject: House Bill (HB) 630 HD1 Relating to Drought Mitigation

At One World One Water we are dedicated to reinvesting in water infrastructure and restoring natural environments, and **we strongly support HB 630 HD1** and the provision of funds to support drought mitigation projects. Freshwater resources are already constrained in Hawaii. There is a trend of decreasing rainfall and more frequent drought occurrences which coupled with population growth leaves Hawaii at risk. The best way to prepare for drought is through drought mitigation, which includes actions that reduce the overall risk of drought and ultimately reduce the severity of drought impacts. With available funding, the mitigation projects described in the Hawaii Drought Plan can help reduce the impacts of drought.

As an organization committed to improving the quality and efficiency of our global water systems and resources, **we ask your support HB 630 HD1** to invest in Hawaii's water future.

Please contact us at [globalwater@gmail.com](mailto:globalwater@gmail.com) should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,  
*One World One Water*



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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND  
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 — 2:45 p.m. — Room 224

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 630 HD 1, Relating to Water Conservation**

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 reduce waste. 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 630 HD 1**, which provides funding for drought mitigation projects, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

Hawai'i's agricultural industry relies on a constant supply of water, but in times of drought, farmers and ranchers often struggle to keep their businesses alive. In recent years, the state has suffered through severe drought conditions including a two to three decade downward trend in rainfall, which heavily impacts our local agricultural communities. As droughts are increasing, it becomes more important for the Legislature to fund drought mitigation measures to protect our island's most valuable natural resource.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become more complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 11, 2017 1:45 PM  
**To:** WTL Testimony  
**Cc:** mnakahata@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB630 on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM

**HB630**

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for WTL on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments: Please restore funding in the measure. thank you.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 11, 2017 12:57 PM  
**To:** WTL Testimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for WTL on Mar 15, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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