

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 House Committee on  
WATER & LAND**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2017  
9:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In Consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 630  
RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION**

House Bill 630 proposes to appropriate \$4,000,000 of general revenues for drought mitigation measures and projects in each county of the State for Fiscal Year 2017-2018. 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 House Bill 630 and appropriates \$52,000 in general revenues in Fiscal Year 2017-2018 to fund this position. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this initiative as long as it does not replace our priorities requested in the Executive Budget.**

The Department recognizes the need to mitigate the effects of drought and this need is acknowledged in the Hawaii Drought Plan. Droughts have severely affected Hawaii in the past, 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. 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 testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**LATE**

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

FEBRUARY 8, 2017  
9:00 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 630  
RELATING TO DROUGHT MITIGATION

Chairperson Yamane and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 630. 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. 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.



## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96843  
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February 8, 2017

KIRK CALDWELL, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair  
ADAM C. WONG, Vice Chair  
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KAY C. MATSUI

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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 Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Water and Land  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 420  
415 Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane and Members:

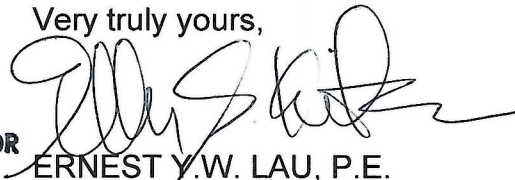
Subject: House Bill 630 Relating to Drought Mitigation

The Board of Water Supply strongly supports House Bill 630. 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.

Very truly yours,

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

**waltestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 9:51 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** grayboy24@aol.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leslie Takayama	Waiakea Soil & Water Conservation District	Support	No

Comments:

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 5, 2017 9:39 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** warrenmcfb@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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February 8, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

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

Room 325  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Kong, 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 630**, which expands 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 "average" there will be enough water, however, 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 storm waters for future use.

Hawaii has already embarked on that journey but we have not maintained our progress in this area. In 2007, HB 400 (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.

HFB respectfully requests your strong support of this measure to strengthen Hawaii's resilience to periods of drought.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this important subject.

**waltestimony**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 5, 2017 8:23 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** mnakahata@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

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**kong2 - Crystal**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 6:43 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** hacdhawaii@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

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**Sent:** Monday, February 6, 2017 7:07 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** wmitno@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Wesley M Nohara	Individual	Support	No

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 10:31 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** john@olsontrust.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
John C. Cross	Individual	Support	No

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 10:41 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** ahmai@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Ah Mai	Individual	Support	No

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 12:34 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** koloa@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

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**kong2 - Crystal**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 8:53 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** biokepamoses@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brenda Iokepa-Moses	Individual	Support	No

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 8:54 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** mary.robblee@hi.nacdnet.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 10:23 AM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** marjorie.stanphill@hi.nacdnet.net  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 1:38 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** kanoe.malani@hi.nacdn.net  
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**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

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**LATE**

**kong2 - Crystal**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 8:10 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** WailuaKaiCattleLLC@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Fernandes	Individual	Support	Yes

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**LATE**

**kong2 - Crystal**

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**Sent:** Tuesday, February 7, 2017 10:21 PM  
**To:** waltestimony  
**Cc:** Mchughj001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB630 on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM\*

**HB630**

Submitted on: 2/7/2017

Testimony for WAL on Feb 8, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments:

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