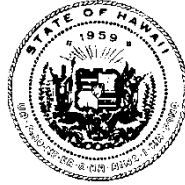


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM  
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
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HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
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Statement of  
**DEAN MINAKAMI**  
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation  
Before the

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

April 17, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 423

In consideration of  
**SCR 115**

### **ENCOURAGING DEVELOPERS TO INCORPORATE NET ZERO WATER BUILDING STRATEGIES WHEN CONSTRUCTING AND RENOVATING HOUSING PROJECTS IN THE STATE.**

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and members of the Committee:

HHFDC **supports the intent** of SCR 115.

HHFDC recognizes that housing development can play a part in ensuring the health of the State's freshwater resources. As an example, the Qualified Allocation Plan, which establishes criteria to allocate financing to most affordable rental housing projects financed through HHFDC, already provides additional points for water conservation and green building features.

We believe that the intent of this resolution can best be implemented by the county water departments by offering incentives to housing developments that incorporate conservation measures.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this resolution.



Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE  
Wednesday, April 17, 2024 — 2:00 p.m.

**Ulupono Initiative supports SCR 115, Encouraging Developers to Incorporate Net Zero Water Building Strategies when Constructing and Renovating Housing Projects in the State.**

Dear Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

**Ulupono supports SCR 115**, which encourages developers to incorporate net zero water building strategies when constructing and renovating housing projects in the State.

According to the Aloha+ Challenge dashboard, the average amount of water used in Hawai'i is 164 gallons per person per day. This is almost double the national average of 84 gallons. Despite adopting plumbing codes that require the installation of water efficient fixtures for new construction, water use on O'ahu remains at approximately 146 gallons per person per day. In addition, the water pumped from potable aquifers in urban Honolulu continues to exceed what is estimated to be sustainable.

Encouraging the implementation of net zero water building strategies will call attention to solutions such as stormwater water reclamation, on-site water treatment, and green infrastructure to address the ever-increasing demands on our freshwater resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata  
Director of Government Affairs

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*