

# BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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



February 14, 2023

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Manager and Chief Engineer

ERWIN M. KAWATA  
Deputy Manager

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lowen and Members:

**SUBJECT: House Bill 1303: Relating to Water Conservation**

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 1303, which appropriates matching funds to certain counties to create pilot programs that incentivize residential homeowners in dry areas to replace landscaping refurbishments with alternatives that reduce water use. The BWS has found that drought tolerant plants and xeriscaping techniques such as those demonstrated at the BWS Halawa Xeriscape Garden in Halawa Valley can reduce irrigation water demand while creating attractive landscaping.

In Section 2 of the bill, the BWS respectfully requests the Committee on Water and Land name the BWS as the direct recipient of funds to establish an irrigation water use reduction pilot program. Additionally, the BWS request the Committee consider lowering the required match by the BWS to forty percent instead of dollar-for-dollar basis.

The match funding will help support and expand the BWS Water Sensible rebate program, which currently includes rain barrels and weather-based irrigation controllers in a popular and expanding suite of conservation rebates, including turf replacement.

Reducing potable water use conserves important water resources especially in dry areas subject to severe drought from climate change. Conservation is an inexpensive strategy to increase available water system capacity to meet the needs of expanding communities and to reduce the impacts of reduced source capacity affected by the Red Hill fuel contamination.

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
and Members  
February 14, 2023  
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1303.

Very truly yours,

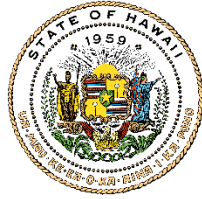
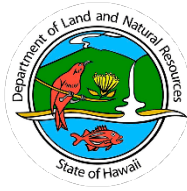


ERNEST Y.W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

*Y*

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, February 14, 2023  
9:10 AM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1303  
RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION**

House Bill 1303 proposes to appropriate moneys to certain counties to create pilot programs that incentivize residential homeowners in certain dry areas to replace landscaping refurbishments with alternatives that reduce water use. **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 Budget request.**

The Department's Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) supports water conservation and efficiency of water use, which is essential because climate change is expected to reduce future freshwater availability in many areas of the State of Hawai'i and may also cause an increase in frequency and severity of drought events. Incentives for residential homeowners to replace water-intensive landscaping with alternatives that use less water may be an effective way to reduce residential water use in Hawai'i. According to the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (HBWS), the average residential household consumes between 6,000 to 9,000 gallons per month, with approximately half of that for outdoor use. A residential HBWS customer who fully eliminated outdoor irrigation could save an average of 45,000 gallons per year of drinking water.

The Commission also acknowledges that each of the four County water departments have existing water conservation programs and that a pilot program offering residents incentives to replace landscaping with less water intensive alternatives could also be established in the Counties of Kaua'i and Maui.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

**DAWN N.S. CHANG**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

**LAURA H.E. KAAKUA**  
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



## Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
The Honorable Elle Cochran, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Re: **HB 1303 – RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION**  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 9:10 a.m., Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB 1303. This measure appropriates moneys to certain counties to create pilot programs that incentivize residential homeowners in certain dry areas to replace landscaping refurbishments with alternatives that reduce water use.

The Hawaii State Constitution, Article XI, Section 7, entitled WATER RESOURCES provides:

**Section 7.** The State has an obligation to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources for the benefit of its people.

The legislature shall provide for a water resources agency which, as provided by law, shall set overall water conservation, quality and use policies; define beneficial and reasonable uses; protect ground and surface water resources, watersheds and natural stream environments; establish criteria for water use priorities while assuring appurtenant rights and existing correlative and riparian uses and establish procedures for regulating all uses of Hawaii's water resources.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform plank on the environment provides that its members are to "protect and preserve Hawai'i's environment and achieve energy sustainability, advance measures to re-establish a healthy climate and environment for humans and fellow species, including actions to urgently address climate change, and work towards 100% renewable energy goals.

We believe that all people have the right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment. We believe that the preservation of our natural environment and its ecological well-being is essential to ensuring a safe, healthy, bountiful life for future generations in Hawai'i. We support policies that create a more sustainable society. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of native ecosystems.

We believe in the resource management principles outlined in the Public Trust doctrine of [Article XI, Section 1 of] the Hawai'i State Constitution. . . .

We believe that a key part of a sustainable and self-sufficient future for Hawai'i lies in achieving energy independence through a transition to clean renewable energy sources. We support policy that eliminates our dependence on fossil fuels and other dirty energy sources." [OUR PLATFORM | DPH \(hawaiidemocrats.org\)](https://www.hawaiidemocrats.org)



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Appropriating moneys to certain counties to create pilot programs that incentivize residential homeowners in certain dry areas to replace landscaping refurbishments with alternatives that reduce water use is consistent with the state and counties' duties under Article XI, Section 7 on Water Resources; Article XI, Section 1 on the Public Trust Doctrine; and the DPH Platform environmental goals toward creating a more sustainable society.

Please support and pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

/s/ Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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February 11, 2023

To: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair.  
The Honorable Elle Cochran, Vice Chair, and Members of the  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
House of Representatives, Hawaii State Legislature

Re: **HB 1303 – Relating to Water Conservation**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 9:10 am, Room 325 & videoconference

Position: **Support**

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Committee Members:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i has an enrolled membership of more than 7,000 voting residents here in Hawai'i. We support HB 1303, which would appropriate funds to the City and County of Honolulu and the County of Hawaii to create pilot programs to incentivize residential homeowners in certain dry areas to replace landscaping with alternatives that reduce water use. The amount of the appropriation is unspecified. Whatever amounts are eventually appropriated to Oahu and Hawaii Island, the local governments would be required to match on a dollar-for-dollar basis.

There is no question that Hawaii is running out of water. The bill recognizes that, on Oahu, we are facing an unending water crisis caused by the Navy's Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage facility that threatens to make most of Oahu's water supply toxic if it is not remediated very soon. Moreover, as the bill aptly notes, equipment breakdowns, drought, and other circumstances, have also had to implement calls for water conservation in all of Hawai'i's counties on multiple occasions in recent years.

In this context, we need to raise water conservation to a higher level of our collective consciousness. Many of Hawai'i's lawns look like direct imports from Suburbia on the Continent. This is a luxury that we need to abandon, and this bill is a step toward that goal.

On behalf of the Environmental Caucus, we urge you to PASS this bill. We thank you very much in advance for your favorable consideration of this bill.

*Alan B. Burdick* and *Melodie Adyja*, co-chairs  
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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[legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com) 808-258-8889



February 10, 2023

Honorable Chair Lowen

Re: HB 1303

Dear Nicole,

The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii supports HB 1303 with the following comments:

- Do not limit to the dry areas of the county
- Add a budget of \$2 Million annual for a rebate program
- The rebate will be \$1,000 per project valued at \$10,000 or higher
- The work must be performed by a licensed landscape contractor in good standing with the DCCA and PVL
- An invoice from the contractor must be submitted by the property owner as proof the criteria were met
- The project must demonstrate a water reduction to their landscaping of 30% or more
- A water usage calculation must be submitted as proof of the 30% reduction

The \$2 Million rebate could reduce water usage by 100 M Gallons/year. See below

1 controller Landscaping ~ \$10k-65K						
GPM	Min/zone	Total zone	GP Run	Run/year	GPY	30% Red.
(Gallon)	(Minutes)	(Count)	(Gallons)	(Count)	(Gallons)	(Gallons)
13	10	5	650	260	169,000.00	50,700.00

Rebate Count (\$2M/\$1000)  2,000
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Total Gallons Saved per Year 101,400,000
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While we support increasing use of native plants and pollinator friendly plantings, adding those criteria on top of water savings would greatly reduce the design options available and complicate the verification process. We think this particular bill should focus only on water reduction.

Since 1986, LICH has been a statewide alliance representing Hawaii's landscape trade associations:

- Aloha Arborist Association,
- American Society of Landscape Architects Hawaii Chapter
- Hawaii Association of Nurserymen
- Hawaii Island Landscape Association
- Hawaii Landscape and Irrigation Contractors
- Hawaii Society of Urban Forestry Professionals
- Kauai Landscape Industry Council
- Maui Association of Landscape Professionals
- Professional Grounds Management Society
- Big Island Association of Nurserymen
- Hawaii Professional Gardeners Association.

Hawaii's landscape industry has an economic impact of over \$520 million annually and full-time employment of over 11,000 landscape professionals.

Sincerely,

Matt Lyum, Landscape Industry Certified Manager  
Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii  
Government Affairs Committee





Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.  
Room 436  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Chairwomen Lowen and Cochran, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

The National Association of Landscape Professionals (NALP) and our Hawaii members appreciate the opportunity to comment on H 1303 *Relating to Water Conservation*.

NALP is the national trade organization representing the \$98 billion landscape industry employing over 1.4 million employees in the United States. Member companies specialize in lawn care, landscape maintenance, tree care, irrigation, and water management. Landscape professionals throughout the nation work daily performing essential services to homes and businesses to maintain their landscapes, sustain the environment and enhance and maintain healthy and safe green spaces.

It is beyond debate that the landscape and irrigation systems, especially those that surround our homes, are central to our mental and physical well-being. Human beings gravitate to green spaces whenever the opportunity affords them, whether it's a family luau, or just stepping outside to enjoy the weather with a cold beverage, residential landscapes provide an oasis to enjoy and relax in.

In recent years, climate change, conservation and sustainability have moved to the forefront of the landscaping conversation, causing us to revisit how we install and maintain residential irrigation systems and landscapes. At the center of this conversation is the water required to ensure that the plants that make up our green spaces are adequately supported and maintained. We believe in responsible landscape maintenance and design by licensed landscape professionals will need to play an integral role in the goals of H 1303 and make the following recommendations:

**Funding** - we suggest allocating \$2 million to pilot programs to establish outreach programs that provide residents with educational resources that illustrate how reduced water use can benefit communities and the water sources they depend on. These allocated funds would also provide incentives in the form of \$1,000 rebates for residents that can demonstrate water use reduction by January 2024.

**Licensed Landscape Professionals** - To ensure landscaping and irrigation are handled responsibly, we recommend that only licensed landscape contractors are permitted to perform work necessary to reduce water use. Doing so would reduce liability for homeowners and ensure all changes adhere to state and industry standards.

In closing, NALP supports the effort to ensure the long-term sustainability of residential landscapes across the state of Hawaii and joins with other allied industry associations in supporting H 1303, which takes an integral step in shaping and securing the future of residential landscaping.

Sincerely,

Terence Stovall

Terence Stovall

Manager, State and Local Government Affairs

[terence@landscapeprofessionals.org](mailto:terence@landscapeprofessionals.org)

**HB-1303**

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:13:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

**HB-1303**

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:33:31 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/14/2023 9:10:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1303. However, I believe it should be amended to incentivize not only residential homeowners, but also landscapers and landscape designers - particularly those who work with builders and developers to landscape new homes and developments.