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LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND

Monday, March 25, 2024
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 117
SENATE RESOLUTION 100
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO
IDENTIFY ALL APPROPRIATE SITES AT STATE PARKS AT WHICH A WATER-
BOTTLE FILLING STATION COULD BE INSTALLED

Senate Concurrent Resolution 117-Senate Resolution 100 requests the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to identify all appropriate sites at state parks at which a water-bottle filling station could be installed. **The Department provides the following comments.**

The Division of State Parks (State Parks) initiated the process of installing and/or replacing water bottle filling stations at various state parks using a NOAA grant that seeks to reduce the use of plastic bottles and prevent plastic from becoming marine debris.

The focus was on replacing water fountains where water hook-ups were available. State Parks is continuing to install water bottle filling stations through CIP projects that include the construction of new comfort stations such as Makena and Wai'ānapanapa State Parks on Maui and the renovation of existing comfort stations such as Pā'ūla'ūla State Historic Site on Kaua'i.

A review of the water systems in our parks indicates that 12 parks use water from springs or stream intakes that is not a potable water source and another 13 parks do not have a water source. This constitutes almost 50% of our parks.

The parks where we can feasibly install new water bottle filling stations are:

Hawai'i Island: Waialea (Hāpuna Beach State Recreation Area) and Rainbow Falls (Wailuku River State Recreation Area)

Kaua'i: Wailua River State Park (large park with multiple locations)

O'ahu: 'Aiea Bay SRA, He'eia SP, Ahupua'a O Kahana State Park, Mālaekahana SRA, Pu'u 'Ualaka'a State Wayside, and Wahiawa Freshwater SRA.

Besides water quality, some other constraints to installing a water bottle filling station are construction requirements when water lines are not readily accessible, ADA compliance, and funding. The cost of an outdoor water bottle station ranges from \$4,000 for a single station (no water fountain) to \$7,000 for a tri-level station with water fountains, and interior stations are about \$2,500. These costs do not include any labor or construction costs to install. The inclusion of new water bottle filling stations in future CIP and renovation projects is seen as the best way to continue State Parks' goal of installing more stations in the parks.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.