



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0444
RELATING TO ONSITE NON-POTABLE WATER REUSE SYSTEMS

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Hearing Date: February 8, 2019 Room Number: CR 325

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Fiscal Implications: None.

Department Testimony: The Department of Health (Department) supports this measure with comments. The Department has regulations that allow onsite water reuse for the treatment of domestic wastewater. The National Blue Ribbon Commission’s guidance expands the treatment to include other non-potable waters such as stormwater and roof runoff. Given the complexity of promulgating rules for an expanded program and the need to consult with affected parties, the process to adopt new rule amendments will likely require two to three years to complete. Based on current resources, the Department could adopt rules for onsite non-potable water reuse systems, based on the National Blue Ribbon Commission for Onsite Non-potable Water Systems, but would likely need until January 1, 2022 to complete the task effectively.

Offered Amendments: Revise the date in Section 2, Line 15 from January 1, 2020, to January 1, 2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAI'I COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
Amplify the Power of Giving

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Date: Friday, February 8, 2019

Time: 8:30am

Place: Conference Room 325

Re: HB 444 Relating to Onsite Non-Potable Water Reuse Systems

Aloha! The Fresh Water Initiative of Hawai'i Community Foundation **strongly supports H.B. 444** which requires the Department of Health to adopt the National Blue Ribbon Commission for Onsite Non-potable Water Systems rules by January 1, 2020, with a requested **amended date of January 1, 2021**.

Revised Language:

SECTION 2. By January 1, 2021, the department of health shall adopt rules for onsite non-potable water reuse systems, based on the National Blue Ribbon Commission for Onsite Non-potable Water Systems' "A Guide for Developing and Implementing Regulations for Onsite Non-Potable Water Systems."

Last year various agencies across the state were brought together to form the Water Reuse Task Force in an effort to scale water reuse across the state. Water reuse has been identified as a key strategy for water security and is part of Hawaii's Fresh Water Initiative - the statewide goal of reaching 100 million gallons per day in additional, reliable fresh water capacity by 2030.

Since other states have also recognized the benefits of water reuse there has been a lot of research conducted on the safest and most efficient designs of reuse systems. At the forefront of research is the National Blue Ribbon Commission for Onsite Non-Potable Water Systems, a nationally recognized partnership made up of representatives from municipalities, public health agencies, water utilities along with support from the Water Research Foundation, Water Environment & Reuse Foundation, and the US Water Alliance.

With the goal of supporting the adoption of onsite recycled water, the National Blue Ribbon Commission has developed 'A Guidebook for Developing and Implementing Regulations for Onsite Non-potable Water Systems'. Created by and for utility leaders and state and local public health regulators, this guidebook presents a concrete and actionable framework that localities can utilize for regulating and managing onsite non-potable water systems based on best-in-class science and research. Having a consistent policy framework across cities and states is one of the best ways that we can integrate onsite systems in a way that protects public health and meets our water needs.

Since there are currently no national standards for onsite non-potable water systems in the United States, these guidelines provide vetted public health-based standards and a streamlined

permitting process. In order to safely and efficiently excel water reuse in Hawaii we greatly support **H.B. 444** which requires Hawaii Department of Health to adopt the National Blue Ribbon Commission Guidebook by January 1, 2021. We're confident that this resource will help guide Hawaii in developing and implementing regulations and oversight programs for onsite non-potable water systems that are both scientifically rigorous and protective to public health.

Should you have any questions about this testimony, please feel welcome to contact me at dokano@hcf-hawaii.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dana Okano".

Dana Okano, PhD, AICP
Program Director of Strategies, Initiatives and Networks
Hawai'i Community Foundation

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting HB 444 Relating to Onsite-Non-Potable Water Reuse Systems-
Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs
Friday, February 8, 2019, 8:30 AM, Room 325

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.

The Nature Conservancy supports HB 444.

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 have been broken across the state and a record number of storms have taken 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 efficiencies and reuse of our fresh water resources, including through the types of on-site non-potable water reuse systems that will be guided by Department of Health rules contemplated in HB 444.

Thank you.

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ONE WORLD ONE WATER
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Testimony in Support of HB444
Relating to the Onsite Nonpotable Water Reuse Systems

House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs
February 8th, 2019
8:30am
Conference Room 325

Subject: House Bill (HB) 444 Relating to Onsite Nonpotable Water Reuse Systems; **AMENDMENT REQUESTED**

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs,

At One World One Water we are dedicated to reinvesting in water infrastructure and restoring natural environments, and we strongly support **HB444** which requires the Department of Health to adopt the National Blue Ribbon Commission for Onsite Non-potable Water Systems rules by January 1, 2020, with a requested **amended date of January 1, 2021**.

Revised Language:

SECTION 2. By July 1, 2021, the department of health shall adopt rules for onsite non-potable water reuse systems, based on the National Blue Ribbon Commission for Onsite Non-potable Water Systems' "A Guide for Developing and Implementing Regulations for Onsite Non-Potable Water Systems."

Water reuse has been recognized internationally as a strategy for combatting climate change, drought, and reduced fresh water supplies. Since other states have also recognized the benefits of water reuse there has been a lot of research conducted on the safest and most efficient designs of reuse systems. At the forefront of research is the National Blue Ribbon Commission for Onsite Non-Potable Water Systems, a nationally recognized partnership made up of representatives from municipalities, public health agencies, water utilities along with support from the Water Research Foundation, Water Environment & Reuse Foundation, and the US Water Alliance.

In order to safely and efficiently excel water reuse in Hawaii we greatly support **H.B. 444** which requires Hawaii Department of Health to adopt the National Blue Ribbon Commission Guidebook. We're confident that this resource will help guide Hawaii in developing and implementing regulations and oversight programs for onsite non-potable water systems that are both scientifically rigorous and protective to public health.

Please contact us at globalwater@gmail.com should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,
One World One Water