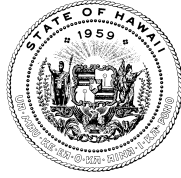


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KALI WATSON  
CHAIRPERSON, HHC  
*Ka Luna Ho'okele*

KATIE L. LAMBERT  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR  
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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**  
*Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawai'i*

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**TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR**  
**HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION**  
**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**  
**HEARING ON APRIL 1, 2025 AT 1:10PM IN CR 224**

**SCR 168 / SR 137**

April 1, 2025

Aloha Chair Richards, Vice Chair San Buenaventura and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) **supports** this concurrent resolution requesting DHHL to develop and implement a water access pilot project demonstrating the Kohala Region's capacity for a potable water system.

The Hawaiian Homes Commission approved the Kawaihae Regional Plan in July 2024 which notes water access as one of its priority projects. DHHL also conducted a water source feasibility study in 2015 which can be accessed here [DHHL Kawaihae Water Assessment Study 6-15.pdf](#). Outlined in the Kawaihae Regional Plan are three (3) action steps including short term, midterm, and long-term solutions. The short-term plan is to offer subsidies to the residents of Kawaihae and Kailapa, the midterm goal is to execute a cost-of-service analysis with a rate assessment study, and the long-term goal is to develop another water source. DHHL believes this concurrent resolution is in alignment with the long-term goal of securing another water source.

DHHL appreciates the intent of this concurrent resolution and recognizes that sufficient funds in the form of an appropriation from the legislature would be necessary to fulfill the purpose of this concurrent resolution. DHHL would appreciate a better understanding of the scope of what the proposed water access pilot project would or should entail. Lastly, any pilot project demonstrating the Kohala Region's capacity for a potable water system would be subject to beneficiary consultation.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**SCR-168**

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 12:38:10 PM

Testimony for HWN on 4/1/2025 1:10:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marion K A Kapuniai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SCR 168 & SR137 shall be deferred until Beneficiary Consultations are conducted, the purpose being:

1) Present maps of the contemplated area for "improvement" which reflect DHHL property

a) Identify existing lower level reservoirs and reservoirs at higher levels, briefly referred to: Do they contain potable water? I guess the study will identify source of potable water. . .

b) Identify the proposed site of the Water Pump Storage Hydroelectric Facility

c) Identify which specific DHHL community will be served

d) Identify close non-DHHL lands - Where does HELCO/Hawn Electric service?

2) SB1656 Authorizes issues of general obligation bonds to finance the project,

whereas SCR 168 & SR 137 does not provide any financial assistance.

3) The Department of Agriculture has been tasked in other bills to develop a comprehensive water plan and a comprehensive agriculture plan, with funding, I am sure.

Thank you, M Kapuniai

