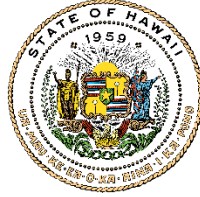
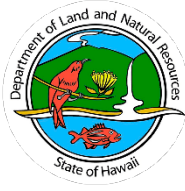


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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
FINANCE

Monday, February 27, 2023
11:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1212, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO WATER NEUTRALITY

House Bill 1212, House Draft 1 proposes to establish a task force to develop a plan for Hawai'i to be water-neutral by the year 2050, and require the task force to submit a report to the Legislature. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department's Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) is responsible for ensuring that water is available for future generations. This is accomplished through the Commission's regulatory, hydrologic monitoring, and planning programs. Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 174C-2, Declaration of policy, provides in subsection (b) that it is the Commission's policy to develop "*a program of comprehensive water resources planning to address the problems of supply and conservation of water. The Hawaii water plan, with such future amendments, supplements, and additions as may be necessary, is accepted as the guide for developing and implementing this policy.*" The impacts of climate change are expected to reduce water availability in many areas of the state of Hawai'i. It is important to consider actions that can be taken now to ensure that water is available to meet future water demands while continuing to protect the public trust purposes of water. The proposed Water Neutrality Task Force and report would help to guide future actions to improve water use efficiency, increase water supplies, and inform water resource management policies.

The Department appreciates the amendments in House Draft 1 establishing the task force within the Commission, adding additional time allowed for the plan, and appropriating funding. Convening a large task force and conceiving a comprehensive plan to achieve water neutrality for the State of Hawai'i is a complex and time-consuming task that should include community and stakeholder input and funding would be necessary to complete a meaningful, functional and realistic plan.

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

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
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February 27, 2023

RICK BLANGIARDI, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair
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MAX J. SWORD
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DAWN B. SZEWCZYK, P.E., Ex-Officio
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio

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

ERWIN M. KAWATA
Deputy Manager

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
and Members
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members:

Subject: House Bill 1212, HD1: Relating to Water Neutrality

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 1212, House Draft (HD) 1, which establishes the water neutrality task force to develop a plan for Hawaii to become water-neutral by the year 2050. Water neutrality is defined in the measure as a process that balances water use through reduced water usage and investment in projects that increase the supply of fresh water.

The BWS is a strong advocate of water conservation and sustainable water supply development, including groundwater, water reuse and desalination.

By finding new ways to reduce consumption of potable water it is important to plan wisely for our future. Emerging issues such as climate change sea level rise, droughts, extreme precipitation and flooding continue to have a profound global impact. As such, planning for future critical needs, such as infrastructure and resource resiliency needs to be addressed in a comprehensive framework. Water neutrality is a concept for managing water resources and this can be integrated into the framework.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1212, HD 1.

Very truly yours,

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

HB-1212-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 6:50:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill for water neutrality. We MUST do all we can to protect and keep our fresh water.

HB-1212-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 7:02:58 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor

HB-1212-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 7:30:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HD1. Thank you.