

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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



March 23, 2018

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Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer *(EW)*

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

Dear Chair Rhoads and Chair Gabbard and Members:

Subject: SCR 117/ SR 74, Requests the Department of Health
to Convene a Task Force to Identify Barriers and Solutions to
Expanded Water Reuse In The State

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 117/ Senate Resolution (SR) 74, which requests the Department of Health to convene a task force to identify barriers and solutions to expanded water reuse in the State.

The State Department of Health (DOH) has been working diligently in regulating expanded water reuse. In our experience with recycled water on Oahu, there are areas in the DOH Reuse Guidelines where best management practices could be improved to reduce the regulatory and reporting requirements such as allowing irrigation of R-1 recycled water during the day so that irrigation systems can be adjusted and maintained. We note that R-1 recycled water is disinfected and poses no impact to public health relative to other types of nonpotable irrigation water supplies.

Because recycled water extraction may impact wastewater treatment and collection systems, we have no objections if a wastewater agency is represented on the proposed task force.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on SCR 117/ SR 74.

Very truly yours,

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

LATE

SCR-117

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 10:50:20 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Fox	Testifying for The Nature Conservancy	Support	Yes

Comments:

Easily available fresh water is not a limitless resource here in the middle of the Pacific. Several locations in the state have experienced prolonged drought in recent years. Science indicates that the likely effects of climate change in Hawai'i will include:

- More frequent and more severe storms that can increase runoff and siltation; but
- Overall, less rainfall in many locations and therefore less fresh water; and
- Higher temperatures that affect watershed health and can be beneficial to pests.

Hawai'i is already exhibiting telltale signs of climate change. UH's Rainfall Atlas catalogues a century of declining rainfall and fewer trade wind days. Summer temperature records were broken across the state and a record number of storms took aim at Hawai'i over the last few years.

In response to these conditions, we must plan and implement mitigative and adaptive measures to ensure the resilience of our natural and human systems. Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events. Additionally, we must improve our efficiencies and reuse of our fresh water resources.

LATE

SCR-117

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 2:52:15 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Testifying for Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments: