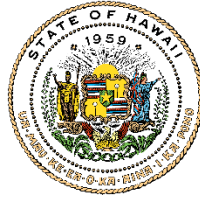


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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

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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER AND LAND

Thursday, February 2, 2023
9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 430 and Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 909
RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION

House Bill 909 proposes to establish a water neutrality turf replacement program, a new special fund and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds to implement this program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) acknowledges the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

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. Turf replacement incentives may be an effective way to reduce residential and landscape irrigation water use in Hawai'i. According to the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the average residential household consumes between 6,000 to 9,000 gallons per month, with approximately half of that for outdoor use. A turf replacement program could save an average of 45,000 gallons per year of fresh water per participating household on the Island of O'ahu.

Turf replacement programs are established in several states in the continental United States, including California and Nevada. Many of these programs are established by water districts/wholesalers or at the county level through utilities, who are best suited to outreach this program to their customers. The Commission feels that this model would work best in Hawai'i for several reasons:

- County water departments serve the largest population and market for water conservation programs;

- County water departments have established water conservation programs, but may lack adequate funding;
- County water departments have effective outreach and communication with their customers through billing stuffers and other communication media; and
- The Commission has very limited staffing available to implement and make rules for a new water conservation incentives program targeted for a utility's customers.

The Commission notes that House Bill 1303, introduced in this session, proposes to appropriate moneys to the City and County of Honolulu and the County of Hawai'i for water conservation programs related to replacing water-intensive landscaping with less water-intensive alternatives. The Commission recommends that the water neutrality turf replacement program be incorporated into House Bill 1303 and include the County of Maui and County of Kauai.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 909

February 2, 2023
9:30 a.m.
Room 430 and Videoconference

RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill (H.B.) No. 909: establishes the Water Neutrality Turf Replacement Program to be administered by the Commission on Water Resource Management; provides for financial incentives for individuals and entities to replace irrigated turf with water-wise landscaping; creates the Water Neutrality Turf Replacement Special Fund that would generate revenues through legislative appropriations, grants, gifts, donations, interest, dividends, and other income; and appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds for FY 24 and FY 25 for deposit into the special fund and an unspecified sum of special funds for FY 24 and FY 25 for the Water Neutrality Turf Replacement Program.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work, and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general

fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. Regarding H.B. No. 909, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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



February 2, 2023

RICK BLANGIARDI, MAYOR

BRYAN P. ANDAYA, Chair
KAPUA SPROAT, Vice Chair
MAX J. SWORD
NA'ALEHU ANTHONY
JONATHAN KANESHIRO

DAWN B. SZEWCZYK, P.E. Ex-Officio
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio

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

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water and Land
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 430
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ichiyama and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 909: Relating to Water Conservation

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 909. This bill establishes the water neutrality turf replacement program to provide financial incentives to replace irrigated turf with turf or other plants that use less water. With the challenges we face now, we must find solutions to protect our environment and water resources. Population growth, climate change, contamination, drought, emerging regulations and decreasing recharge to groundwater aquifers are considerable threats, so we need innovative solutions that can incentivize behavior to conserve and protect our water resources.

The BWS is working hard to preserve and protect our most essential resource – water. The water neutrality turf replacement program is an innovative way to get residents to exercise water-wise landscaping. The BWS encourages residents of single-family homeowners to consider xeriscaping as an ideal way of minimizing water waste. Other BWS efforts include promoting BWS Water Sensible program, launched in April 2018, Oahu residents and businesses have the opportunity to save water and money. The overall water savings has been over 54.2 million gallons saved per year based on over 9,033 rebates that have been provided for efficient clothes washing machines, rain barrels, and weather-based irrigation controllers and other efficiency measures.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 909.

Very truly yours,

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



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

February 2, 2022 9:30 AM Conference Room 430

In SUPPORT of HB909: Relating to Water Conservation

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** HB909, which would incentivize the use of water-efficient landscaping, and thereby reduce the ongoing placement of unnecessary strains on our limited and precious water resources.

Water is our most precious resource – as has been made abundantly clear through O'ahu's water contamination crisis, and in the growing impacts of climate destabilization on our rainfall patterns, watershed integrity, and water cycle. As we look ahead to even greater strains and demands that will be placed on our water resources, to support all aspects of life in our islands – from the restoration and perpetuation of cultural practices that may be the key to our food security and overall resiliency, to the development and maintenance of housing, schools, farms, and hospitals – we must be ever more mindful of how water can be better conserved and most appropriately used.

By incentivizing the greater use of water-efficient landscaping, this measure can help to shift our norms away from the use of water for largely ornamental purposes. This in turn may help to conserve our limited water resources, and leave more water available to serve the much more pressing needs of present and future generations. Notably, this measure's promoted use of indigenous plants – already recognized as a priority under the state procurement code – in water-efficient landscaping can also help to restore our islands' ecological and cultural integrity, and by extension our cultural and social fabric.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB909. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-909

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 8:31:25 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Au	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Given the rampant water contamination happening in our state, we need all the help conserving water we can get. I support this bill which requires the State to administer a program that incentivizes replacing water intensive landscaping with water conservative landscaping. This is a simple solution that will have long term benefits.

HB-909

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 2:11:53 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Walter Ritte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of hb 909... it is a no brainer.

HB-909

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:47:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/2/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shauna Springer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kāko‘o wau! I support!