

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 10 , 2020

RE: H.B. No. 2646
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2020
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 2646 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Specify in the state water code that fire safety use is a beneficial use of water; and
- (2) Require the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board) to work with county governments, the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, and owners to use reservoir water for fire safety.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Maui County Farm Bureau, Mahi Pono, and one individual. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Earthjustice. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds using ocean water to extinguish fires may damage flora and fauna and require the closure of major thoroughfares. Your Committee also finds that helicopters can



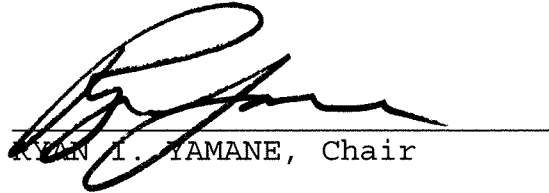
retrieve the fresh water in reservoirs more quickly than from the ocean. Requiring the Board to work with county governments and other agencies to use reservoir water for fire safety would protect the State's flora and fauna while also ensuring that the residents and visitors of Hawaii are safe from fires.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2646, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2646, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land, &
Hawaiian Affairs,



RYAN I. YAMANE, Chair



