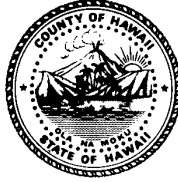


**Harry Kim**  
Mayor

**Wilfred M. Okabe**  
Managing Director



**William A. Kucharski**  
Director

**Diane A. Noda**  
Deputy Director

**County of Hawai'i**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

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<http://www.hawaiicounty.gov/environmental-management/>

March 21, 2018

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Committee on Water and Land  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
State of Hawai'i Senate  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: **Support for SR 71 and SCR117**  
**(Relating to Water Reuse)**

Date: March 23, 2018 (Friday)

Time: 2:15 p.m.

Dear Chairperson Rhoads, Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture and Environment:

The County of Hawaii (COH) supports SR71 and SCR117.

1. The creation of a water reuse task force within the department of health is a positive step forward and by focusing on water reuse before our water resources are critically depleted supports the residents of the County of Hawai'i (COH) and all residents in the State. Sustainability requires long range planning and thinking. Water is our most critical resource, one that we have taken for granted for far too long, and bringing the issue of reuse to the forefront is appropriate and positively supported.
2. The County of Hawai'i (COH) has undertaken a major upgrade to our Kona waste water treatment plant and will be producing R1 water targeted for reuse in COH by 2020. A study of ways to make this resource easier to procure and utilize is welcomed and supported.
3. These resolutions are a positive step forward in attempting to address a critically vital issue in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William A. Kucharski".

**William A. Kucharski, Director, Department Environmental Management, COH**

an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SCR 117**

REQUESTS THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE  
A TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY BARRIERS AND SOLUTIONS  
TO EXPANDED WATER REUSE IN THE STATE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND  
SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR

Hearing Date: March 23, 2018  
Time: 2:15 p.m.

Room Number: 224

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (Department) would need resources to support the
- 2 task force that is covered under this measure and defers to the Governor's Supplemental Budget
- 3 Request for appropriation priorities.
  
- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Department has always been an advocate for water reuse provided
- 5 that public health and water resources are not compromised. Water reuse has become more
- 6 significant due to the state's growing population, limited potable water resources, and wastewater
- 7 disposal issues. As water energy demands and environmental needs grow, water reuse will play a
- 8 greater role in our overall water supply. By working together to overcome obstacles, water reuse,
- 9 along with water conservation and efficiency, can help us to sustainably manage our vital water
- 10 resources. Therefore, the Department supports this measure that involves the development of a task
- 11 force that will identify barriers and solutions to expand water reuse in the State.
  
- 12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SCR-117**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 9:29:31 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments:



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

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND AND AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT  
Friday, March 23, 2018 — 2:15 p.m. — Room 224

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports SCR 117, Requests the Department of Health to Convene a Task Force to Identify Barriers and Solutions to Expanded Water Reuse in the State**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committees:

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 SCR 117**, which requests the Department of Health to convene a task force to identify barriers and solutions to expanded water reuse in Hawai'i.

Water is the most important natural resource and critical to the survival of the people of Hawai'i. Therefore, water must be protected and managed in a diligent manner. Water reuse is often the most environmentally prudent method of using water.

Ulupono supports this resolution to convene a task force of experts to identify barriers and solutions for increased water reuse. Water stakeholders, including regulators, often work in silos and having these entities interact together will lead to better outcomes.

Hawai'i's agricultural industry relies on a constant supply of water as 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 protect our island's most valuable natural resource.

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

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner



**HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
*Amplify the Power of Giving*

**Testimony of the Hawaii Community Foundation on S.C.R. 117  
Relating to Expanding Water Reuse  
Senate Committee on Water and Land & Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018  
10:30am  
Conference Room 224**

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

The Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) strongly supports **S.C.R. 117**, which requests the Department of Health to convene a task force to identify barriers and solutions to expanded water reuse in the state.

Studies have shown that Hawaii has seen an 18% reduction in rainfall from 1978 to 2007. Reduced precipitation, rising populations, and increased development of our land is making Hawaii's water security more vulnerable than ever. Hawaii Community Foundation has been a continued supporter and convener of Hawaii's Fresh Water Initiative, which is dedicated to increasing water security throughout the islands through initiatives and policies in water reuse, conservation, and recharge.

The Fresh Water Initiative has recognized that diverting wastewater to other freshwater applications is a valuable technique for both reusing and preserving water resources. Hawaii Community Foundation is in support of **S.C.R. 117** since its passage will help identify both the barriers and solutions to increasing water reuse on our islands. Collaboration, research, policies, and demonstrations will be invaluable to reaching Hawaii's goal of doubling the amount of wastewater currently being reused.

HCF strongly supports **S.C.R. 117** and we stand ready to collaborate and assist in moving Hawaii towards increased water reuse and strengthened water security.

**SCR-117**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 5:06:03 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

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

Comments: