

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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LAND
STATE PARKS

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
WATER AND LAND

Monday, January 27, 2020
1:15 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2303
RELATING TO WAHIAWA DAM AND RESERVOIR

Senate Bill 2303 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. Although it is the dam owner's responsibility to remedy unsafe conditions at their dam, 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:

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 dozer, excavator, tractor and flat-bed trailer, and ~~emergency~~ other related dam supplies and materials which could include ~~for~~ erosion control measures.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
COLONEL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND

By

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

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

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA) **supports the intent** of Senate Bill 2303.

Senate Bill 2303 proposes to appropriate funds and direct the Department of Land and Natural Resources 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 the interest brought up by this measure.

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.

Thomas L. Travis: Thomas.L.Travis@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
650 SOUTH KING STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 723-8960 • FAX: (808) 768-1492

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



HIROKAZU TOIYA
DIRECTOR

JENNIFER M. WALTER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

January 24, 2020

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Water and Land
The Senate
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

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

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management (DEM) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 2303, 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 blue ink, appearing to read "Hirokazu Toiya".

Hirokazu Toiya
Director



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, January 27, 2020

TIME: 1:15 P.M.

PLACE: Conference Room 229

SB 2303 RELATING TO THE WAHIAWA DAM AND RESERVOIR.

Support

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee

Life of the Land is Hawai'i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 49 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

Lake Wilson periodically floods, impacting downstream residential communities, siltating the coastal waters, and damaging the reefs.

Lake Wilson offers a fantastic opportunity. The lake floods during stormy weather when solar panels are the least productive. Lake Wilson could offer tremendous hydroelectric capabilities during these times. In addition, Lake Wilson can use pumped storage hydro so that the water does not impact downstream communities. Hydroelectric resources are able fluctuate their output to closely match intermittent wind and solar resources. In addition, tapping into hydroelectric at Lake Wilson and the other reservoirs on the island, including the Nuuanu dams, will help O`ahu to achieve its 100% renewable energy goals.

Mahalo

Henry Curtis
Executive Director

SB-2303

Submitted on: 1/24/2020 3:30:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/27/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Nellis	Testifying for Dole Food Co. Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Dole Food Co., Hawaii as owner and operator of the Wahiawa Reservoir identified in SB 2303 supports this bill that 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. We understand that DLNR is supporting this bill and we agree that this will be helpful by providing funds to implement an emergency intervention plan.

Thank You.

Daniel X. Nellis

General Manager