

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2020
10:40 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2303, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO WAHIAWA DAM AND RESERVOIR**

Senate Bill 2303, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds and direct the Department of Land and Natural Resources Engineering Division's Dam and Reservoir Safety Program to develop and implement an emergency intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam and reservoir. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

An emergency intervention plan (Plan) could be a very important tool that would assist dam owners, operators and Government agencies in identifying triggers, unsafe conditions and response actions necessary to minimize risks to the downstream community during an emergency event.

The Plan would be developed in coordination with the appropriate entities involved in its execution and would identify roles and responsibilities, trigger points and appropriate measures to be taken. It is the dam owner's responsibility to remedy any unsafe conditions at their dam, including implementing the Plan. However, the Department does have the authority to implement the Plan in the event of an emergency. If the Department, in consultation with other government agencies, deems that the conditions of a dam or reservoir poses an imminent danger to the downstream community the Department may immediately implement remedial measures identified in the Plan necessary to protect life and property.

The Department supports this measure and proposes the following amendments:

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

SECTION 1. The legislature recognizes that climate change is occurring, and it is a priority issue for the State. Climate change poses immediate and long-term threats to Hawaii's economy, sustainability, security, and way of life.

The legislature also recognizes that climate change creates increased risks of both drought and sea level rise, making it critical to maintain the State's water storage capabilities and to protect downstream communities from flooding. To address these risks, the Wahiawa dam and reservoir, which serves as a major water supply for central and North Shore Oahu, must be carefully monitored for safety and must be the subject of an emergency intervention plan.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to direct the department of land and natural resources engineering division dam safety program to develop [~~and implement~~] an emergency intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam and reservoir.

SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural resources engineering division shall develop [~~and implement~~] an emergency intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam and reservoir.

(b) The Wahiawa dam and reservoir emergency intervention plan shall identify:

- (1) Communities that may need to evacuate in a dam emergency, using inundation maps that highlight flood areas and estimated travel times for floodwaters;
- (2) The dam owner's responsibilities to ensure timely and effective action in the event of an emergency;
- (3) The respective responsibilities of the State and the city and county and their areas of jurisdiction in the event of a dam emergency;
- (4) Potential defects in the dam and reservoir;

- (5) Any aspects of the dam and reservoir that are not in compliance with dam safety standards;
- (6) Financing opportunities to bring the dam into safety compliance if necessary; and
- (7) Opportunities for public outreach in the adjacent and downstream communities, for both the State and the dam owner.

(c) The department of land and natural resources engineering division shall submit the Wahiawa dam and reservoir emergency intervention plan to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022.

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of _____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the Wahiawa dam and reservoir emergency intervention plan. The moneys shall be allocated as follows:

- (1) \$1,000,000 to develop the Wahiawa dam and reservoir emergency intervention plan;
- (2) \$ _____ to create one permanent full-time equivalent position (1.0 FTE) in the department of land and natural resources engineering division dam safety program for a planner V to ~~implement~~ aid in the development of the Wahiawa dam and reservoir emergency intervention plan and to ~~carry~~ assist in carrying out dam inspection, repair, and maintenance oversight pursuant to chapter 179D, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

- (3) \$3,000,000 to purchase necessary dam safety emergency intervention equipment, [~~including~~] which may include a loader, excavator, tractor and flat-bed trailer, and [~~emergency~~] other related dam supplies [~~for~~] and materials which could include erosion control measures, as required to carry out the emergency intervention plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2303 SD1,
RELATING TO THE WAHIAWA DAM AND RESERVOIR**

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

By

Thomas L. Travis
Administrator, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA)

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports the intent** of Senate Bill 2303 SD1 recognizing that its passage could impact priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

Senate Bill 2303 SD1 proposes to appropriate funds and direct the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Engineering Division's Dam and Reservoir Safety Program to have developed an emergency intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam and reservoir. Issues with this dam have been persistent and longstanding. HI-EMA appreciates this measure and supports comments and suggestions made by DLNR.

Note: My comments represent HI-EMA concerns at the state emergency management level only. I would defer to the separate comment/testimonies of the county emergency management agencies, as they would be the jurisdictions impacted by this legislation at the local level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill 2303 SD1.

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DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



HIROKAZU TOIYA
DIRECTOR

JENNIFER M. WALTER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 10, 2020

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means
The Senate
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 2303,SD1 Relating to the Wahiawa Dam and Reservoir

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management (DEM) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 2303, SD1, which proposes to appropriate funds and direct the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Engineering Division to develop and implement an emergency intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam reservoir.

DEM has worked closely with DLNR with additional resources and capabilities needed to identify unsafe conditions and take action during emergencies. DEM would be committed to supporting DLNR and other stakeholders to develop and implement the emergency intervention plan to make our communities as safe as possible.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hirokazu Toiya". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Hirokazu Toiya
Director