

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  
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DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
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RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY  
DEAN D. UYENO  
ACTING 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 Senate Committees on  
WAYS AND MEANS  
AND  
JUDICIARY**

**Friday, April 5, 2024  
10:15 AM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2690, HOUSE DRAFT 2, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO WATER**

House Bill 2690, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1 in Part I proposes to establish a Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) policy coordinator and other positions within the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) for implementation of the Red Hill WAI Working Group's Report of November 2023, and creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund. Part II proposes to allow the Commission to retain independent legal counsel and repeals the position of deputy to the chairperson of the Commission and establishes the position of Executive Director of the Commission. This bill also amends the composition of the Commission and administratively attaches it to Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and authorizes entities to challenge an emergency order of the Commission under certain conditions. This bill also establishes fines for certain water use offenses and amends the Commission's authority to declare water emergencies and issue orders to address them and declare water shortages and related notice requirements. This bill also specifies that the nominating committee of the Commission shall include one person appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) and declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded. **The Department is providing testimony organized by each section of this measure indicating our support or opposition, respectively.**

**The Department strongly supports Part I, SECTIONS 1 through 6, of this measure.** As stewards of Honolulu's sole source groundwater aquifer and Hawai'i's ecosystems, the Department recognizes

the WAI's important role in ensuring that post-defueling remediation efforts restore the mauka to makai health of the aquifer. Our precious aquifer not only provides drinking water to hundreds of thousands of Honolulu residents but is also critical for the environment under the stewardship of the Department.

The Department supports the use of the Red Hill Special Remediation Fund for monitoring, applied research, public outreach and education, and evaluation.

SECTION 1 and 2 place the WAI policy coordination in the office of the executive director of the Commission. However, the Department further proposes the creation of the three full-time positions within the Office of the Chairperson for the WAI policy coordination as stated in SECTION 3 of this measure. This coordination requires the involvement of multiple divisions within the Department and thus the Office of the Chairperson is better suited than the office of the executive director of the Commission.

SECTION 8 amends Subsection 28-8.3 (a), HRS, to add the Commission to the list of agencies that are allowed to employ or retain any attorney for purposes indicated in subsection (a), and amends Subsection 28-8.3 (c) to include the Commission among agencies that may employ or retain attorneys who are not a deputy attorney general. **The Department provides the following comments. While the Department believes that its assigned Deputy Attorneys General already provide sound and timely legal services in the best interests of the Commission and that the Department of the Attorney General is best suited to provide legal advice and service to the Commission, the Department also understands that this measure affords the Commission the option to retain independent counsel and legal services when there is a determination of a conflict of interest.**

SECTION 9 Subsection 84-14(e) by changing the title of "First Deputy to the Chairperson" to "Executive Director" of the Commission on Water Resource Management in the list of State employees who have restrictions on post-employment activities. **The Department supports this amendment.**

SECTION 10 amends Section 174C-5, HRS, by adding a new Paragraph 10, to allow the appointment and dismissal of attorneys. **The Department provides comments to this amendment for the reasons given in our position on SECTION 8 of this measure.**

SECTION 10 also amends Section 174C-5, HRS, by adding a new Paragraph 17, allowing the Commission to declare an emergency after consultation with the Governor, the counties, and the Department of Health, that there is an absence of sufficient quantity and quality of water that threatens public health, safety, and welfare, and to take certain actions to address the emergency. **The Department supports this amendment since it allows the Commission to take timely action to address water emergencies after consulting with the Governor and relevant government agencies.**

SECTION 11 amends Section 174C-6, HRS, by replacing the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Commission on Water Resource Management with an Executive Director. **The Department supports this amendment.**

SECTION 12 amends Section 174C-7, HRS, to clarify that the Commission shall be attached to the Department for administrative purposes only. The Department recognizes that Commission has its independent authority in all matters related to the water code. However, the Department's mission is to preserve and protect cultural and natural resources for the present and future generations. Our ability to

fulfill our mission is built upon the foundation that water and land are integrally connected from an ecosystem and cultural lens. **The Department opposes this amendment.**

SECTION 12 also amends Section 174C-7, HRS, to allow any Commission member to be elected to serve as the Chairperson of the Commission, except that the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the Director of Health or their designee would be ineligible to serve as the Chairperson of the Commission. **The Department opposes this amendment. The Department finds that the Commission regularly addresses highly complex water issues in close collaboration with numerous government agencies and community organizations, where the Chairperson often serves as the delegated representative on behalf of the entire Commission. Placing these duties and responsibilities of the Chairperson of the Commission on a volunteer appointed position may be unduly burdensome and present challenges in fulfilling obligations of the role.**

SECTION 12 also amends Section 174C-7, HRS, to specify that the nominating committee of the Commission shall include one person appointed by the Chief Executive Officer of OHA. **The Department opposes this amendment because the State Water Code already provides that at least one Commission member shall have substantial experience or expertise in traditional Hawaiian water resource management techniques and in traditional Hawaiian riparian usage.**

SECTION 13 amends Section 174C-9, HRS, to allow for any party to whom an emergency order is directed to challenge the order while immediately complying with the order, with the Commission giving precedence to a hearing on the challenge. **The Department supports this amendment because it would provide a due process right to anyone receiving an emergency order to raise a challenge.**

SECTION 14 amends Section 174C-15, HRS, expanding the scope of violations to include violation of any orders of the Commission, failure to obtain required permits, failure to comply with permit conditions, and failure to comply with water audit requirements. The amendments also increase the maximum allowable fines from \$5,000 per day to \$25,000 per day and specifies the factors that the Commission shall consider when imposing fines.

The Department has found that the current maximum penalty of \$5,000 per violation in Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 174C-15 does not have a sufficient deterrent effect anymore. For example, even a one-time violation of an interim instream flow standard can lead to the diversion of millions of gallons of water and if the violating entity is charging end-users for the delivery of this stream water, \$5,000 will simply be the cost of doing business. Such violations have extreme detrimental effects on public trust uses, which are water in its natural state, i.e. the stream itself and native aquatic life, domestic uses dependent on the stream, and traditional and customary Native Hawaiian practices.

HRS Section 174C-15 has only been amended once since its adoption by Act 45, Session Laws of Hawai'i (SLH) 1987 (Act 45). In 2004, Act 142 raised the maximum penalty from \$1,000 to \$5,000 and added subsection (d). However, in its 1994 Report to the State Legislature, the Review Commission on the State Water Code (Review Commission), pursuant to Section 5 of Act 45, had already proposed a maximum fine of \$25,000 for reckless, knowing, or intentional violations.

The Hawai'i Supreme Court held that the Hawai'i State Constitution in Article XI Section 7 designated the Commission as the "primary guardian" of the public trust resource - water.<sup>1</sup> This bill will support the Commission in its affirmative duty "to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawaii's water resources" as articulated in Article XI Section 7 of the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i. Currently, the Commission is overseeing 5,334 groundwater wells, 1,226 surface water diversions, and 376 perennial streams, approximately 100 of which have a measurable interim instream flow standard that requires monitoring and enforcement. The Commission regulates the use of water in water management areas on the islands of O'ahu, Moloka'i and Maui with the total amount of 411 groundwater use permits and 176 surface water use permits.

The Department appreciates the clarification of a continuing violation and the addition of mandatory factors for the determination of the penalty amount in the newly added subsection (c) to HRS Section 174C-15, which are identical to the factors DOH considers in HRS Section 342D-31. The Department would like to propose the inclusion of the language of HRS Section 342D-31 (c) for further clarification (grey highlight):

(c) When imposing a penalty, the commission shall consider the following factors, including but not limited to:

(1) The nature, circumstances, extent, gravity, and history of the violation and of any prior violations;

(2) The economic benefit to the violator, or anticipated by the violator, resulting from the violation;

(3) The opportunity, difficulty, and history of corrective action;

(4) Good faith efforts to comply;

(5) Degree of culpability; and

(6) Such other matters as justice may require.

It is presumed that the violator's economic and financial conditions allow payment of the penalty, and the burden of proof to the contrary is on the violator.

Furthermore, these factors in subsection (c) correspond with the Commission's Administrative and Civil Penalty Guideline (G14-01)<sup>2</sup> that the Commission adopted on October 1, 2014<sup>3</sup>. The Department notes that G14-01 provides for an initial administrative fee of \$500, if the Commission issued a written notice of alleged violation, in addition to any fine.

**The Department supports a maximum fine of \$25,000 to match the recommendations of the Review Commission.**

<sup>1</sup> *In re Water Use Permit Applications*, 94 Hawai'i, 97, 141, 9 Pd.3, 409, 453 (2000). (*Waiāhole I*)

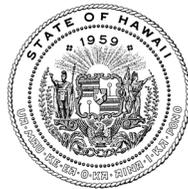
<sup>2</sup> [https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/cwrm/planning/wrpp2019update/WRPP\\_AppP\\_201907.pdf](https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/cwrm/planning/wrpp2019update/WRPP_AppP_201907.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/cwrm/submittal/2014/sb201410D1.pdf>

SECTION 15 amends Section 174C-62, HRS, adding clarifying language for the declaration of water shortage. **The Department supports these amendments.**

Finally, the Department proposes **repealing Subsection (g) in Section 174C-62, HRS**, as in the original draft of Senate Bill 3327. The Commission's authority to issue orders in emergencies is provided for in the proposed amendment to Section 174C-5 adding Paragraph (17).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA  
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
*Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā*  
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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS AND JUDICIARY  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2690, H.D. 2, S.D. 1

**April 5, 2024**  
**10:15 a.m.**  
**Room 211 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO WATER

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

House Bill (H.B.) No. 2690, H.D. 2, S.D. 1: 1) establishes the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) policy coordinator and other exempt positions within the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) to coordinate Red Hill WAI initiatives; 2) creates the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund (RHRSF) that would generate revenues through legislative appropriations, gifts, donations, grants, and interest for remediation efforts; 3) appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds for FY 25 for the positions and monitoring of the Red Hill Bulk Storage Facility area; no special funds are appropriated in the bill; 4) repeals the position of Deputy to the Chairperson of the Commission and establishes the position of Executive Director of the Commission; 5) amends the composition of the Commission and administratively attaches it to the Department of Land and Natural Resources; 6) allows the Commission to retain independent legal counsel; and 7) establishes fines for certain water use offenses.

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. 2690, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed RHRSF would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



**HB2690 HD2 SD1**  
**RELATING TO WATER**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

April 5, 2024

10:15 a.m.

Conference Room 211

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The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS and provides comments** on HB2690 HD2 SD1, which Establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator and other positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives and repeals the position of deputy to the chairperson of the Commission on Water Resource Management and establishes the position of executive director, amends the composition of the commission and administratively attaches it to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and establishes fines for certain water use offenses.

Because this bill is complex, we provide our support and comments by each section as identified below.

**Part I**

OHA supports the intent of Part I. We believe it is important that there be a centralized, well-supported and well-resourced entity to ensure comprehensive, coordinated and complete remediation occurs. We would like to urge that whatever entity leads remediation efforts ensures that federal funding support these efforts rather than expending state monies. While OHA appreciates the legislature anticipating potential contributions to the special fund, we strongly believe that the burden rests with the federal government and that they should bear all of the costs for remediation.

**Part II**

**Sections 8 and 10**

**OHA supports the provisions that allow Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM or the commission) to procure independent legal services.** We believe this is important to ensure the commission and the precious resource that is wai can be better represented and protected.



**HB2690 HD2 SD1**  
**RELATING TO WATER**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

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Section 10

OHA has concerns about the provision in section 10 (page 25, lines 5-20) that gives CWRM the power to declare an emergency upon consultation with delineated parties. We support the granting of this power. However, **we would prefer the default time limit for the emergency be reduced from one year to six months or less.** We want to ensure that the use of emergency powers be subject to regular scrutiny by the commission and their consulting parties.

Section 11

OHA also supports the repeal of the first deputy in favor of the establishment of an executive director. It is important that the CWRM is insulated from political influence to the greatest extent possible. The history of water management in Hawai'i has shown the detrimental ways in which water resources can be influenced by political and financial influence. The diversion of Nā Wai 'Ehā on Maui for sugarcane plantation use is a telling example. We believe that creating the position of the executive director and having the commission be charged with hiring and evaluating the director rather than it being a political appointment can help protect the vital position from political influence.

Further, OHA encourages this committee to consider strengthening the qualifications of the executive director position that are included in section 11. It is important that the executive director not just have experience in water resources but have a broader understanding of water resource management, watershed management, riparian rights, and Native Hawaiian water rights. The committee may want to consider adding additional language to Section 11 starting on page 25, line 9 that could provide stronger experience requirements for the executive director position.

Section 12

OHA supports administratively attaching CWRM to DLNR. We believe it can help the commission achieve greater independence, which can help strengthen administration and protection of water resource management.



**HB2690 HD2 SD1**  
**RELATING TO WATER**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senate Committee on Judiciary

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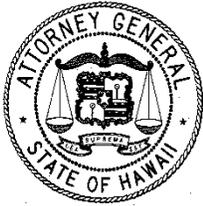
We urge this committee to consider providing adequate financial and human resources to support the establishment of an administratively attached commission. As an attached agency, the executive director and the commission will need to ensure it has the staff and appropriations to support it.

**OHA is also thankful for the previous committee who accepted our requested amendment to section 12, which adds a position for the nominating committee to be appointed by OHA's Ka Pouhana or chief executive officer.** OHA has a lengthy history of advocating for CWRM members who have significant depth of expertise in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary rights and watershed management. We believe helping to ensure that expertise and lens is present on the nominating committee can further ensure that expertise is represented with future nominees. **OHA respectfully requests that this committee preserves this language** if it decides to make amendments to HB 2690 HD2 SD1.

Section 14

OHA also supports the proposed increase of the upper limit of a fine from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Additionally, we appreciate adding language clarifying that each day a violation occurs shall be considered a separate offense. We hope that this will help the CWRM more effectively enforce violations.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on one of the most important issues for Hawa'i: wai. We urge this committee to **advance HB2690 HD2 SD1**.



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA  
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 2690, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, RELATING TO WATER.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS AND ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Friday, April 5, 2024

**TIME:** 10:15 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 211 and Videoconference

**TESTIFIER(S):** **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information, contact Colin J. Lau,  
Deputy Attorney General, at 808-587-2992)

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Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) opposes Senate Draft 1 of this bill for numerous reasons, including for serious constitutional concerns, and respectfully requests that it be held or, alternatively, that it be amended to delete part II.

The House drafts of the bill established a Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) Policy Coordinator and other positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives, created the Red Hill Remediation Special Fund, and appropriated funds. Part I of the bill, currently in the Senate Draft 1, retains the substantive content of the House Draft 2. However, part II of the bill contains new provisions that were not in previous House drafts, and thus did not receive or pass three readings in the House. These newly added provisions in part II of the bill involve revamping the administrative structure, powers, duties, and selection procedure of the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission), and amends the State Water Code (chapter 174C, Hawaii Revised Statutes) to amend water use offenses and fines and the Commission's authority to declare water emergencies or shortages. These provisions deviate from the prior object of the bill, which was to address remediation needs regarding the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

More specifically, the new provisions in part II that deviate from the object of the original bill regarding the Commission include:

- Allowing the Commission to employ or retain independent legal counsel;
- Expanding the scope of management authority of the Commission to include the declaration of water emergencies issuance of orders affecting public health, safety, and welfare;
- Repealing the position of first deputy to the chairperson, and creating the position of Executive Director to the Commission appointed by the Commission;
- Administratively attaching the Commission to the Department of Land and Natural Resources;
- Amending the selection procedure of the Chairperson of the Commission;
- Requiring the Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs to appoint one person to the Commission Nominating Committee;
- Authorizing any person to challenge an emergency order of the Commission;
- Adding new violations related to water use and establishing higher minimum and maximum fees and factors for consideration in imposing penalties;
- Allowing the Commission to declare water shortages within or outside of water management areas, including consideration of climate crisis; and
- Requiring water permits for well and stream diversion works owners and operators outside of water management areas.

First, these new provisions raise serious constitutional concerns, as there is a significant risk that the courts will conclude that the changes in the Senate Draft 1 by the addition of part II concerning the Commission and State Water Code are not germane to, and are outside the scope of, the purpose in the original bill. The addition of part II will likely be interpreted as violating article III, section 15, of the Hawai'i Constitution, as that portion did not receive three readings in each house. In *League of Women Voters of Honolulu v. State*, 150 Hawai'i 182, 205, 499 P.3d 382, 405 (2021), the Hawai'i Supreme Court held that a bill's three readings in each house must "begin anew" if a "non-germane amendment changes the object or subject of a bill so that it is no longer related to the original bill as introduced." *Id.* To begin anew, the entire measure

including the portion of part II added in Senate Draft 1 would be required to have three new readings in each house.

Because the provisions regarding the Commission and State Water Code have received zero readings in the House, the Department advises that, to satisfy constitutional mandates, three new readings in each house be given to the bill or, alternatively, that the bill be amended to remove part II and reinstate House Draft 2.

Second, part II, section 12, of the bill provides that the Commission shall be attached to Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for administrative purposes only. Page 27, lines 9–10. However, the bill contains no appropriations regarding the implementation of part II and does not authorize the transfer from DLNR to the Commission of the following items relating to the Commission's functions:

1. Appropriations, records, equipment, machines, files, supplies, contracts, books, papers, documents, maps, and other personal property made, used, acquired or held by DLNR that relate to the Commission;
2. Transfer of employees from DLNR to the Commission;
3. Transfer of functions and provisions regarding the continuity of rules, policies, procedures, and other material adopted or developed by the Commission while under DLNR, which shall remain in effect; and
4. Transfer of contracts, agreements, or other documents executed or entered into by the Commission while under DLNR shall remain in full force and effect.

Unless the bill addresses the transfer of these items, the establishment of the Commission as an administratively attached agency to DLNR cannot be effectuated.

Third, the bill allows the Commission to hire its own attorneys. The Department of the Attorney General strongly opposes this.

The Attorney General is the chief legal officer under the Hawai'i Constitution, serves as legal counsel to the State of Hawai'i, and has statutory legal obligations including providing legal advice to state agencies. Because it has been called the largest "law firm" in Hawai'i, with diverse subject-matter divisions, the Department is best suited to provide legal advice to its state clients on a broad array of matters and, therefore, as a general matter, state agencies are best served by deputy attorneys

general. By utilizing deputy attorneys general, state agencies benefit from the wide range of experience and expertise in a cost-effective and conflict-free manner. Attorneys retained by the Commission would not possess the breadth of knowledge and experience available within the Department of the Attorney General. Additionally, because state agencies are regulated by a variety of laws not applicable in private practice—including the Procurement Code, the Sunshine Law, and the Uniform Information Practices Act—the Department’s expertise representing state agencies in these areas would be difficult for private attorneys to duplicate, and certainly not without additional expense. Because deputy attorneys general are separate and apart from the agencies they represent, they are insulated from political issues within the client agency. This insulation permits the Department of the Attorney General to provide objective and high-quality legal counsel.

The Department of the Attorney General is also unique in its ability under the law to undertake concurrent representation of multiple state agencies or parties that may have conflicting interests, something that private attorneys are not able to do under the Hawaii Rules of Professional Conduct, the rules governing lawyers. In State v. Klattenhoff, 71 Haw. 598, 604 (1990), the Hawai’i Supreme Court recognized that the Department of the Attorney General can concurrently represent conflicting interests when the Department can ensure independent representation for the competing parties. The Department of the Attorney General has done this in past cases to ensure that all client agencies are vigorously represented without conflict. We have provided, and will continue to provide, vigorous and objective legal representation to the Commission.

Notwithstanding the prohibition against employing or retaining private attorneys, state agencies may submit a waiver request to the Attorney General pursuant to section 28-8.3(a)(22), HRS. Under this provision, the Attorney General may determine that circumstances exist whereby representation by private attorneys is appropriate. In such circumstances, an agency may retain or employ its own attorney, provided that the Governor also waives the provision of section 28-8.3, HRS. Indeed, this avenue has been exercised by other agencies in the past.

The Department opposes Senate Draft 1 for numerous reasons, including on constitutional grounds, and respectfully requests that the bill be held, or alternatively, that part II be deleted.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY  
KA 'OIHANA WAI  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96843  
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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER  
MANAKIA A ME KAHU WILIKI

ERWIN KAWATA  
DEPUTY MANAGER  
HOPE MANAKIA



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EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio  
GENE C. ALBANO, P.E., Ex-Officio

April 5, 2024

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
and Members  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2690, HD2, SD1: Relating to Water

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) is in strong support of the Senate Draft (SD) 1 version to House Bill (HB) 2690. The purpose of the bill is twofold: 1) to add a new chapter in Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) to establish within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) a policy lead and coordinator for the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) outlined in the November 2023 report, and 2) to make amendments to the state water code pursuant to HRS chapter 174C.

The SD1 version strikes a fair balance to all parties that have testified before the various subject matter committees. The penalties are fair and will ensure violators are held accountable. The SD1 reforms the organizational leadership structure and protects the Commission on Water Resource Management from political influence.

We urge your favorable response in passing the SD1 version of HB2690.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support.

Very truly yours,

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

RW

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:01:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mahealani Cypher	Testifying for Ko`olau Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

We offer our strong support for the passage of H.B. 2690, HD2, SD1, to move the Hawaii Water Commission toward a semi-autonomous status. I will offer my own personal experience with the need to keep our critical decisions on water infrastructure away from political or outside influences that may not benefit the people of Hawai`i.

About a century ago, the Honolulu Board of Supervisors were squabbling over control of the major decisions facing our island's water infrastructure and resources. In 1929, the Hawaii Territorial Legislature had to mandate that the Honolulu county's water department would be made independent of control by the county supervisors (now city council) and, in reality, from the mayor as well. That was the beginning of the semi-autonomous Honolulu Board of Water Supply, which has successfully, for the most part, guided the management of our island's water department.

More recently, during the first two decades of the 20th century, BWS water officials were beginning to notice problems with leakage of fuel from the Red Hill military storage facilities. Their pleas to the Navy to find and repair these leaks and drill more monitor wells fell on deaf ears. Various high-ranking government decision-makers were lobbied by certain outside influences to defer from "making waves" for the U.S. Navy, who down-played the serious concerns raised by BWS. Yes, even Ernie Lau has felt the pressure of such outside influences but, because BWS is semi-autonomous, he has been able to hold fast to his demand that the problems at Red Hill be dealt with. Sadly, this response by the U.S. military has come too late to protect the Pearl Harbor aquifer and Halawa Shaft from the threats.

That is why we support a reorganization of the Water Commission so that its management is more independent from the oversight of DLNR. This is not meant to criticize the current management of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, but to strengthen our water resource management board at the state level so that they are able to make independent, scientific and other policy decisions for the good of all our people.

We strongly urge your committees to pass a strong bill for semi-autonomous management of the Commission on Water Resource Management.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer our mana`o.



**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:20:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kupuna for the Mo'opuna	Testifying for Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Please protect our precious wai for the people ... now and for the next generations to come.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:24:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Correna K Pawn Simao	Testifying for Hoakamana	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:41:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition SUPPORTS HB2690. Water availability should not be an issue that is tied up in political appointments that favor private interests over the public good. We stand with the Sierra Club of O'ahu on this issue.

Mahalo for your time.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:08:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joshua DK Lum	Testifying for Lahaina Strong	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,*

*As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.*

*HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.*

*The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.*

*I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.*

*Ola i ka wai!*

*Mahalo,*

*Joshua DK Lum*



# Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā

*Ola i ka wai* [WWW.HUIONAWAIEHA.ORG](http://WWW.HUIONAWAIEHA.ORG)

Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā  
Board of Directors

April 3, 2024

Hökūao Pellegrino  
(President)

To: Senate Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary

Koa Hewahewa  
(Vice President)

Hearing: **April 5, 2024 at 10:15 AM, State Capital Conference Room 211**

Lani Eckart-Dodd  
(Treasurer)

Re: **In Strong Support for HB2690 SD1: Relating to Water**

Lucienne  
(Secretary)

Aloha e Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members

Duke Sevilla  
(Founding Board Member)

Miki'ala Pua'a-Freitas  
(Board Member)

My name is Hökūao Pellegrino, President of Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā from the island of Maui. I'm testifying on behalf of our organization and 800 members today in **STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 SD1.**

Ikaika Nakahashi  
(Board Member)

**Please pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately.** We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai. This is true now more than ever as Hawai'i is literally burning as a combined result of resource abuse and global climate change. There is not enough freshwater to sustain local families, whether that is on Maui, where large corporate diverters have drained Lahaina dry, or O'ahu, where the U.S. military's negligence has compromised our drinking water supplies. Importantly, this bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis, including with temporary emergency housing for Maui's fire survivors, Red Hill, and beyond.

Kōnane Awo DelaNux  
(Board Member)

Mariana Löwy-Gerstmar  
(Board Member)

Ka'apuni Aiwahi  
(Board Member)

Kamalani Uehara  
(Board Member)

Kaulu Lu'uwai  
(Board Member)

Sesame Shim  
(Board Member)

**Maui Tomorrow**  
(Collaborator)

Albert Perez  
(Executive Director)

**Legal Counsel**

Isaac Moriwake  
(Earthjustice)

HB2690, SD1 will provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address critical water issues in Lahaina, Red Hill, and emergencies likely to arise in the future. And while this amended bill responds to current water crises, it is not reactionary – in fact, a Review Commission assembled by the legislature offered many similar recommendations in the early 1990s. HB2690, SD1 implements the original intent of the Water Code when this legislature first passed the Water Code 37 years ago. These well-established ideas have broad-based support today as well. The House actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. **We need these changes now more than ever.**

Today, the military and other large landed interests continue to exert outsized influence on our water policy to the detriment of our communities, our streams, and our 'āina. The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and

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*The Mission of Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā is to advocate for the restoration and stewardship of mauka to makai streamflow in Waikapū, Wailuku, Waiehu, Waihe'e Streams (Nā Wai 'Ehā), to protect cultural and natural resources pertaining to traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiian kuleana kalo farmers and to conduct water resource management education outreach programs for the Maui community.*

manage our water resources for present and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB2690, SD1 have the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Hawai'i needs this the most.

This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate emergency we are now living in. It will benefit communities across Hawai'i, such as those on Maui who desperately need water for temporary emergency housing and those on O'ahu whose water supplies have been poisoned by Red Hill. **Please help us get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.**

I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to ADOPT the Proposed HB2690 SD1, with the above-noted amendments and make it effective immediately. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai!

*Hökūao Pellegrino*

Hökūao Pellegrino (Board President)

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:38:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Warech	Testifying for Jewish Voice for Peace-Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

I write today on behalf of Jewish Voice for Peace-Hawai'i, a local grassroots non-profit organization of Jews and allies fighting for the liberation of all peoples and lands, in **strong support** of HB2690 HD2 SD1.

We believe this is a necessary measure as the government **must** do everything in its power to safeguard our precious water resources and remain accountable to our communities.

In light of the recent devastating events in Lahaina, the significance of HB2690 HD2 SD1 cannot be overstated. This legislation empowers the Water Commission to address pressing water-related challenges effectively, ensuring the protection of our 'wai while maintaining autonomy free from undue political influences. Furthermore, the inclusion of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in the Nominating Committee guarantees the representation of Native Hawaiian perspectives in crucial decision-making processes.

Since its inception, the Commission has been entrusted with the constitutional mandate to preserve and manage our water resources for the benefit of current and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 holds the potential to breathe life into this mandate, particularly during this pivotal moment in Lahaina's history and for all of Hawaii.

After what happened with Lahaina and the reminder from Red Hill of what happens when you neglect our most precious resource. As stewards of Hawaii's future, it is imperative that you recognize and prioritize the profound importance of safeguarding this invaluable natural resource.

Water is the lifeblood of our communities, sustaining not only our bodies but also our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy. Without clean and abundant water, the very fabric of our society unravels. It is the foundation upon which our well-being and prosperity are built.

Furthermore, water is not an infinite resource. As climate change intensifies and populations grow, the strain on our water supply becomes increasingly evident. We face challenges such as droughts, pollution, and over-extraction, all of which threaten the availability and quality of our water.

I implore you to lend your support to HB2690 HD2 SD1 and prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the Lahaina community, and indeed all residents of Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Jewish Voice for Peace-Hawai'i

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 5:39:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Dean	Testifying for Recycle Hawaii, Clean The Pacific	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support HB2690. I'm going to say this again, although it's been said many many times before, water is life. You're made of water. Your brain is 75% water. What does it mean if your water is contaminated with toxic chemicals and your brain is made of water? Well, if it's not already too late, I think you can see that it would be an unimaginable catastrophe. Please, do not commodify water! We need to protect and ensure access to clean potable water for ALL citizens of Hawaii, including all the flora and fauna. There can be no compromise in this. There can be no excuses. There is no justification to imperil the quality or quantity of water, a finite resource, in the State of Hawaii and the world for that matter.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:33:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of committee,

On behalf of the Green Party of Hawai'i, I am writing to express our **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our community. Transparency is what we seek and no more backroom deals when it comes to our water resources.

We ask that you pass HB2690 HD2 SD1 for the people of Lahaina and across the Hawaiian Islands.

Mahalo nui,

Susan RobertsEmery

Co Chair GPH

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:52:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
john carty	Testifying for Save Honolua Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Support for HB2690 HD2 SD1 - Protecting Water Resources

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and esteemed committee members,

On behalf of the Save Honolua Coalition, I am writing to express our unwavering support for HB2690 HD2 SD1. This legislation is paramount in safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability within our communities.

In light of the recent devastation in Lahaina, HB2690 HD2 SD1 holds immense significance. It empowers the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, thereby safeguarding our 'wai' and maintaining independence from political influences. Furthermore, the inclusion of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in the Nominating Committee guarantees that Native Hawaiian perspectives are duly considered in decision-making processes.

The constitutional mandate of the Water Commission has always been to protect and manage our water resources for both present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 presents an opportunity to actualize this mandate, particularly during this pivotal moment in our history when Lahaina, and indeed all of Hawaii, is in dire need.

We urge you to stand in solidarity with us and support HB2690 HD2 SD1, prioritizing the well-being of our water resources, the Lahaina community, and all residents of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

John Carty

Save Honolua Coalition



recommendations for improvement. HB 2690 SD1 incorporates many of them, including changes that empower CWRM to:

- Execute its kuleana with less interference by other agencies and state officials;
- Impose meaningful penalties and fines for violations of the water code; and
- Declare emergencies and take prompt action in any area experiencing water shortages that threaten public health, safety, and welfare.

As the 1994 report concluded, adopting these recommendations would help the state uphold its trust duties and constitutional mandate to protect water. Indeed, the disadvantages and challenges of the current law and structure of CWRM have been demonstrated many times since 1994, not the least of which by the events immediately following the tragic Lahaina wildfires.

First, SB3327 SD1 gives CWRM more autonomy to do its job. Removing the Department of Land and Natural Resources' substantive oversight over the agency, allowing it to hire independent counsel, and converting the deputy position into an executive director appointed and evaluated by CWRM allows the agency to operate independently with less outside influence. Conflicts of priorities or interests should not encumber or inhibit CWRM from fulfilling its water management duties. Second, SB3327 SD1 gives CWRM more authority to ensure that water is properly managed. The ability to impose meaningful fines based on violators' current and past conduct could deter improper, illegal, and harmful actions that might otherwise continue without consequence. Third, the ability to declare emergencies in any area experiencing water shortages allows CWRM, as the state agency with specific expertise on water, to take prompt action in serious situations that affect the resource, which would have been critical during both the Red Hill and Maui wildfire crises. These changes, along with the proposed Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative, better empower CWRM to fulfill the State's kuleana to wai.

The historical shortcomings of water management by the State has resulted in injury to communities, extensive and costly litigation, and a state much less resilient to natural and other disasters as well as climate change. Improvements are overdue and critically important now. HB2690 SD1 is a meaningful step in the right direction to protect Hawai'i's limited freshwater resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Ashley K. Obrey  
Senior Staff Attorney  
Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** Sesame Shim

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

Mai ka ‘ūkiu e hihio ana i ka nāulu a ka ua Nahua me ka ua Lililehua e ola ai ka ‘āina o ke komohana, e ola ai nā ‘ia, nā holoholona, nā kānaka ho‘i i ke kahe pono ‘ana o ka wai mai uka a i kai. Eia nō mākou ke kāko‘o nei i ko Lahaina a me ka pono o ka wai a puni ka Pae ‘Āina o Hawai‘i nei. Na ko Lahaina e alaka‘i i ka pono no Lahaina, Na ko Maui e alaka‘i i ka pono no Maui, Na ka Hawai‘i e alaka‘i i ka pono no Hawai‘i nei.

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

My name is Sesame Shim. I am from Pukalani, Maui and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1.

I am a mother of 2 keiki and a kumu at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kekaulike. As a high school teacher, I have come to realize how brilliant our youth are and why it is important to listen to their voices. Therefore, the first part of my testimony underscores the importance of believing in and listening to the future of Hawai‘i.

A recent article in the Star Advertiser was shared last month that Hawai‘i Teens Report Persistent Mental Health Problems. Stating that one-third of Hawai‘i’s public high school students have felt sad or hopeless almost everyday for 2 or more weeks in a row in the last year. Our next generation carry a heavy weight on their shoulders with the pressures of society on parents & families, the cost of living, the lack of nutrition, and the impacts of cultural and historical intergenerational trauma. When our keiki express their want for change, their desires for a better future, there is no other option than to listen and do all that is within our power to make those changes. They are crying out to us and using their voices to demand a better life, to demand a sense of dignity, and to reconnect with their identity as kānaka. When we ignore their voices, especially when they are right, we push them into hopelessness and fuel their depression.

The students I teach in particular at Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kekaulike are educated on historic and current events. Knowing where they come from, they can see the path to setting things right for Hawai‘i’s future. They no longer accept common western societal stressors as normal and are doing their homework to thoroughly understand the society around them so that they can become agents of change. They take pride in who they are and where they come from. As

representatives of our people, please hear these testimonies of our youth and respect their capacity to understand what a better future looks like for all of us. Please do not let their cries go unheard.

The changes this bill proposes will help to mitigate problems attributed to the government since the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom. Private water purveyors and land speculators have strategized, manipulated, and influenced our governmental decisions to benefit their capitalist goals. However, because of our 'ike, our culture, and our relationship with 'āina, kānaka have continuously fought to establish and maintain rights to our resources that benefit all. As we, the people, fight for what is right for the land and the general population, capitalists fight harder to maintain control. In the wake of the Lahaina fires, we have seen how political influence can detrimentally impact collective progress.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 should be passed because it implements many necessary amendments to the structure and administration of the Water Code and CWRM. First, we *need* protections from political corruption. We need protections from the abuse of power. We need the establishment of an administrator that can be chosen and supported by the people and not swayed by money — just as the position of Executive Director of the Water Commission is described in HB2690 HD2 SD1. Moreover, making the BLNR chair separate from the Water Commission chair will ensure the Executive Director is insulated from political pressure and would give the Water Commission the proper oversight to protect, develop, and control water according to its constitutional purpose. A critical question relative to this amendment is, who is opposed to this amendment and how might it affect their control or power?

*KULEANA* is essential to separating BLNR from CWRM. The true Hawaiian perspective of 'auamo kuleana is more than just taking on a responsibility; it is a privilege. While the foreign perspective finds this to be burdensome, it is rather understood that we have the privilege to fulfill this responsibility as our people, our kūpuna, our 'āina call us, trust us, and depend on us to do so. It is our Ea. While some see the implementation of a voluntary CWRM chair as futile, to the contrary it would allow only those committed to service the right to oversee such an important commission. The more we can redefine our government systems in 'ike Hawai'i, the more we can move towards the *PONO* of this 'āina.

Secondly, the Water Commission should have the power to seek out its own legal counsel that is consistent with its policies and understanding. In the past, the Attorney General has not provided the counsel necessary to support the Water Commission's needs. Instead, it has sometimes even worked against the interests of the Water Commission to fulfill the political whims of the executive branch. The Water Commission should be permitted to seek its own counsel like other specially-tasked departments. As noted above, a critical question to ask is why has the Attorney

General opposed this recommended change and what does that office and the Governor stand to gain by keeping the status quo?

Finally, the time of simply being reactionary to unjust actions and criminal politics is over. We are organizing in order to be preventative and anticipate problems we may face as the result of the climate crisis and the abuse of our resources. HB2690 HD2 SD1 would also give the Water Commission the authority to take timely action in an emergency. Such authority would have been a critical component in supporting the health and safety during emergencies such as the Lahaina Fires and Red Hill.

In conclusion, I strongly support HB2690 HD2 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA I KA WAI!!!**

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** Makamae Alipio

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

Mai ke ala ‘ana a‘e o Kanehoalani i ka Hikina a i kona hui pū ‘ana me Niolopua ma ke komohana.

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me na Lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

‘O wau o Makamae Alipio he kupa wau no Ka malu ‘ulu o Lele. ‘Umikuma‘ono o‘u makahiki a hele wau i Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kekaulike. Ola i ka wai, water is life, water is the center of all living things. Without it we are nothing. Therefore, it should not be in the hands of the greedy. Maui Komohana was once known for its immense amount of water, its lush wetlands, and its abundance of lo‘i kalo, ‘ulu, mai‘a, and many important plant food sources for kānaka. How do we go from a lush green ‘āina to what we have to deal with today? This is the result of greed, mismanagement, and capitalism at its finest.

Right now, 75% of Lahaina’s waters are privately controlled, which is criminal. This leaves only the remaining 25% to be used for the public. When we are on drought restriction, we are subject to fines for using too much water while swimming pools are full and golf courses are green. This bill should be amended to include higher fines substantial enough to deter violations of the Water Code.

I ask that you amend the bill to prioritize restoring water for public trust purposes so that our kalo farmers no longer have to struggle and our ‘āina no longer has to suffer. If you protect the public trust then maybe you can regain the public’s trust. I also ask that you consider restoring Moku‘ula and Mokuhinia as this wahipana continues to be one of the most sacred places of Hawai‘i’s Kingdom. We must restore and establish this piko for us to holomua and not repeat this devastation.

In conclusion, I strongly support the implementation of recommendations to improve the Water Code that have long been overdue, and urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2690 HD2 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** Bella Kuailani

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

‘Ano‘ai me ke aloha e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo:

‘O au ‘o Bella Kamakali‘ulani Kuailani. He 16 o‘u makahiki a he kupa au mai ka moku ‘o Wailuku a me Hāna ma Maui. Aia au ma ka papa 11 a he haumāna kaiapuni ha‘aheo nō au mai ke kula ‘o Kekaulike. Today, I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1!**

“He nuku he wai ka ‘ai a ka lā‘au.” The Kumulipo, the genealogical chant of Hawai‘i’s birth, explains: Water is the element that gives life to all things. WATER IS LIFE! It feeds and nourishes us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. The protection and rightful usage of Hawai‘i’s water is at all costs important for our survival. However, exploitation, misuse and over-taxing of our water continues to be improperly managed by greedy capitalists, resulting in kanaka being ignored, and public rights being overpowered by politics.

Disentangling CWRM and BLNR creates true independence amongst these two organizations. This can result in better protection and management of water. Kanaka will be at ease rather than worrying about influencers who make decisions on our wai. Having an executive director can benefit the people and the public by ensuring that their mana‘o is being heard. I believe that the community’s mana‘o is most important, especially for those whose families have been on this ‘āina for generations contributing in ‘ike Hawai‘i. They know what is best. Again and again, we remind you that WATER IS A PUBLIC TRUST. The people should have every right to use the wai for cultural practices and not for big business pockets. LAWA! UA AO KĀKOU!

Finally, the fines for the abuse of the Water Code should be raised way higher than what it is now. There should be more purposeful fines and violations to punish and deter businesses from taking more water than they should. If not, then this desecration will only continue. Our wai and ‘āina should have justice. As a member of the next generation, I want the mana of the people and the ‘āina to be restored so that those in the future do not need to bear this struggle over our wai.

In conclusion, I strongly support the establishment of an executive director of the Commission on Water Resource Management as well as the implementation of recommendations for the improvements of the Water Code that are long overdue. I urge the Committee to **PASS** HB2690 SHD2 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. **E OLA I KA WAI!!!**

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** J-lyn Ka‘iulani Paa

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

‘O wau o Ka‘iulani Paa. 16 o‘u makahiki a hele au i Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kekaulike. I am testifying in strong support of HB2690 HD2, SD1.

130 years ago, our ‘āina’s precious resources were stripped away from us little by little until we had little to no access and no regulation over our waters and how we use it. On August 8th, 2023, when the tragedy of Lahaina’s fire started, Governor Josh Green suspended the Water Code that later led to private water usage in luxury housing developments rather than for our ‘āina. I support HB2690.

The establishment of an Executive Director of the Water Commission, and the removal of the Chair of DLNR as also the Chair of CWRM, is important to allow CWRM its own oversight in this specific area. Ignorance combined with power is bound for injustice.

Our fresh water springs and rivers are stewarded by nā kānaka Hawai‘i yet are used to make greedy people who call this place “paradise” rich and do not even mālama this ‘āina like we do. We need wai to restore life on our ‘āina, especially in Lahaina after the tragedy it has faced. Private purveyors have long been taking our wai without bounds or restrictions. Even when interim instream flow standards are established, the greed finds no limit and instead chooses to test the extent of regulations. Their criminal acts go without or very minimal punishment. This bill would allow for appropriate fines to deter repeat violations.

In conclusion, I strongly support the establishment of an executive director of the Commission on Water Resource Management as well as the implementation of recommendations for the improvements of the Water Code that are long overdue. I urge the Committee to **PASS HB2690 HD2, SD1**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. **E OLA I KA WAI!!!**

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** Kamakanōweo Kekauoha-Schultz

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

‘O Kamakanōweo Kekauoha-Schultz ko‘u inoa. He 16 o‘u mau makahiki, a hele au i Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kekaulike. Eia nō au ke kākau nei iā ‘oukou no ke kāko‘o ‘ana i ka pila ‘o HB2703. He noi ha‘aha‘a kēia no ka hō‘apono ‘ana i kēia pila. ‘O ia ka mea kūpono e hana ai. Inā he aloha kā ‘oukou ma loko ‘o kou pu‘uwai no Hawai‘i a me ka po‘e Hawai‘i, ‘o ia ka mea e hana ai. Ke ‘ike ‘oukou i ka makemake ‘o nā kānaka ‘ōiwi ‘o kēia ‘āina nei, e ‘ike ‘oukou i ka pono o ka ‘āina a me nā kumuwaiwai kūlohelohe. Ke makemake ‘oukou e mālama iā Hawai‘i no nā pua ‘o ka ‘āina e ulu mai nei, no mākou, nā keiki o ka ‘āina, ‘o ka hō‘apono wale ‘ia ‘ana o kēia pila ka mea e hana ai. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1.

The Water Commission is the expert concerning our wai and the Water Code. They are the kahuwai pono, and should have the final say on all decisions concerning our wai. A person chosen by the Commission and further supported by the people should ultimately be the one to execute the Water Code. Currently, the chair of BLNR, is not the expert in matters concerning water, but has a very general scope concerning all land and natural resources. Their kuleana as such should follow that scope and should not intervene in decisions in which they are not the experts. The separation of CWRM from BLNR oversight as drafted in this bill will put the power in the right hands.

Additionally, this bill increases the fines needed to improve compliance with the rules, and proper management of our precious resources. The current fines are not strict enough, and allow the greedy capitalists to exploit the wai without regulations. Wai is the most important resource on this ‘āina, and without wai there is no life. We live in a capitalistic society that challenges our indigenous views and threatens our practices as Hawaiians. This continuous battle with wai is one of them. If fines are not increased, the interim instream flow standards will continue to be violated with little to no penalty. The increase of these fines will deter violations, and finally give the proper respect towards our wai. This continual exploitation, as seen with the Kaua‘ula Stream ordeal, is not pono and must be regulated for the well-being of our ‘āina, kai, and kānaka.

Finally, HB2690 HD2 SD1 is the ONLY bill still alive that offers support to Lahaina, Red Hill, and other communities in crisis. These communities support HB2690 overwhelmingly, but so far, the legislature has done nothing, despite the fact that it has previously supported similar bills. Last session, the legislature passed HB153 and HB1088, which would have provided increased fines for water code violations and allowed CWRM to declare water-related emergencies. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed the bills. HB2690 HD2 SD1 provides the legislature with the unique ability to revive these important provisions and provide much needed assistance to both Red Hill and Lahaina residents.

In conclusion, I strongly support the establishment of an executive director of the Commission on Water Resource Management as well as the implementation of recommendations to the improvements of the Water Code that have long been overdue. I urge the Committee to **PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1**. I thank Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary for taking the time to hear our voices.

**E OLA I KA WAI!!!**

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** Kaleimaile Garcia

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

Aloha mai e nā Po‘o a me na Lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

‘O Kaleimaile Garcia ko‘u inoa. I am a Junior and haumāna ma Ke Kula Kaiapuni ‘o Kekaulike on Maui where we are taught about the importance of wai and how it is the center of all life. Our connection to the land and ocean runs deep and water is a very vital part of our cultural identity. It sustains us physically, spiritually, and emotionally. It is NOT just an asset to us. This is why I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2, SD1.**

Many years ago, the land of Hawai‘i was lush with greenery and free-flowing water throughout all the islands. Our kūpuna lived with a deep knowledge and understanding of the connection between kanaka and ‘āina. Ola ka ‘āina iā kākou no kākou. Make ka ‘āina iā kākou no kākou. Life is full of gives and takes, but overall it always finds the balance. Acknowledging this ‘ike Hawai‘i has allowed our kūpuna to prosper for generations. We take what we need so the next person can also thrive off of the land. But, our ‘ike Hawai‘i has been ignored by the actions of greedy purveyors, real estate speculators, and the US Military.

Water makes up our whole existence. Everybody knows this. With no water, there is no life. So why is there so much politics involved in something that is a basic living necessity for all humans? Water shouldn’t be a luxury item. We shouldn’t have to fight for something that is a primary right to all. Everybody has a right to water. But there is a line where need becomes want. And these purveyors are constantly crossing the line of taking too much water. Streams are still being drained, our lo‘i are dry, and our people are exhausted. But HB2690 can be the start of a much-needed change for kānaka Hawai‘i and all people in Hawai‘i. It would give the Water Commission the option to have its own attorneys, which means they would get unbiased advice.

We need the water to be PROPERLY managed. By establishing an Executive Director of CWRM, we can ensure the voices of Hawai‘i are being heard.

In conclusion, I strongly support the establishment of an executive director of the Commission on Water Resource Management as well as the implementation of recommendations to the

improvements of the Water Code that have long been overdue. I urge the Committee to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E O L A I K A W A I !!!**

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** Kūpa‘a Lewis Mattos

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

Mai ka mokupuni awāwa kaulana ‘o ‘Ihikapalaumaewa, mai ka mauna ki‘eki‘e ‘o Haleakalā me nā pali uliuli Ko‘olau a hiki i Kepaniwai o ‘Īao.

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

Eia nō au ‘o Kūpa‘a Lewis Mattos ke wehewehe nei iā ‘oukou. 17 o‘u mau makahiki a he haumāna papa 11 au ma Ke Kula Ki‘eki‘e ‘o Kekaulike. He kupa au no ka ‘āina kaulana ‘o Nā Wai ‘Ehā a me ka ‘ao‘ao hikina ho‘i o ka wai a Kāne Kanaloa ‘o Wailuanui.

Aloha my name is Kūpa‘a Lewis-Mattos, I am 17 years old and I am a junior at King Kekaulike High School. Aside from being a student at Kekaulike I am also a student of the lo‘i kalo, raised with my siblings in the mud. My family has been kalo farmers and water advocates, or kahuwai, for generations. I share today on behalf of myself, my ‘ohana, my community, and my lāhui. I am testifying in **SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1.**

The motto of CWRM is “Ke Kahuwai Pono,” kahu meaning caretaker or guardian, wai meaning water, and pono, fair or prosperous. To be a kahuwai is to commit to protect, to be a kahuwai is kuleana. HB2690 aligns with this motto and ensures pono in the decisions that CWRM makes.

For too long, the system of Hawai‘i has not shown beneficial and hopeful outcomes for the future generations. However, a positive change like this can provide a better opportunity and can allow me as well as all the youth of Hawai‘i to have a future in the right direction. There are three main reasons I support HB2690 HD2 SD1.

First, having distinct leadership for the Water Commission ensures that decisions are made with a diverse range of perspectives and prevents concentration of power. This helps to avoid potential biases. It also prevents the separation of power and independence between different agencies, which will increase pono decision making.

Next, HB2690 HD2 SD1 allows things to be put back into check and balance. It focuses on fairness and also provides the people with what we need. Also, it allows for diverse

expertise. It helps better focus themselves on the field that they are in. CWRM will have better focus on only water resource management, and BLNR will have better focus on management of land and other natural resources, which can strengthen their expertise or knowledge in their field. Laulima in true form.

Lastly, this bill will help CWRM gain public trust and accountability. By making pono changes, the agency can gain the trust of the people.

Ho‘omoe wai kāhi ke kāo‘o  
Let us all travel together like water flowing in one direction

Mahalo for your time.

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** Mauiola Aki

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

‘O wau ‘o Mauiola Kīwalauapō Aki. Noho a kupa au ma ka mokupuni ‘o ‘Ihikapalaumaewa mai ka mauna o Haleakalā a i Kahalawai. Noho a kupa ko‘u ‘ohana ma ka moku ‘o Pū‘ali Komohana ma ka ‘ahupua‘a ‘o Wailuku ma ka ‘ili o Kumuwilwili a ma ke ‘āwawa ‘o ‘Iao.

My name is Mauiola Kīwalauapō Aki and I am from the ‘ili of Kumuwilwili, in the valley of ‘Iao, in the ‘ahupua‘a of Wailuku. I remember as a child we would have no water flowing in Wailuku river. There was no wai to jump off the rocks and no wai for our ‘ō‘opu and ‘ōpae ‘ula to live. My family along with the Hui o Nā Wai ‘Ehā recognized the impacts of the plantation diversions taking all the water, and engaged in protests with our community to return waterflow from mauka to makai. I am testifying today on behalf of my ‘ohana and kūpuna to continue this kuleana of taking care of our most precious resource that gives life to all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. I strongly support HB2690 HD2 SD1 as it is a crucial need in our community!

Under the pressures of work and cost of living, our community struggles to keep up with everyday life, and maintaining our traditional and customary practices is a challenge in itself. For way too long our people have dealt with improper distribution of our freshwater resources by building huge diversions that take the wai for profit. Diverting our wai for the pleasure and enjoyment of tourists, drying up our waterways, and many other misuses needs to end!

“He ali‘i ka ‘āina, he kauā ke kanaka.” (The land is a chief; man is its servant).

I strongly support the that the disentanglement of Board Of of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR) and the Commission On Water Resources Management (CWRM). CRWM and BLNR are two different concepts, one department is for water and one is for land. Therefore, they should be governed separately.

In conclusion, this bill will not just help kānaka Hawai‘i, but to change how the Water Commission is administered for the better. Water is very important to me because my ecosystem means a lot to me. There are so many extraordinary species and different types of plants that I cherish very much. These plants and animals give us life for our kino, giving us air to breathe and food to nourish our bodies. Day by day our ecosystem is crumbling because of the misuse of land and water.

“I nā ‘a‘ohe wai ‘a‘ohe ola, i nā ‘a‘ohe ola ‘a‘ohe kanaka.” (If there is no water there is no life. If there is no life there are no humans)

Mahalo no ka ho‘olohe ‘ana ia‘u!

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** Hōkūao Aki

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

‘O wau ‘o Hōkūao Makali‘i Aki. Noho a kupa au ma ka moku o Nā wai ‘ehā.

My name is Hōkūao Makali‘i Aki. I live on the island of Maui. I am testifying today in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1!

Being from ‘Īao Valley and living next to the kahawai, my ‘ohana and I have always had connection to our wai and have witnessed the impacts of the plantations’ history of taking water, the impacts of tourism, and also the impacts kanaka can make when we take a stand for what is pono for our ‘āina. It is a constant battle and struggle over the power of our wai.

First, the Water Commission should not be subject to the control of BLNR and under the hands of the Governor. It is important for regulatory bodies to lead by example and adhere to the laws they’re meant to enforce. Consistency and compliance are key to maintaining trust and upholding the integrity of the regulatory process. We need to create a role that the community can select and endorse, free from political influence. This position should prioritize the needs of the people and ensure transparency and accountability in decision making processes. Furthermore, relying on political influence tends to attract those chasing profit or those misled, rather than those who are reasoning clearly. We should push for leadership that is rooted in integrity and clear thinking, focusing on the true needs of the community. Moreover, our community has been speaking up about our needs, but it seems like none of it has been acknowledged. It is essential that our voices are not only heard but also truly listened to and acted upon for the betterment of all.

Secondly, fines are currently capped at \$5,000 per violation of the Water Code. This is not enough to deter private purveyors from repeatedly taking more water than they are allowed. This situation not only undermines the intent of the regulations but also suggests the limited fine is politically motivated at the expense of equitable resource distribution. It is important to preserve this vital resource of freshwater for essential needs and not waste it on luxury activities. Water is the essence of life, sustaining all living beings on Earth. In turn, life itself is intricately linked to the presence and availability of water. This interconnected relationship highlights the

fundamental importance of water in supporting and nourishing all forms of life. Let's respect and protect our water sources for the well-being of everyone.

“He ali‘i ka ‘āina, he kauwā ke kanaka” (the land is chief, and humans are its servants).

In conclusion, I strongly support the establishment of an executive director of the Commission on Water Resource Management as well as the implementation of recommendations for the improvements of the Water Code that are long overdue. I urge this Committee to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA I KA WAI!!!**

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** Kamaluokalani Kuloloio Vedder

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

Aloha everyone. ‘O wau ‘o Kamaluokalani Kuloloio Vedder. Hele au i Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Kekaulike.

I stand here surrounded by the multitudes of my kūpuna and ‘aumākua. I am a student learning about the conversion of Hawaiian Kingdom Law to Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, jurisdiction, policies, rules, and codes regulating Kanaka ‘Ōiwi, land and water purveyors, foreign investors, and local residents in Hawai‘i. Maneuvering under the de facto government is tiresome. Several questions I asked myself after reading this bill are: How will I, my family, and friends living on Maui benefit? What will happen to my water access rights from mauka to makai as a farmer, shoreline gatherer, and fisherman? How many more court cases will my ‘ohana and other Kanaka ‘Ōiwi in my generation and those after me have to suffer and endure?

First, I am in support of having an Executive Director who is a qualified and experienced leader in Native Hawaiian traditional and customary water resources management systems. This person should have some experience in hydrology, understand appurtenant rights and riparian uses, and government policies and regulations. I hope that the Executive Director is a problem-solver and leads this commission to find equitable decisions and solutions.

Lastly, I support revising Section 10 relating to Water Code 174C-15 to enforce a fine not less than \$50 with a maximum penalty of \$25,000 for violators to the Hawai‘i Water Code in consideration to certain circumstances and extent of violation. We should not tolerate those who abuse the system paying no regard to legal ramifications and its effect on stream flow, ecosystems, and marine life.

Amendments to this bill should be reviewed to create checks and balances that do not severely affect Article 12 Section 7 of the Hawai‘i Constitution - Native Hawaiian Traditional and Customary Rights and Practices for me, my ‘ohana, and lāhui.

Mahalo commissioners for allowing me to testify today. E ola i ka wai!

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** Kamalani Koko

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

‘O Kamalani Koko ko‘u inoa, no Maui mai au a hele wau i ke Kula Ki‘eki‘e o Kekaulike. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1.**

First, I firmly believe that the wai should be returned to the ‘āina and to the people who have stewarded it for generations.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 would provide long overdue changes that were already recommended years ago to provide proper management of our water. WAI is LIFE! WAI is also an everyday essential and it is a part of the way we ALL LIVE. Farmers need water, and as such they need reassurance that there will be members of the Water Commission who understand their needs. They have been waiting for too long and they deserve to be properly supported. HB2690 HD2 SD1 would give the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) a seat on the Nominating Committee for members of the Water Commission, which is essential to choosing an expert in traditional Native Hawaiian water management and riparian usage.

In conclusion, I urge the Committees to **PASS** HB2690 HD2 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** Ka‘iulani Verzosa

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

Aloha mai e nā po‘o a me nā lālā o ka ‘Aha ‘Ōlelo,

‘O wau o Ka‘iulani Verzosa, ‘umikumaono o‘u makahiki a no Lahaina mai au. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2, SD1.**

E ola i ka wai, what does that mean? Water is life. In our mo‘olelo, our cosmological chants, water is our most important resource not only because we need it to live but because the land lives off it as well as Hawaiian people. We should be able to embrace our culture and that entails our land and its needs. For many years, water has been taken and made into profit. However, water is a public trust. That means it is managed by the government for the benefit of the public.

HB2690 would allow the public more input into the management of our wai by separating BLNR’s chair position from CWRM’s chair. This would remove the politics from water management and allow the Water Commission to focus on water.

In conclusion, I strongly support the establishment of an executive director of the Commission on Water Resource management as well as the implementation of recommendations to improve the Water Code that have long been overdue. I urge the Committees to **PASS** HB2690 HD2 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA I KA WAI!!!**

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** Kaylen Lilinoe Pali

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

Mai ka pi'i 'ana o ka lā i Haleakalā a i ka napo'o 'ana o ka lā i Kahālāwai, mai ka moku nui 'o Keawe a i ka moku 'o Lehua. Aloha mai e nā po'o a me nā lala o ka 'Aha 'Ōlelo,

'O au 'o Kaylen Lilinoe Pali a ke kākau nei au iā 'oukou e ha'i'ōlelo e pili ana i ka HB2690. Noho au ma ka mokupuni u'i loa 'o Maui ma ka moku 'o Honua'ula. He haumāna au no Ke kula kaiapuni 'o Kekaulike a he 16 o'u mau makahiki. He kupa au no Hawai'i nei. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1.

For many years locals have come second after tourists in Hawai'i and we are tired of it. The Hawaiian mindset is the only mindset we should consider. From Hāloanakalaukapalili, to Papa and Wākea, in school, we are taught that our history goes beyond us and starts with darkness, the Kumulipo. We should be allowed to have our cultural practices and we should be allowed to make that our priority. Water is a public trust, water is our right, and water is our source of life.

Politicians should have no say in our rights and we as kānaka Hawai'i deserve to have our water back. Tourists should not have more rights than the people you are obligated to serve. Passing this bill is one step closer to making sure the public trust is upheld. Having our Governor, who knows nothing about our wai, influence decisions on it makes no sense. Consider the bias he holds towards people and consider the certifications he has as well. Being Governor is one thing, picking someone to control our source of life with no knowledge is a whole other thing. Let's bring someone who knows about our wai and knows the importance it has to us.

Our history is important to us and it should be important to you. Kānaka 'ōiwi depend on water and we depend on you to do what is right.

In conclusion, I strongly support the implementation of recommendations to improve the Water Code that have long been overdue, and I urge the Committee to **PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**E OLA I KA WAI!!!**

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and Means and on Water and Judiciary

**FROM:** Kehaulani Kealoha-Franco

**RE:** HB2690 HD2 SD1  
Hearing on April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1

Aloha kākou, ‘o Kehaulani Kealoha-Franco ko‘u inoa. No Pā‘ia mai au i ka ua mumuku ma Hāmākuapoko, kahi kaulana i ka he‘enalu ‘ana o nā ali‘i no Lahaina, ‘o Kawao lāua ‘o Kelea ma ka ho‘oilu. He 17 o‘u makahiki a kūlike au i ko‘u mau kūpuna i ke kūpa‘a ‘ana i ka pono o kēia ‘āina nei.

Aloha, my name is Kehaulani Kealoha-Franco, I was born and raised on Maui, Hawai‘i. I am only 17 years old and I am here to stand for the pono of the wai just like how my kūpuna did long ago. I am devastated that this is still happening, devastated that our kanaka continue to struggle for water, for our ‘āina, to simply survive in our home.

I pray that you listen to me and my po‘e kānaka as we say our peace. Our water was taken by greedy developers and people trying to make money off of our resources, off of our culture, off of our dignity as kanaka. While we look at the instream flow standards, developers laugh at us as they continue to drill wells to suck our ‘āina dry all to support hotels and resorts. This is a crime and we need justice. They laugh at us as they escape these violations with small fines, if any. This bill should be amended to include appropriate fines so diverters will not repeat any of these violations.

We are descendants of Papa and Wākea, of every manu, of every i‘a, of every kumu lā‘au, of every crawling creature, of every limu in our kai, of the very lepo that we stand on. I hope we all remember that as we stand here in Hawai‘i and use our voices. Our voices should have a place when choosing the positions of power. The separation of CWRM from the BLNR chair and creating an executive director of CWRM allows the people some input as to who is chosen.

In conclusion, I strongly support the establishment of an executive director of the Commission on Water Resource Management as well as the implementation of recommendations for the improvements of the Water Code that are long overdue. I urge the Committee to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. **E OLA I KA WAI!!!**

**Nā Alakaʻi o ka ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi**

Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice

William S. Richardson School of Law | University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa



**ʻAHAHUI  
O HAWAII**  
Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice

**Testimony of Nā Alakaʻi o ka ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi**

Before the Senate Committee on Ways and Means; and the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Friday, April 5, 2024 at 10:15 A.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**Re: Strong Support for HB2690, SD1 Relating to Water**

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and committee members,

We are the alakaʻi of ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi (“the Hui”), an organization of student advocates at the William S. Richardson School of Law. For the last 50 years, the Hui has advocated for Native Hawaiian justice in all areas of law, especially those affecting Native Hawaiian communities, traditional and customary practices, resource management, and environmental protection. Today we submit this **testimony in strong support of HB2690, SD1.**

Over the last year, Hui members have supported the Maui Komohana community in their efforts to ensure the equitable distribution of water, restore streamflow, and uphold the public trust. We have witnessed firsthand the harms inflicted on ʻāina by private water purveyors who ignore instream flow standards and continue to illegally divert and hoard water with impunity. And in the immediate aftermath of the fires that devastated Lahaina last August, we watched as these same purveyors engaged in a naked water grab to wrest even more control of Maui Komohana’s water.

Most disappointing throughout this process has been the Commission on Water Resource Management’s (“CWRM”) inability or unwillingness to step in and act on its constitutional and statutory obligation to protect and manage our water resources. In a time when the Commission’s leadership and decisive action is needed more than ever, CWRM has been hamstrung by political interference from the Governor, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (“DLNR”), and large economic interests.

HB2690, SD1 is about making the structural changes necessary to cure historic issues within the agency and to provide CWRM with the independence and authority it needs to satisfy its constitutional directive. The proposed amendments are not new or radical ideas, but instead are the reiteration of long-recognized solutions that would afford CWRM the autonomy needed to effectively protect and preserve Hawaiʻi’s precious freshwater resources. As this past year has shown, legacy

## Nā Alakaʻi o ka ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi

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ʻAHAHUI  
O HAWAIʻI  
Advocates for Native Hawaiian Justice

diverters have and will continue to exert influence over CWRM so long as it is housed within DLNR. The provisions in this bill would separate the two, allowing CWRM to focus on its constitutional mandate without interference.

HB2690, SD1 would also add to the Water Code a subsection 174C-5(17) relating to emergency powers. This emergency language is substantively the same as a provision that this legislature passed last year as part of HB1088. That bill, which was introduced as part of the Governor’s administrative package, was inexplicably vetoed by the Governor. Now, a year later, this emergency provision is even more necessary to empower the Commission to do its job and respond to water emergencies such as devastating wildfires, the Kapūkakī (Red Hill) fuel leaks, and other future crises that may arise as the climate emergency escalates. In Lahaina, the emergency provisions proposed in HB2690, SD1 can expedite CWRM’s allocation of water for temporary emergency housing, so folks living in hotels or on the beach can move into more stable homes.

Chief Justice Richardson, the namesake of our law school, set the foundation for modern water law and the public trust doctrine that we have today. His court set the precedent that water must be held in trust for the common good and cannot be privately owned or sold. As he would say, when it comes to water, “think of the little guy downstream.” We honor that legacy today by voicing our **support for HB2690, SD1**, a bill that protects the Commission from political interference and protects the “little guys” from commercial interests and plantation water policies that have plagued Hawaiʻi’s wai and its people for over a century.

**Please vote today in support of HB2690, SD1** to free the Commission and free our streams.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

E ola i ka wai!

Nā Alakaʻi o ka ʻAhahui o Hawaiʻi

Nā Alakaʻi:

Dru Hara (ʻ24)

Kawaiuluhonua Scanlan (ʻ24)

B. Oriana McCallum (ʻ25)

Andrea C. Leialoha Swain (ʻ25)

Kyle K. Moriguchi (ʻ26)

**Senate Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary**  
**Hearing: April 5, 2024 @ 10:15 AM**  
**State Capitol Conference Room 211 and Via Zoom**  
**Strong Support for HB2690, SD1: Relating to Water**

Aloha e Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Members of the Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary,

Nā Kia‘i Kai submits this testimony in **strong support of HB2690, SD1**. Nā Kia‘i Kai is a community-based organization established by West Kaua‘i residents, including Native Hawaiian fishers and cultural practitioners, to protect West Kaua‘i’s river and coastal waters, humans, and aquatic life. Waimea River is the lifeblood of our community and supports a host of protected instream public trust uses. A healthy river and nearshore ocean environment are essential for our hui to continue to engage in traditional and cultural practices and subsistence activities, and to pass on these traditions to the next generation.

No problem is more critical than the scarcity of water, and this is something especially felt by our West Kaua‘i community. According to state projections, our Waimea River watershed is expected to see far less rainfall in the coming years. As we prepare for life in our new climate reality, we believe that giving the Water Commission the tools and autonomy it needs to tackle Hawai‘i’s diminishing water supplies is a necessary first step. We have waited 30 plus years to see this recommendation from the Review Commission come to life and are grateful to your committees for hearing this bill.

Our community knows first-hand how political interference and plantation politics can unduly influence decision-making regarding the use of ‘āina and wai. For decades, plantations and their corporate successors have hoarded Waimea River water, taking far more water than they could reasonably use, resulting in the outright dumping and waste of millions of gallons of water each day. Our community fought tirelessly to restore stream flow in Waimea River and end the wholesale diversion and waste of our precious water resources. Despite the implementation of minimum flow standards for Waimea River in 2017, these corporate diverters continue to divert streamflow in excess of what they are legally allowed to take and drag their feet to make any adjustments to their diversions, which allow only minimal diverted flows to be returned to the streams.

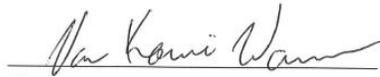
HB2690, SD1 would enable CWRM to enforce the Water Code by imposing meaningful fines and penalties for violations. This would be especially useful to address the ongoing violations and noncompliance with interim instream flow standards occurring in Waimea River every day. Increasing penalties for violations would encourage diverters to come into compliance

with the Water Code, and it would allow CWRM to begin to redress the ongoing harm to public trust uses and reallocate water to local communities who rely on wai for our survival.

Nā Kia'i Kai further supports providing CWRM with the true independence it was intended to have when the Constitution was amended in 1978 and the Water Code was passed by this Legislature in 1987. We believe HB2690, SD1 would enable the executive director to proactively focus on fulfilling CWRM's public trust kuleana, instead of being micromanaged by the Governor and BLNR's Chair. Administrative independence from the oversight and influence of elected and appointed officials will provide greater accountability and transparency, and result in greater protection of our precious water resources.

We are living in this climate emergency, and we are exhausted from having to constantly police the plantation water systems and the developers who currently operate them. The Legislature actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. We need these key amendments now more than ever. **These changes were supported by the Legislature then, and we hope you will also support them now.** We need your committees to support real and proactive solutions for our community, to prevent the water crisis from continuing to impact future generations to come. **Please vote today to support HB2690, SD1.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.



Van Kawai Warren  
Nā Kia'i Kai



# KO'OLAUPOKO HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB

P. O. Box 664 \* Kaneohe, HI 96744 \* Ph. (808) 235-8111 \*  
[www.koolaupokohcc.org](http://www.koolaupokohcc.org)

**Senate Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary**  
**Hearing: April 5, 2024 at 10:15AM**  
**State Capitol Conference Room 211**  
**Strong Support for HB 2690, SD1: Relating to Water**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

The Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club (KPHCC) submits this testimony in **strong support** of HB 2690, SD1.

KPHCC is a not-for-profit community organization established in 1937 by a group of kama'āina residents in the Ko'olaupoko area. Our primary mission is to preserve and perpetuate the history, heritage, and culture of Native Hawaiians. *Ola i ka wai*—water is life, and our water resources are among the most important cultural and natural resources to our community, our people, and our continued ability to practice our culture.

In Ko'olaupoko, many of our members, community partners, and allies are working tirelessly to perpetuate our traditional and cultural practices and to increase our community's food security by restoring traditional food systems. We cannot realize the full potential of these efforts without sufficient access to wai. For many years, we have observed conflict within Hawai'i's water policy to the detriment of our communities, our streams, and our 'āina. HB 2690, SD 1 not only gives the Water Commission the tools to proactively manage our limited water resources free from political interference and influence, but it will also help the Commission hold violators that compromise our water resources accountable.

The Water Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB 2690, SD 1 are a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the present-day demands on our limited water resources so that the Commission can be *ke kahuwai pono* it was designed to be. This is critical for our community and communities across Hawai'i pae 'āina that are dealing with the impacts of climate change and water scarcity.

We strongly urge your Committees to pass this bill.

Me ke aloha 'āina,

Charles Naumu  
Pelekikena (President)  
Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club



**Senate Committee on Ways and Means /**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Supports: HB2690 HD2 SD1**

Friday, April 5, 2024 10:15 a.m. Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz/Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki/Gabbard and Members of the Committees,

We urge this legislature to **pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately**. We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai. This is true now more than ever as Hawai'i is literally burning as a combined result of resource abuse and global climate change. There is not enough freshwater to sustain local families, whether that is on Maui, where large corporate diverters have drained Lahaina of its natural bounty, or O'ahu, where the U.S. military's negligence has compromised our drinking water supplies. Importantly, this bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis, including with temporary emergency housing for Maui's fire survivors, Red Hill, and beyond.

HB2690, SD1 will provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address critical water issues in Lahaina, Red Hill, and emergencies likely to arise in the future. And while this amended bill responds to current water crises, it is not reactionary – in fact, a Review Commission assembled by the legislature offered many similar recommendations in the early 1990s. HB2690, SD1 implements the original intent of the Water Code when this legislature first passed the Water Code 37 years ago. These well-established ideas have broad-based support today as well. The House actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. **We need these changes now more than ever.**

We unfortunately witnessed the worst kind political influence and attempted water grabs in the aftermath of the Lāhainā fires. Wealthy developers seeking water for luxury developments, using the cover of the recent disaster, engaged in a damaging misinformation campaign that



was parroted in both local and national media.<sup>1</sup> This misinformation campaign led to the temporary revoking of the water code, threats of undoing the hard won Maui Komohana water management area and the unwarranted scapegoating and reassignment of then Deputy Director Manuel.<sup>2</sup>

It was only after massive outcry from a still grieving community that the administration walked back its suspension of the water code, threats to undo the water management area and reassignment of former Deputy Director Manuel. This kind of politicking placed an additional burden on an already traumatized community by forcing them to defend a ground and surface area water management they already fought decades to enact. Hundreds of displaced Lāhainā residents took time while still grieving and flew to another island multiple times to defend their water rights and an unfairly scapegoated Deputy Director.

Today, the military and other large landed interests continue to exert outsized influence on our water policy to the detriment of our communities, our streams, and our 'āina. The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB2690, SD1 have the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Hawai'i needs this the most.

This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate emergency we are now living in. It will benefit communities across Hawai'i, such as those on Maui who desperately need water for temporary emergency housing and those O'ahu whose water supplies have been poisoned by Red Hill.

**Please help us get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.**

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', written in a cursive style.

Anne Frederick

<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/local-news/2023-09-21/regaining-public-trust-could-be-an-uphill-battle-for-the-state-water-commission>

<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/aug/17/hawaii-fires-maui-water-rights-disaster-capitalism>



Executive Director

**Hawai'i State Senate**  
**Committees on Ways and Means & Judiciary**

HB 2690 – Relating to the Commission on Water Resource Management

RE: Strong support of HB 2690

April 5, 2024

Since time immemorial, Native Hawaiians have understood the importance and precarity of water across our pae 'āina. For the land and its people to thrive, we must have access to safe and clean water. This has always been true, but has become even more critical in light of the August wildfires. The Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA) writes in **strong support of HB 2690**. Since its creation, the mission of the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) has been to protect and manage the waters of the State of Hawai'i for present and future generations. CWRM's kuleana is not one to be taken lightly and should be treated with the utmost care and respect. This bill creates necessary independence to fulfill CWRM's constitutional and statutory kuleana to mālama wai. Ola i ka wai, water is life, and it must be protected.

This measure is not reactionary, but instead finally implements amendments previously suggested in the 1994 Report by the Review Commission on the State Water Code. The state and all of its subdivisions, including CWRM, have an affirmative duty to protect and preserve our water resources for the benefit of future generations. This bill makes that duty clear by establishing an explicit public trust purpose. HB 2690 is necessary for CWRM to be able to 'auamo this constitutional and statutory kuleana.

HB 2690 calls for the necessary disentanglement of CWRM from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to streamline its administrative duties and responsibilities, such as limiting the department's oversight over CWRM staff and barring the chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources from also serving as CWRM chair. These amendments to the Commission's administrative structure will provide the autonomy it needs as kahuwai pono to protect and preserve Hawai'i's precious water resources for generations to come.

Since August, CNHA has been working diligently on recovery and rebuilding efforts in Maui. We have seen firsthand the need for increased protections for our water and natural resources. CNHA will continue to do our part to kako'o this incredible community, but it is critical that this Legislature also support the community through meaningful and long-term policy solutions like HB 2690. For these reasons, we humbly ask that you **PASS HB 2690** for the future of Lahaina's and all of Hawai'i's wai.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

**Kūhiō Lewis**

Chief Executive Officer, CNHA



Testimony of **Lahaina Strong**  
Before the Senate Committees on  
**Ways and Means & Judiciary**

In Consideration of House Bill No. 2690 HD2 SD1  
**RELATING TO WATER**

To Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

We are writing on behalf of Lahaina Strong, an organization that was initially formed in 2018 following the Hurricane Lane fire in Lahaina and re-energized last year after the devastating Lahaina fires on August 8. Our organization is the largest grassroots, Lahaina-based community organization, with over 20,000 supporters, engaged in emphasizing the importance of local voices and community-driven solutions.

**Lahaina Strong stands in support of HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which incorporates crucial provisions from SB3327. Considering the lessons learned from the past decade and the recent devastation in Lahaina, it is imperative that we prioritize accountability to our wai, our people, and our future.

This bill represents a crucial step toward ensuring the independence and autonomy of the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM), which is essential for effective water management and decision-making in the wake of recent challenges faced by our community.

The proposed HB2690 HD2 SD1, particularly the separation of the CWRM Chair from the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR), address concerns about undue influence over the actions of the commission and provide a more objective decision-making process.

We witnessed the challenges and implications of centralized decision-making in the aftermath of the devastating fires on August 8, 2023. Providing CWRM with greater autonomy will help prevent conflicts of interest and foster more informed, community-driven decisions.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is especially vital as it safeguards the Water Commission from political interference, ensuring that it can effectively address critical water issues in not only Lahaina but across the entire state. The amended bill includes several key provisions that will empower the Commission to fulfill its duties effectively. By establishing the position of Executive Director instead of Deputy, allowing Commission members to choose their own chairperson, and granting the Commission the authority to retain independent legal counsel, we can ensure that decisions are made with the best interests of our water resources and communities in mind.

Furthermore, this bill strengthens the Commission's ability to declare water emergencies and issue necessary orders, establishes fines for Water Code violations, and increases penalties to deter future violations. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives and expertise are represented in the decision-making process.

In Lahaina and communities across Hawaii, the importance of protecting our wai is paramount. This bill provides the Commission with the flexibility and authority needed to respond swiftly and effectively to water crises, especially in the face of climate change and historical mismanagement.

In the aftermath of the devastating wildfire in Lahaina, it's clear that addressing years of mismanagement is crucial. Our once-celebrated natural water resources that flowed abundantly through Lahaina providing lush ecosystems, that were cherished for generations, have been diverted, leaving Lahaina dry and fire-prone. August 8, 2023, served as a wake-up call, highlighting the urgent need to fight for our wai. Now more than ever, this bill is essential, as it will provide the autonomy needed for the Commission to act and stand on its constitutional mandate to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations.

In conclusion, Lahaina Strong urges the committees to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, recognizing its importance in establishing a more robust, independent, and community-focused Water Commission.

Mahalo for your attention to this critical matter, and we appreciate your commitment to the well-being of Lahaina and a more resilient and sustainable future for its residents.

Ola i ka wai!

Sincerely,

Pa'ele Kiakona, Jordan Ruidas & Courtney Lazo

Lahaina Strong



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

**LATE**

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

April 5, 2024

H.B. 2690, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 — RELATING TO WATER.

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the concept of H.B. 2690, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 which establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator and other positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources for coordination of Red Hill WAI initiatives and repeals the position of deputy to the chairperson of the commission and establishes the position of executive director of the commission and amends the composition of the Commission and administratively attaches it to DLNR.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 2690, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 11:11:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doug Fetterly	Testifying for Sierra Club	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the Sierra Club and the large community here in the Islands that speaks up for the rights of the people, the environment, over that of some industry that doesn't think or care about what we leave our grandchildren, I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1. Mahalo.

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:48:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Salazar Hyman	Testifying for Tagnawa for Maui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Michelle Salazar Hyman



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

**LATE**

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

April 5, 2024

10:15 AM

Conference Room 211

**In SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1: RELATING TO WATER**

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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which would reduce the risk of political interference, political retribution, and/or perceived or actual conflicts of interest in the management, protection, and restoration of our islands' most precious resource.

As a preliminary matter, the Sierra Club notes that in the previous hearing, the state attorney general asserted that the amendments proposed in the Senate Water and Land Committee would run afoul of the Hawai'i Supreme Court decision in League of Women Voters of Honolulu v. State, which invalidated a law that was passed via a "gut and replace" measure, SB2858. A review of the ruling and the factual circumstances of that case, however, shows that the attorney general's assertion relied on a highly questionable and significantly expansive interpretation of the supreme court's ruling, entirely inconsistent with the balanced and nuanced analysis that the attorney general should be providing in its testimony.

A review of League of Women Voters of Honolulu makes it abundantly clear that the amendments made in the SD1 of HB2690 are substantially distinguishable from the legislative history of SB2858. In the League of Women Voters case, SB2858 would have originally requested the Department of Public Safety to prepare a report on the rehabilitation and reentry of individuals released from prison; after crossover, the bill language was completely removed, and replaced with a requirement that new state buildings include hurricane shelter space. Since rehabilitation and reentry had nothing whatsoever to do with hurricane shelters, the supreme court found that the amended and final bill was not "germane" to the original draft; as the court noted, members of the public interested in the rehabilitation of incarcerated people would have had supported a bill that had nothing to do with rehabilitation, and members of the public interested in hurricane shelters would be unaware that the amended bill, originally about rehabilitation, was now relevant to their interests. Accordingly, the supreme court invalidated the law in question.

**Here, unlike the completely unrelated drafts of SB2858, the SD1 of HB2690 is clearly germane to its continuing purpose, which is concerned with the protection of our water resources, and addressing the consequences of political influence in the administration of our life-giving wai.** The WAI policy coordinator who was and remains in this bill would be tasked with addressing the consequences of uncritical and politically-driven deference to military misrepresentations, which resulted in the years-long disregard of the existential threat of the Red Hill Facility and the contamination of our public trust water. As reflected in previous testimonies submitted on this measure, the unwillingness or inability of multiple governors' administrations to hold the Navy accountable, due to their deference to the military, ultimately created the contamination that is the basis for the WAI policy coordinator's proposed existence.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

For example, after the reported release of 27,000 gallons of fuel from the Red Hill facility in 2014, Governor Abercrombie's administration negotiated a largely toothless "Administrative Order on Consent" (AOC) that surrendered ultimate decisionmaking authority over the Navy's response to the federal government in Washington, D.C. Over the next six years, Governor Ige's administration did little to hold the Navy accountable to the AOC, which still remains largely unfulfilled – frustrating our current efforts to track, contain, and remediate the contamination plume in our aquifer. Governor Ige's administration further failed to uphold state law and require the U.S. Navy to apply for an underground storage tank permit, until the Sierra Club of Hawai'i sued the Department of Health twice, in 2017 and 2019. As another example of political deference to the military, Governor Ige also failed to call for the shutdown of the Red Hill Facility even after the catastrophic 2021 fuel spill, citing his belief that the military "is a vibrant part in our economy." This governmental foot-dragging and years-long abdication of the public trust in water due to our governors' political desire to appease the U.S. military ultimately resulted in the contamination of our 'āina and wai, and the need to establish a WAI Policy Coordinator to ensure that this mess is cleaned up. **As described further below, the Water and Land Committee amendments are not only clearly germane to the purpose of this measure to address the consequences of political interference in the public trust, but have only strengthened the purpose and effectiveness of the original draft, by placing the coordinator not under a governor's cabinet member, but instead under a public trust-focused Water Commission and executive director to be insulated from political influence, and empowered to objectively effectuate the public trust – including with regards to the ongoing waste and contamination we are seeing at Kapūkakī.** Notably, water protectors and those seeking accountability in the objective protection, restoration, and management of our public trust water resources have been and will continue to be interested in this measure as it moves through the legislative process, and have submitted testimony asking for provisions to further politically insulate the WAI policy coordinator in every hearing since its introduction.

The Sierra Club is hopeful that the above explanation dispels any existing concerns that may remain regarding the attorney general's inexplicable attempt to draw a bright line around a substantially expansive interpretation of the League of Women Voters of Honolulu decision, in their effort to oppose the highly germane amendments made to this measure.

As described above, in furtherance of its original purpose, this bill would therefore address long-standing political vulnerabilities that could allow, and have allowed, powerful special interests to unduly influence the important work of the Water Commission and its staff, including the proposed WAI Policy Coordinator and associated positions. Currently, the Commission's Chair is a member of the Governor's cabinet, as is its legal counsel, the attorney general. Both individuals have considerable power over the Water Commission and its staff, and both answer directly to the Governor. Accordingly, special interests who have the Governor's ear could interfere, and have interfered, with the Commission's implementation of the Water Code and effectuation of the public trust, contrary to the Legislature's intent and to the detriment of the public interest in our wai.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See, e.g. Editorial, *Water Commission: A Decade of Disappointment*, ENVIRONMENT HAWAI'I, February 2005, available at <https://www.environment-hawaii.org/?p=1499> ("First, there's the fact that the governor has made no secret of her hostility to the very idea of a statewide body to manage water resources. Alan Murakami, managing attorney with the Native Hawaiian Legal Corporation and longtime water watcher,



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

This bill would instead allow Commission members to decide amongst themselves who among their volunteers should serve as their Chair, and would further allow the entire Commission to choose an “executive director” as the lead Commission staff person. Annual performance reviews for the executive director would ensure that any employment decisions are based on a documented and objective assessment of their performance, rather than political opportunism or retribution. Finally, the Commission would be able to hire their own legal counsel, rather than rely on the Governor-serving attorney general. These provisions are critical to ensuring that the Water Commission, its staff, and the WAI Policy Coordinator team can objectively do their important work to protect, restore, and manage our most precious resource.

Importantly, this bill would also authorize the Water Commission to take more expeditious emergency action – including in the event that the unremediated contamination at Kapūkakī creates a water shortage for O‘ahu – and further impose meaningful fines against those who could otherwise over pump our aquifers and drain our streams dry with impunity. With regards to this latter authority, the current \$5,000 daily fine the Commission is authorized to levy is wholly insufficient to hold the Department of Defense or multinational corporations accountable, if and when their water code violations impact priority public needs, including for affordable housing. Without the increased fines authorized under this measure, millions of gallons of water per day could be illegally monopolized by deep pocket entities for a fraction of a cent per gallon in penalties, harming our precious water resources, and the houses, schools, farms, small businesses, and others that rely on them.

Finally, the Sierra Club appreciates the inclusion of an Office of Hawaiian Affairs representative on the nominating committee for Commission members, ensuring that the pool of potential nominees submitted to the Governor is informed at least in part by an independent representative with a cultural understanding of the preciousness of our wai, and the ultimate importance of its protection, management, and full restoration.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i urges the Committees to **PASS** HB2690 HD2 SD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

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says he believes Governor Lingle is engaged “in a deliberate attempt to make the commission less effective than the Legislature intended.”); Wayne Tanaka, *State-Aided Disaster Capitalism? Governor’s administration targets stream, groundwater protection in the wake of Maui wildfires as water protectors fight back*, KA WAI OLA NEWS, Oct. 1, 2023, available at <https://kawaiola.news/aina/state-aided-disaster-capitalism/>.



**LATE**

## **TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

**COMMITTEE REFERRAL: WAM/JDC**

**APRIL 5, 2024**

**HB 2690, HD2, SD1, RELATING TO WATER**

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **supports** HB 2690, HD2, SD1, relating to water. In 2022, delegates to the Democratic Party of Hawai'i's State Convention adopted resolution 2022-11, demanding that the Red Hill fuel tanks and piping infrastructure be expeditiously decommissioned, and that new monitoring and exploratory wells be immediately developed.

Ola i ka wai. Water is life.

The United States Navy's Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility consists of 20 steel-lined underground storage tanks that were built from 1940 to 1943, each of which can store 12.5 million gallons of fuel. In total, the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility can store up to 250 million gallons of fuel. The tanks are located only about 100 feet above the United States Environmental Protection Agency's designated sole-source groundwater aquifer that provides drinking water to approximately 4,000 residents of the island of O'ahu.

Over the past eighty years, numerous spills have occurred at Red Hill. Most dramatically, on November 20, 2021, about 93,000 individuals served by the Navy's potable water system for Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam were directly affected when the Navy's Red Hill shaft was contaminated by the release of up to 19,000 gallons of fuel, including JP-5 jet fuel, older fuels stored at the Red Hill Bulk

Fuel Storage Facility, and any additives used. Over 6,000 individuals sought medical attention, and 1,000 were forced to leave their homes due to the contamination. Much of the fuel released from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility remains in the environment, trapped within the complex geological formations that surround the tanks. Notably, this leak also caused the restriction and diversion of Honolulu's water sources to cover losses from contaminated fuel, temporarily endangering the ability of the state and the county to perform vital public services, such as increasing the supply of affordable housing.

Subsequently, On May 9, 2023, officials from the state and City and County of Honolulu signed a unified statement on Red Hill, recognizing the stewardship responsibility to ensure that there is clean water on Oahu for future generations. The Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI), a working group, met regularly in 2023 after the signing of the unified statement, posing questions, conducting research, listening to subject-matter experts, and formulating policy recommendations to address the Red Hill contamination and prevent future leaks. The working group strived to preserve and protect public trust resources, including water resources that are essential for life to flourish in our island home.

Members of the Red Hill WAI working group focused on the remediation needs after the defueling of the tanks and removal of residual fuel and contaminants from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. The working group expressed ongoing concerns about fuel contaminants already in the ground, as well as the residual supply of fuel plume in local aquifers because of the spill that occurred on November 20, 2021. The group found that there may be as many as 1,940,000 gallons of fuel constituents in the ground that have leaked or spilled over eight decades. Accordingly, the group believes that remediation is necessary for the future well-being of the aquifer to contain the risk to current and future water sources, including the Halawa Shaft, Halawa wells, and Aiea wells; the water distribution system; and local ecosystems. For the sake of the public trust and future generations of Hawai'i's people, we must adopt the recommendations of the Red Hill WAI working group and empower their important work to continue.

Mahalo nui loa,

**Kris Coffield**

*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*  
(808) 679-7454  
kriscoffield@gmail.com

**Abby Simmons**

*Co-Chair, Legislative Committee*  
(808) 352-6818  
abbyalana808@gmail.com



**LATE**

Committee: Ways & Means and Judiciary  
Hearing Date/Time: Friday, April 5, 2024, at 10:15am  
Place: Conference Room 211 & Via Videoconference  
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of HB1953 HD1 SD1 Relating to the Penal Code with Amendments**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees:

ACLU of Hawai'i supports the passage of **HB2690 HD2 SD1 Relating to Water** which establishes a Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (WAI) Policy Coordinator, repeals the position of deputy to the Chair of the Commission of Water Resource Management and creates an Executive Director position to ensure that the state fulfills its important constitutional mandate.

Our Hawai'i Constitution clearly outlines our Public Trust principles:

“For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii’s natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State.” Haw. Const. Article IX, section 1.

The Commission on Water Resource Management is mandated to “protect, control and regulate the use of Hawaii’s water resources for the benefit of its people[.]” Haw. Const. Article IX, sect. 7 and to implement the State Water Code.”

Under the current regulatory structure, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice.

This structure raises and continues to raise valid concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, we support removing the DLNR’s

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<sup>1</sup> Ernest Lau, Manager and Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply, recently testified in favor of this measure, highlighting the importance of changing the organizational leadership structure of the Commission on Water Resource Management to protect the Commission from undue political influence.

substantive oversight over the CRWM, allowing it to hire independent counsel to avoid conflicts and transitioning the deputy position into an Executive Director position.

Please pass **HB2690 HD2 SD1 Relating to Water** to create a more robust organizational leadership structure within CRWM to fulfill its Constitutional mandate and steward wai for present and future generations. Without wai, the people will perish and there will be no fundamental freedoms to protect!<sup>2</sup>

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

***Carrie Ann Shirota***

Carrie Ann Shirota

Policy Director

ACLU of Hawai'i

[cshirota@acluhawaii.org](mailto:cshirota@acluhawaii.org)

*The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i for over 50 years.*

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/science/climate-issues/water>



**LATE**

SENATOR DONOVAN DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATOR SHARON MORIWAKI, VICE CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, VICE CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 2690, SD1

April 5, 2024, 10:15 a.m.  
Room 211 State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

Earthjustice **strongly supports House Bill 2690, HD 2, SD 1**. Our office has decades of experience in Hawai'i water law, including precedent-setting Hawai'i Supreme Court cases interpreting and implementing our Water Code, Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS") chapter 174C. In addition to expressing our support for the bill, we also address concerns raised by the Department of the Attorney General in its testimonies in opposition.

HB 2690 implements long-overdue recommendations to improve the Code and help protect the Water Commission from undue political influence and interference, ensure its independence and objectivity, and restore the public's trust and confidence in the Commission and the rule of law. The alarming political assault on the Commission and Code after the Lahaina wildfire disaster is only the latest example underscoring the need for these reforms.

The Office of the Attorney General opposes HB 2690's provision allowing the Commission to hire its own counsel. The AG has an institutional conflict of interest on this issue that should color any testimony they offer on this bill. More fundamentally, the AG's own historical track record demonstrates the need for independent Commission counsel. Not only has the AG's representation of the Commission fallen short over the years (as reflected in its record before the Hawai'i Supreme Court), but during critical moments in the Commission's history, the AG has either completely abandoned the Commission or actively worked against its interests.

In the *Waiāhole* case, for example, the Hawai'i Supreme Court censured the AG for lacking "any consideration of the Commission's interests" in leaving it without representation at the determinative stage of the case. *In re Waiāhole Ditch Combined Contested Case Hr'g*, 94 Hawai'i 97, 126, 9 P.3d 409, 438 (2000). More recently, the AG backed the Commission Chair's removal of Deputy Director Kaleo Manuel, while leaving the other Commissioners and the Commission itself without representation in the face of this flagrant conflict of interest. In short, in both its past record as well as its current testimony, the AG has done more than enough to justify the Commission at least having the option of retaining its own independent counsel.

Earthjustice also supports the bill's efforts to improve the operation and strengthen the independence of the Water Commission. This bill perfects the process to fill vacancies on the Commission by adding a seat to the Nominating Committee that is named by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, encourages compliance with the Water Code by increasing the penalties imposed on the private purveyors that have a long history of violating the law, improves efficacy of the Commission by converting the deputy director position into an Executive Director position that answers directly to the appointed Commission, and allowing the appointed commissioners to name their own chair.

Lastly, Earthjustice strongly supports Part I of the bill that establishes three positions for the Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative. Our office has been involved in the efforts to hold the U.S. Navy accountable for the contamination of O'ahu's primary aquifer with a wide range of pollutants including various kinds of fuel and PFAS. Creating these positions on the staff of the Executive Director position established in this bill will greatly improve the state's ability to navigate the decades' long effort to recover from the Red Hill Water Crisis.

In conclusion, HB 2690, SD 1 helps the Commission fulfill its vital, constitutionally mandated role in increasingly challenging times. The bill would also help rebuild the public's trust and confidence in the Commission that has seriously eroded in the aftermath of the Lahaina wildfires. Earthjustice respectfully requests that the Senate Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Judiciary **pass HB 2690, SD1**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any further questions or for further information.

Elena Bryant, Esq.  
Marti Townsend, Esq.  
Earthjustice, Mid-Pacific Office

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**  
**Senate Committee on Judiciary**  
**Hearing: Friday, April 5, 2024 10:15 AM**  
**State Capitol Conference Room 211**  
**Strong Support for HB2690, SD1: Relating to Water**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Dru Hara, I live in Niu, O‘ahu, and I am a third-year law student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law. Mahalo nui for hearing this bill today and providing the community an opportunity to testify on behalf of our precious freshwater resources. I am testifying today **in strong support of HB2690, SD1**.

During my time as a law student, it has been my privilege to work closely with Maui Komohana community members as they navigate the water use permitting process and continue to zealously advocate for the preservation of their natural resources and their legal rights to water under the Hawai‘i Constitution and Water Code, HRS chapter 174C. This community believes in the Water Code and believed, for a time, in the Water Commission’s ability to enforce the Code’s mandates and protections. This belief in the Commission was shattered after the fires when the BLNR Chair removed Deputy Kaleo Manuel without cause and the Governor suspended the Water Code, leaving CWRM powerless in Lahaina’s time of need. In response, last September, hundreds of Lahaina residents paused their recovery to travel to O‘ahu and advocate for the reinstatement of the Water Code. And though that particular harm has been addressed in part, the people of Maui Komohana continue to demand that CWRM take a more proactive role in their recovery.

**HB2690, SD1** is an extension of that demand. This bill is necessary to facilitate long-needed structural changes and to enable CWRM to exercise its duty and authority as trustee of our water resources. Further, the emergency provisions outlined in Section 10 of HB2690, SD1 would provide a concrete mechanism for CWRM to deliver **water for temporary emergency housing** in Maui Komohana. I note that this emergency provision, along with the penalties provision contained in Section 14 of HB2690, SD1, are nearly identical to two bills, HB153 and HB1088, that were passed by this legislature last year but were ultimately vetoed by the Governor.

My plea is simple: **support HB2690, SD1 to support Lahaina**. There has been much talk this session about what is needed to help the people affected by the fires, but at this juncture there are very few bills still alive that will actually result in any real benefit to the Lahaina community. This bill provides an opportunity for you, our legislature, to respond to Lahaina’s needs and provide greater protection of our water resources across Hawai‘i. **Please pass HB2690, SD1 today**. Mahalo nunui for your consideration and aloha.

E ola i ka wai!

Dru Hara

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:18:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ty Kawika Tengan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Ty Kawika Tengan, and I live in Wai‘oma‘o, Palolo, O‘ahu. I’m testifying today in strong support of HB2690, SD1.

I urge this legislature to pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately. We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai in a time of climate change and water shortages. I am originally from Maui, and my family and many of my friends have been impacted greatly by the fires. I currently teach at UH Mānoa and have worked personally with a student poisoned by Red Hill (a military dependent) and have another 2 students currently from Lahaina—one of whom is still flying back each week to help is family move from hotel to hotel. To do any less than put all possible efforts into protecting our water is to willingly imperil future generations of students, families, and all those who will look back and see what side of history this legislature stood on. In order to better empower the Water Commission to respond to present and future crises, I urge you to pass this bill.

Me ka ‘oia‘i‘o,

Ty Kawika Tengan

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:27:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaylen Lilinoe Pali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees Ways and**

**Means and on Water and Judiciary**

**FROM: Kaylen Lilinoe Pali**

**RE: HB2690**

**Hearing on April 5, 2024**

**IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690**

**Mai ka pi'i 'ana o ka lā i Haleakalā a i ka napo'ō 'ana o ka lā i Kahālāwai, mai ka moku nui 'ō Keawe a i ka moku 'ō Lehua. Aloha mai e nā po'ō a me nā lala o ka 'Aha 'Ōlelo,**

**'O au 'ō Kaylen Lilinoe Pali a ke kākau nei au iā 'oukou e ha'i'ōlelo e pili ana i ka HB2690. Noho au ma ka mokupuni u'i loa 'ō Maui ma ka moku 'ō Honua'ula. He haumāna au no Ke kula kaiapuni 'ō Kekaulike a he 16 o'u mau makahiki. He kupa au no Hawai'i nei. I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690.**

**For many years locals have come second after tourists in Hawai'i and we are tired of it. The Hawaiian mindset is the only mindset we should consider. From Hāloanakalaukapalili, to Papa and Wākea, in school, we are taught that our history goes beyond us and starts with darkness, the Kumulipo. We should be allowed to have our cultural practices and we**

**should be allowed to make that our priority. Water is a public trust, water is our right, and water is our source of life.**

**Politicians should have no say in our rights and we as kānaka Hawai‘i deserve to have our water back. Tourists should not have more rights than the people you are obligated to serve. Passing this bill is one step closer to making sure the public trust is upheld. Having our Governor, who knows nothing about our wai, influence decisions on it makes no sense. Consider the bias he holds towards people and consider the certifications he has as well. Being Governor is one thing, picking someone to control our source of life with no knowledge is a whole other thing. Let’s bring someone who knows about our wai and knows the importance it has to us.**

**Our history is important to us and it should be important to you. Kānaka ‘ōiwi depend on water and we depend on you to do what is right.**

**In conclusion, I strongly support the implementation of recommendations to improve the Water Code that have long been overdue, and I urge the Committee to PASS HB2690. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**E OLA I KA WAI!!!**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:41:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Konia Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hearing: April 5, 2024 10:15 AM

State Capitol Conference Room 211

Strong Support for HB2690, SD1: Relating to Water

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Konia Freitas, and I come from Halawauka, Ewa, Oahu island. I'm testifying today in strong support of HB2690, SD1.

I urge this legislature to pass HB2690, SD1, and make it effective immediately. The Water Commission must be empowered to proactively manage our precious water resources. HB2690, SD1 will provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address critical water issues in Lahaina, Red Hill, and emergencies likely to arise in the future. The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for the benefit of present and future generations, and not for privileged military and large landed interests. This bill is necessary to support the evolution of a government to effectively respond to climate change. The climate challenges facing our island society are immense -- sea level rise, changing rainfall patterns, water quality, aquatic ecosystem threats, and infrastructure vulnerability. Addressing these challenges requires a proactive measure like HB2690 SD1.

Ola Hawai'i, ola ka wai!

Konia Freitas, PhD

Halawauka, Ewa, O'ahu island

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:47:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Isis Usborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Isis Usborne, and I live in zip code 96815. I'm testifying today in strong support of HB2690, SD1.

We urge this legislature to pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately. We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai. This is true now more than ever as Hawai'i is literally burning as a combined result of resource abuse and global climate change. There is not enough freshwater to sustain local families, whether that is on Maui, where large corporate diverters have drained Lahaina of its natural bounty, or O'ahu, where the U.S. military's negligence has compromised our drinking water supplies. Importantly, this bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis, including with temporary emergency housing for Maui's fire survivors, Red Hill, and beyond.

HB2690, SD1 will provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address critical water issues in Lahaina, Red Hill, and emergencies likely to arise in the future. And while this amended bill responds to current water crises, it is not reactionary – in fact, a Review Commission assembled by the legislature offered many similar recommendations in the early 1990s. HB2690, SD1 implements the original intent of the Water Code when this legislature first passed the Water Code 37 years ago. These well-established ideas have broad-based support today as well. The House actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. We need these changes now more than ever.

Today, the military and other large landed interests continue to exert outsized influence on our water policy to the detriment of our communities, our streams, and our 'āina. The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB2690, SD1 have the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Hawai'i needs this the most.

This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate emergency we are now living in. It will benefit communities across Hawai'i, such as those on Maui who desperately need water for temporary emergency housing and those O'ahu whose water supplies have been poisoned by Red Hill. Please help us get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.

Ola i ka wai!

- Isis Usborne

**Senate Committees on Ways and Means; and Judiciary**

**Hearing: April 5, 2024, 10:15 AM**

**Conference Room 211**

**Strong Support for HB 2690, SD1: Relating to Water**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Senate Committee Members on Ways and Means; and Judiciary:

I'm Ke'eumoku Kapu, a kupa of Kaua'ula and a kia'i and kahu of Moku'ula and Mokuhinia. As you all know, wai is one of our most important resources. Many of us have been working on this for generations, but I feel like the eyes of the world are now on Maui and have focused on water because of all the action that has gone down since the August 2023 fires. To be honest, most of it hasn't been good. In fact, it's pretty pilau. The Water Code was suspended, Deputy Director Manuel was "redeployed," and water was taken from Kaua'ula Stream not to fight fires, but to fill swimming pools. No can this kine. We need to be able to count on our Water Commissioners to be pono. Their motto is: Ke Kahuwai Pono, and pono is the highest standard that we have as Kanaka.

**I am testifying today in strong support of HB 2690, SD1. Because to be pono, the Water Commission needs kōkua, and this bill initiates some necessary changes.** The political gamesmanship around our wai in Maui Komohana is hewa. It has forced our community and my 'ohana in particular to invest too much of our time and energy trying to get the Water Commission and Chair to do their jobs, instead of playing politics. Unfortunately, I have many examples – such as the failure to enforce the interim instream flow standard in Kaua'ula and allowing the reactivation of Pioneer Mill's skimming wells – that have undermined our faith that this Commission will be pono unless changes are made to its administrative structure. And we need the Water Commission to be pono because too much is at stake.

After the fires, Nā 'Aikāne o Maui filed a water use permit application for the restoration of Moku'ula Island and Loko o Mokuhinia. Words cannot explain how sacred and important these wahi pana are. They were the historic seat of power for our Hawaiian Kingdom, home of our revered mo'o Kihawahine, and where Maui's highest ranking ali'i were laid to rest. Like many of our sacred spaces they were drained dry when Pioneer Mill began taking water from area streams, including Kaua'ula, and pumping its skimming wells in particular. Today, Moku'ula and Mokuhinia are entombed by three feet of sediment and an abandoned baseball field within Malu'ulu o Lele Park.

Since long before the August 2023 fires, our community has struggled to restore Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, and this traditional 'auwai system. The Pioneer Mill skimming wells that dried Mokuhinia were recently reactivated by Wainee Land and Homes LLC. We objected at every stage of the skimming wells' reactivation process and since, but nothing was done by the Water Commission's groundwater branch. For example, we lodged objections with the Water Commission when the pump test for the shaft occurred because we saw an immediate impact on the flow of Pahumanamana 'Auwai. No response. In all the time that we have had kuleana

toward this 'āina, this 'auwai held the last visible remaining wai on the surface of what was once an area of significant fresh water abundance and cultural mana. Last summer, it was totally dry, although some flow returned after the fires while the skimming well was shut down. My point here is that we need the Water Commission to uphold the law and protect and restore our sacred spaces, but politics keep getting in the way.

To be Kahuwai Pono, the Water Commission must revitalize the glory and mana of this wahi pana that was once the political, religious, and cultural center of Maui and our pae 'āina. This is just one example of the fundamental re-examination of water distribution that is necessary in Maui Komohana that will help to support the continued exercise or reemergence of cultural practices. It would also put Kānaka Maoli with lineal ties to this 'āina at the forefront of reconstruction, and establish a foundation of cultural and environmental values on which to build back Lahaina from the devastation of the fires. E ho'i ka nani i Moku'ula!

Those of us who have been appearing before the Water Commission for years and even generations are not confident that this will happen unless changes are made. **Please pass HB 2690, SD1 to begin that process of healing and restoration. E ho'i ka nani!**

Ke Aloha 'Āina,

Ke'eumoku Kapu

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:55:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Casey Hearl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Casey Hearl and

'm testifying today in strong support of HB2690, SD1.

We urge this legislature to pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately. We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai. This is true now more than ever as Hawai'i is literally burning as a combined result of resource abuse and global climate change. There is not enough freshwater to sustain local families, whether that is on Maui, where large corporate diverters have drained Lahaina of its natural bounty, or O'ahu, where the U.S. military's negligence has compromised our drinking water supplies. Importantly, this bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis, including with temporary emergency housing for Maui's fire survivors, Red Hill, and beyond.

HB2690, SD1 will provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address critical water issues in Lahaina, Red Hill, and emergencies likely to arise in the future. And while this amended bill responds to current water crises, it is not reactionary – in fact, a Review Commission assembled by the legislature offered many similar recommendations in the early 1990s. HB2690, SD1 implements the original intent of the Water Code when this legislature first passed the Water Code 37 years ago. These well-established ideas have broad-based support today as well. The House actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. We need these changes now more than ever.

Today, the military and other large landed interests continue to exert outsized influence on our water policy to the detriment of our communities, our streams, and Hawaii's land. The

Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB2690, SD1 have the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Hawai'i needs this the most.

This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate emergency we are now living in. It will benefit communities across Hawai'i, such as those on Maui who desperately need water for temporary emergency housing and those O'ahu whose water supplies have been poisoned by Red Hill. Please help us get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.

Friday, April 5, 2024 @ 10:15 AM

Senate Committee on Ways and Means; Senate Committee on Judiciary  
State Capitol Conference Room 211 and via Videoconference

**Written Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2690, HD2 SD1: Relating to Water**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong SUPPORT of HB2690, HD2 SD1. My name is Chiemi Bryant, and I am a second-year law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law and a Native Hawaiian Rights Clinician. Born and raised in Hawai'i, I have seen firsthand how climate change has increased the frequency and magnitude of natural disasters in these islands in only a few decades. Hawai'i is on the frontline of the climate emergency and we must pass appropriate, thoughtful legislation to address this reality.

Of utmost importance - now and in the future - is safeguarding our freshwater as a public trust resource, in line with Hawai'i's Constitution. From Red Hill to the Lahaina wildfire, water issues in Hawai'i will only intensify the longer we abide by the status quo. As the lead agency tasked with protecting our wai, the Water Commission must have the authority to take comprehensive, decisive action in water emergencies. We need an independent and well-funded Water Commission to address the climate crisis and protect Hawai'i's wai for future generations.

HB2690, HD2 SD1 does this by expanding the Water Commission's decisionmaking authority and insulating such decisionmaking from the executive's political pressure. Creation of the Executive Director position, with procedures for regular review of the Executive Director's performance, will help extricate BLNR/DLNR from Water Commission proceedings while allowing the Commission to more meaningfully fulfill its constitutional and statutory responsibilities. During emergencies, experts in Hawai'i water management and Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices should be the ones making critical decisions regarding our wai - not those with deep pockets and skilled lobbyists.

Similarly, the Water Commission should have statutory authority to increase fines to up to \$25,000 per violation of the Water Code to reflect the significant government interest in protecting this public trust resource for all Hawai'i's people. In light of Hawai'i's history of water injustice, current fines of \$5,000 are not effective deterrents to those institutions and corporations that continue to profit from violating our Water Code.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committees to pass HB2690, HD2 SD1. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai,  
Chiemi Bryant

**Senate Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary**  
**Hearing: April 5 at 10:15 AM**  
**State Capitol Conference Room 211 and via Zoom**  
**Strong Support for HB2690: Relating to Water**

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Members of the Committee on Ways & Means and Judiciary,

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB2690, SD1**. My name is Elena Chang, and I am a third-year law student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law. I have had the privilege of working closely with the Maui Komohana community, as they navigated the water use permitting process and appeared countless times before the Water Commission to advocate for timely enforcement and implementation of our Water Code, HRS Chapter 174C. More than 70% of the available freshwater in Maui Komohana is controlled by corporations that illegally divert and hoard water with impunity. Unfortunately, we have seen how these politics have paralyzed the Water Commission as ke kahuwai pono.

I am writing to urge this committee to **pass HB2690, SD1**. This bill is key to protecting Hawai‘i’s public trust resources and restoring the public’s trust in the Water Commission, especially as communities across Hawai‘i continue to experience impacts of the climate crisis. While this bill responds to current water crises, it is not merely reactionary. This bill implements the original intent of the Water Code when this legislature first passed the Water Code 37 years ago. A Review Commission assembled by the legislature offered many similar recommendations in the early 1990s. Last year, the House passed two critical water bills with comparable language – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor vetoed. **These changes are needed now more than ever.**

These long overdue fixes to the Water Commission and Code have broad based support today, too, from communities across Hawai‘i. Last month, the House Committee on Water and Land received 255 pages of testimony in overwhelming support of SB3327, which similarly addressed these much needed changes. I want to mahalo that Committee for passing a further amended bill, and restoring critical provisions that provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address Water Code violations and emergencies likely to arise in the future. This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate crisis, and I hope to see similar support from your Committees today.

Your kōkua right now is critical. HB2690, SD1 is the last remaining bill with potential to enact positive changes to the way we manage our wai. **Please pass HB2690, SD1 today.** Mahalo nunui for your time and consideration.

Ola i ka wai!

Elena Chang

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

**Hearing: April 5, 2024 @ 10:15 AM**

**State Capitol Conference Room 211**

**Strong Support for HB2690, SD1:  
Relating to Water**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Committee Members!

My name is Kekai Keahi and I am a 9th generation Lahaina resident. Like so many others in our community, my ‘ohana and I have toiled for generations to protect and restore our water resources. From interim instream flow standards, to water management area designation, water use permits, and more. We know our wai. The question is: do you know wai?

I am testifying today in strong support of HB2690, SD1. Unfortunately, this bill is vital to both protect our public trust in Hawai‘i’s water resources and restore the public’s trust in the Water Commission. In the wake of the wildfires that ravaged our community, we watched as our legal protections needed their own protection from both the Water Commission’s Chair and the governor. Instead of focusing on our loved ones and rebuilding our homes, in the aftermath of the fires, we had to fly to O‘ahu to testify before the Water Commission to urge Dawn Chang to reinstate Deputy Director Kaleo Manuel, whom she had removed because West Maui Land Company didn’t like that Kaleo did his job and respected the law. And it doesn’t stop there. Those same interests have long ignored and continue to ignore the streamflow minimums that our community and the Water Commission worked so hard to establish. The bottom line is that HB2690, SD1 proposes amendments to free the Water Commission from politicking, while also providing specific tools to address violations of the Water Code and ensure that the Water Commission is able to address the water needs for temporary emergency housing in Maui Komohana so that folks can move off the beaches and into homes. This bill would help to resolve the scrap over water for temporary emergency housing in Lahaina, as well as issues around Red Hill, not to mention other emergencies that are likely to arise in the future – especially given the climate emergency.

At the start of this legislative session, we heard a lot about what would be done for Lahaina. I’m sorry to see that at this juncture, very few bills remain that would truly help our community. HB2690, SD1 is the only one that I am aware of that would make positive changes with respect to our wai and that also has broad based support from our Lahaina community.

We need action today. Please pass HB2690, SD1.

Ola i ka wai!  
Kekai Keahi

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 5:22:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kyle K Kajihiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Senate Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary**

**Hearing: April 5, 2024 10:15 AM**

**State Capitol Conference Room 211**

**Strong Support for HB2690, SD1: Relating to Water**

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

Thank you for hearing this important bill.

My name is Kyle Kajihiro. I live in Mō‘ili‘ili. I am an assistant professor of Ethnic Studies at UH Mānoa. I’m testifying today in strong support of HB2690, SD1.

I urge this legislature to **pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately**. We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai. This is true now more than ever as Hawai‘i is literally burning as a combined result of resource abuse and global climate change. There is not enough freshwater to sustain local families, whether that is on Maui, where large corporate diverters have drained Lahaina of its natural bounty, or O‘ahu, where the U.S. military’s negligence has compromised our drinking water supplies. Importantly, this bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis, including with temporary emergency housing for Maui’s fire survivors, Red Hill, and beyond.

I was closely involved in organizing for the closure of the Navy's leaking Red Hill fuel tanks. It was a preventable disaster. A more empowered Water Commission could have done more to pressure the Navy to shut down the tanks before people were poisoned.

HB2690, SD1 will provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address critical water issues in Lahaina, Red Hill, and emergencies likely to arise in the future. And while this amended bill responds to current water crises, it is not reactionary – in fact, a Review Commission assembled by the legislature offered many similar recommendations in the early 1990s. HB2690, SD1 implements the original intent of the Water Code when this legislature first passed the Water Code 37 years ago. These well-established ideas have broad-based support

today as well. The House actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. **We need these changes now more than ever.**

Today, the military and other large landed interests continue to exert outsized influence on our water policy to the detriment of our communities, our streams, and our ‘āina. The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB2690, SD1 have the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Hawai‘i needs this the most.

This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate emergency we are now living in. It will benefit communities across Hawai‘i, such as those on Maui who desperately need water for temporary emergency housing and those O‘ahu whose water supplies have been poisoned by Red Hill. **Please help us get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.**

Ola i ka wai!

Sincerely,

Kyle Kajihiro

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 5:55:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 6:00:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Taylor-Wolfe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Senate Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary**

**Hearing: April 5, 2024 10:15 AM**

**State Capitol Conference Room 211**

**Strong Support for HB2690, SD1: Relating to Water**

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Malia Taylor-Wolfe, and I live in Honolulu, Hawai‘i. I am a law student at William S. Richardson School of Law. I’m testifying today in **strong support** of HB2690, SD1.

We urge this legislature to pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately. We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai. This is true now more than ever as Hawai‘i is literally burning as a combined result of resource abuse and global climate change. There is not enough freshwater to sustain local families, whether that is on Maui, where large corporate diverters have drained Lahaina of its natural bounty, or O‘ahu, where the U.S. military’s negligence has compromised our drinking water supplies. Importantly, this bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis, including with temporary emergency housing for Maui’s fire survivors, Red Hill, and beyond.

HB2690, SD1 will provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address critical water issues in Lahaina, Red Hill, and emergencies likely to arise in the future. And while this amended bill responds to current water crises, it is not reactionary – in fact, a Review Commission assembled by the legislature offered many similar recommendations in the early

1990s. HB2690, SD1 implements the original intent of the Water Code when this legislature first passed the Water Code 37 years ago. These well-established ideas have broad-based support today as well. The House actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. We need these changes now more than ever.

Today, the military and other large landed interests continue to exert outsized influence on our water policy to the detriment of our communities, our streams, and our ‘āina. The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB2690, SD1 have the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Hawai‘i needs this the most.

This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate emergency we are now living in. It will benefit communities across Hawai‘i, such as those on Maui who desperately need water for temporary emergency housing and those O‘ahu whose water supplies have been poisoned by Red Hill. Please help us get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.

Ola i ka wai!

Malia Taylor-Wolfe

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 6:19:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leonard Nakoa III	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Mahalo

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:13:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stacey Alapai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately. We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:23:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara McGuire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support measure HB 2690 SD 1, on the basis that our water must not be privatized and commercialized. The current water mismanagement and redirection of water, negatively affects our local food sources through farming, and directly impacts what is now "drought" stricken land. Whereas the impacts of such, is unsustainable.. and moreover, undoubtedly the reason that the fire in Lahaina raged so severely.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:51:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Bilbo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

lana Bilbo

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:52:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dino Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Dino Rivera support this bill HB2690

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:54:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,  
Alexander McNicoll

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:54:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jana-Nicole Laborte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,*

*As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.*

*HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.*

*The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.*

*I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.*

*Ola i ka wai!*

*Mahalo,*

*Jana-Nicole K. Laborte*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:55:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julynn Ii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2690. After the August 8th fire in Lahaina it really goes to show that we need change in WHO makes the decisions for us and unfortunately it is NOT WHO is on the board as we speak! We need change, we need help, and we need WAI. Give us back our water to grow our crops to feed our keiki. It is time!

Mahalo Nui!

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:55:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie A	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Stephanie A

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:55:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lora Santiago	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill HB2690.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:55:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marisa Pangilinan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Marisa Pangilinan

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:56:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melanie Rickman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Melanie Rickman

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 7:59:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amanda Pascua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:03:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Give more power to the people.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:05:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimberley Harper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill HB2690

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:06:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamra Hayden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is not only important to Lahaina, because of the fire and the water problems that resulted. This bill is important to all residents of Hawai'i. For Too long politics and badly designed government have controlled water. Making it easy for developers and other individuals to steal and hide water. Things I have witnessed. Im the 36 years I have resided in Hawai'i have learned how Kanaka Maoli were able to manage water and share and provide it for all people.

That is what a new commission would be allowed to do. Select their own leaders, based on knowledge of the land and natural water ways. The higher penalties for people who break the rules would have more of a deterrent. For those reasons I completely support this bill with no reservations. I hope you will consider my testimony as you decide on the bills future.

Mahalo Nui Loa.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:07:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Richard Ho

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:07:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikaela Kuester	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Mikaela Kuester

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:09:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Breanne Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Breanne Fong

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:10:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support. Please pass.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:12:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maile Cote	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Ibdia "Maile" cote

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:15:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jacqueline Hudson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

I have been a permanent resident of Maui for 20 years now, and live 10 miles up from Lahaina. I am reaching out to express my full support for HB2690.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is extremely important, especially after the Lahaina disaster. It will give the Water Commission the power it needs to tackle serious water issues, keep our waters safe, and avoid political drama.

Plus, having the Office of Hawaiian Affairs on the Nominating Committee means Native Hawaiian voices get heard in the big decisions.

The Commission's main job has always been to look after our water for us and future generations. With everything going on in Lahaina and across Hawaii, HB2690 HD2 SD1 could really make a difference right when we need it the most.

Thanks so much for taking the time to listen to my thoughts on this.

Sincerely, Jacqueline Hudson

6 Kiohuohu Lane Unit 8

Lahaina, HI 96761

(808)269-0295

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:15:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blossom Jean FLORES	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Blossom Flores

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:16:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hi'ilani Makahanaloa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Hi'ilani Makahanaloa

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:19:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erika Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Erika Lee

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:20:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Thomas Brandt from Downtown Honolulu. I'm testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission.*

*Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner.*

*These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the ‘āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:20:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michaellyn Burke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

My name is Mikey Burke and I am a Lahaina fire survivor. As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Michaellyn Burke

Lahaina, Maui

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:20:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dasha Alvarado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes. Native Hawaiian perspectives should be present in these decisions concerning the 'aina they have centuries worth of knowledge about. At the same time, communities can be assured that native cultural understanding is not disregarded in policy decision-making.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina and all of Hawaii need it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii. This is a step towards sustainable living in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Dasha Alvarado

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:21:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kapali Keahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Kapali Keahi and I am from Lahaina, Maui. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kapali Keahi

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:25:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lionel Ortiz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo nui,

Lionel K. Ortiz

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:31:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aviva Libitsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Aviva Libitsky

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:35:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our water security is already at risk because of global heating. Add in the Navy’s criminal negligence at Red Hill, and it is clear we must do more to protect our precious wai from further harm. This measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the ‘āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility. It is critical we ensure that steps are taken for the full remediation of our lands and waters contaminated by the Navy’s Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

Please pass this important measure.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:39:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Lawless	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,  
Gina Lawless

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:41:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janice Toma Shiira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB2690 HD2SD1

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:42:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paisley Veilleux	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As an extremely concerned community member, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Paisley Veilleux

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:42:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
megan loomis powers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Megan Loomis Powers

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:48:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camille Barcoma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,  
Camille Barcoma

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:53:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Keala Fung and I am from Honolulu, Oahu. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

*Keala Fung*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:56:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dave Kisor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support [HB2690 HD2 SD1](#).

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:57:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jade Bystrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community and someone who was displaced by the 8/08 fires, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Jade Bystrom

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:57:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kris Batalona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,  
Kris

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 8:58:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Gelert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*My name is John Gelert and I am from Kihei. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:00:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrey Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Audrey Kaneshiro

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:01:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keila Paahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill as it allows to safeguard our water.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:01:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,  
Jamie Silva

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:03:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brenda O Watene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

My name is Oriana McCallum. I am a second-year law student at William S. Richardson School of Law. I am a single mother of three, a graduate of Kahuku High School, and continue to reside in Kahuku. Seeing the powers at play affecting the most valued trust resource in Hawai'i is both upsetting and devastating. This bill offers a solution to prevent powers that have ulterior motives and agendas from deciding who should get how much water and when. Water is the most protected resource under the public trust, and we can no longer put the public's health and welfare below the hidden agendas of those who have gained office through monetary ties. Separation of powers is crucial! Enough is enough! Stop the corruption! Protect our water resources! Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo Nui,

B. Oriana McCallum

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:05:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Carty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for HB2690 HD2 SD1 - Protection of Water Resources

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and esteemed committee members,

I am reaching out as a concerned member of our community to voice my fervent endorsement for HB2690 HD2 SD1. This legislation is vital for safeguarding our precious water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

Given the recent devastation in Lahaina, HB2690 HD2 SD1 holds significant importance. It grants the Water Commission the authority needed to address urgent water issues, thereby safeguarding our ‘wai’ and maintaining autonomy from political pressures. Furthermore, including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are integrated into decision-making processes.

The Water Commission’s core duty is to protect and manage our water resources for both current and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to breathe life into this mandate, particularly at this critical juncture in our history when Lahaina, and indeed all of Hawaii, is in dire need.

I implore you to lend your support to HB2690 HD2 SD1 and prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the Lahaina community, and all residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo. John Carty - West Maui

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:05:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jodi Robinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Jodi Robinson and I am from Kaua‘i but live in Downtown Honolulu. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission’s emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the ‘āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:07:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlena Kulukulualani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Charlena

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:11:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Connie Sue Miyaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill that is crucial to the future of Lahaina and West Maui.

Mahalo

Connie Miyaki

33 yr Lahaina resident

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:12:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelekona Maielua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Make righteous decisions!

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:13:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leila Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawai'i, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawai'i.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Leila Morrison

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:14:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lei K Ayat-Verdadero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

From: Lei Ayat-Verdadero

Re: HB2690 HD2 SD1

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguard Hawai'i resources and ensure accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in the decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawai'i, needs it the most.

In conclusion, I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of Hawai'i's water resources, the community of Lahaina, and everyone in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Lei Ayat-Verdadero,

OLA I KA WAI



**House Committee on Water and Land**  
**Hearing: March 12, 2024 @ 9:00 AM**  
**State Capitol Conference Room 430**  
**Strong Support for SB3327, SD1: Relating to the Water Commission**

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Lauren Palakiko and I am privileged to live in Kaua‘ula Valley on ‘āina kuleana. My husband is a kalo farmer and our entire ‘ohana has been deeply engaged in the battle over wai in Maui Komohana and Kaua‘ula Valley in particular. **Mahalo for this opportunity to testify today in strong support of SB3327, SD1.**

The events of the last six months have made it clear that politics is poisoning our water. Last August, when fires ripped through Maui Komohana and devoured Lahaina, the Governor’s first response was to suspend the Water Code, stripping away hard-won constitutional protections with the stroke of a pen. Then, the governor-appointed chair of BLNR removed CWRM’s deputy director without cause, leaving the Commission leaderless and impotent so that large private interests could tighten their grasp on our wai in Kaua‘ula in particular. Even after our ‘ohana and community stood up to get the Code reinstated and made our voices heard, CWRM has taken no action on our water use permit applications, meanwhile, the IIFS for Kaua‘ula Stream continues to be violated while other streams across Maui Komohana run dry.

When major landowners and private developers such as West Maui Land Company pick up the phone or send a letter, their demands are met overnight. Yet when our community and supporters from across ka pae ‘āina turn out in the hundreds to demand that CWRM fulfill its kuleana as ke kahuwai pono, the Commission drags its feet and refuses to act. This is hewa. **SB3327, SD1** provides this legislature with an opportunity to liberate CWRM from DLNR and to get the politics out of our water policy. Under this bill, CWRM’s Executive Director would be insulated from corruption and political pressure, and empowered to deliver on the Commission’s constitutional and statutory obligations to protect and manage our wai for the benefit of all Hawai‘i’s people.

For too long, private purveyors have been allowed to illegally divert and hoard water with impunity. There is no better example of this than in Maui Komohana where private companies continue to control over 75% of our water. Their boundless greed has depleted our streams and endangered public safety. A \$5,000 fine, the current maximum allowed under the Water Code, is nothing more than a slap on the wrist to developers like West Maui Land Company who have made millions by exploiting a public trust resource when those with priority rights, such as other kuleana stewards in Kaua‘ula, lack water for basic household needs such as bathing their babies. I myself have had to bathe my son in a bucket when our water was cut off. Importantly, many ‘āina kuleana in Kaua‘ula rely on the stream for our domestic water needs. Higher fines are what

is necessary to deter repeated violations. **SB3327, SD1** will improve compliance with the Water Code by enabling CWRM to impose meaningful fines and penalties, especially for repeat offenders.

The House actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. We need it now more than ever. It was supported by the House then, and it must also be supported now. Please kōkua!

The reality is that we are living in a climate crisis. Extreme weather events are becoming more frequent each year, and the perpetuation of plantation water politics is only making our communities more vulnerable to disasters. Our hurt is not over. We need proactive solutions and a Commission that is empowered to take timely action in times of emergency. We ask that this legislature **please vote today in support of SB3327, SD1**. We have waited too long already. We implore you to take this necessary stand to protect our wai and to support our community so that we can actually focus on recovery.

Mahalo and ola i ka wai!  
Lauren Palakiko

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:15:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ashlie McGuire	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to protect our waters and ensure accountability to our communities. After what happened last summer, this bill is crucial and desperately needed. I urge you to support this bill! Mahalo!

**House Committee on Water and Land**  
**Hearing: March 12, 2024 @ 9:00 AM**  
**State Capitol Conference Room 430**  
**Strong Support for SB3327, SD1: Relating to the Water Commission**

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

My name is Charlie Palakiko and I am a kalo farmer in Kaua'ula Valley. My 'ohana have been stewards of 'āina kuleana in Kaua'ula for generations, and we have worked tirelessly to restore wai and waiwai to this 'āina since the plantations shut down. In that time, I have experienced first hand how politics continue to influence our water policy at the expense of our community, our environment, and our wai. **Mahalo for this opportunity to testify today in strong support of SB3327, SD1.**

Our community in Maui Komohana fought hard to get the Lahaina Aquifer designated as a water management area because we believe in the Water Code. We also believed in the integrity of CWRM and in its ability to enforce the code in its role as ke kahuwai pono. But what we have experienced in the 18 months since designation is more of the same, profit-over-people approach to water management that we have been dealing with for years. Under the current system, with CWRM under DLNR control, us kalo farmers and true domestic users are at the bottom. We are the first ones to get our water shut off. We are the ones who have to constantly fight for our rights to water with the private diverters upstream. Our lo'i and streams run dry before their swimming pools ever do. And last summer, after the fires, we were the ones who got blamed. Not the plantations and land companies who dried out Lahaina by diverting water for the last 150 years, but us, the kalo farmers who have only ever advocated for the restoration of our wai and the health of our 'āina.

In the time when Maui Komohana most needed the State's support, the Governor and the DLNR sided with the diverters. They bought into the false narrative being pushed by West Maui Land Company that somehow consideration for downstream users and restrictions imposed by the Water Code resulted in insufficient water for fire suppression. Even worse, the media ran with the Governor's comments to paint the kanaka deputy director of CWRM and kalo farmers like me as criminals. The Governor suspended the Water Code and DLNR removed the CWRM deputy director without cause or explanation. And even after hundreds of our community put their recovery on pause to fly to O'ahu and advocate for our wai, all we got was a reset to the status quo. Still yet, nothing has been done to repair this harm. Our water use permit applications sit in limbo, the IIFS for Kaua'ula Stream continues to be violated, and I still worry if I will have enough water to wash my keiki, grow my kalo, and fight the next fire when it comes.

I support **SB3327, SD1** as a necessary measure to provide CWRM with the independence and authority needed to implement the Water Code as the legislature intended. An independent CWRM, under the direction of an Executive Director not beholden to DLNR, would be empowered to deliver on the Commission's constitutional and statutory obligations to protect and manage Hawai'i's wai for the benefit of the people. This bill would give CWRM a real means of enforcement against the true violators of the Water Code, the ones who take and then take more until there is nothing left.

The House actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. We need it now more than ever. It was supported by the House then, and it must also be supported now. Please kōkua!

Please **vote today in support of SB3327, SD1**. Take the politics out of our streams, out of our lo'i, and out of our water policy. Our community should no longer have to bear the burden of enforcing the Water Code. I ask that you give CWRM the tools it needs to protect our wai, and allow our community the space and peace of mind we need to heal.

Mahalo and ola i ka wai!

Charlie Palakiko

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:20:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert H. Pahia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support passage of HB2690

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:22:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kazuo Flores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Kazuo Flores

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:23:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Danae Marin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a Kānaka 'Ōiwi concerned member of the community-specifically Maui Nui, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to please support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Danae J. Marin

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:24:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keiko Gonzalez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Keiko Gonzalez and I am from He'eia, O'ahu. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:29:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Roberson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees, As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my very strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities. HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes. The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most. I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii. Ola i ka wai! Mahalo nui loa, Laurie Robertson

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:31:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Gabriel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a mental health professional and concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai! Water is life!

Mahalo,

Tanya Noelle Gabriel, LMHC, NCC

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:31:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lana Albright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha everyone, thank you for your time.

I'm writing in strong support of HB2690 HD2 SD1.

**FREE THE WATER!!**

Where is it? Who has it!?

We need native Hawaiian knowledge in the decision making process. The water should be independent from political influence to do right by the people/residents!!

Lahaina needs water! The people need water! Time to act now in a positive flowing motion forward with lots of water!!!

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would be a positive motion for all of Hawaii too.

Please **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, to prioritize our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Mahalo, Lana Albright

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:33:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainoa Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary

Hearing: April 5, 2024 at 10:15AM

State Capitol Conference Room 211

Strong Support for HB2690, SD1: Relating to Water

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Kainoa Wilson, and I live in Honokohau Valley, Maui, Hawai'i. I'm testifying today in strong support of HB2690, SD1.

We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai. This is true now more than ever as Hawai'i is literally burning as a combined result of resource abuse and global climate change. **What happened on August 8, 2023 on Maui, both in Upcountry Maui and Lahaina, as well as what is happening on O'ahu and Kaua'i should serve as a lesson and a wake up call to our government leaders, developers and business people of the need to be more diligent and mindful of the overuse of our natural resources.** There is not enough freshwater to sustain local families, whether that is on Maui, where large corporate diverters have drained Lahaina dry, or O'ahu, where the U.S. military's negligence has compromised our drinking water supplies. Importantly, this bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis, including with temporary emergency housing for Maui's fire survivors, Red Hill, and beyond. It will also provide the Water Commission with the ability to address critical water issues and emergencies likely to arise in the future with maximum flexibility. The House actually passed bills with similar language last year-HB153 and HB1088- that the Governor killed. Why? We need these changes now more than ever.

Today, the military and other large landed interests continue to exert outsized influence on our water policy to the detriment of our communities, our streams, and our 'āina. The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB2690, SD1 have the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Hawai'i needs this the most.

This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate emergency we are now living in. It will benefit communities across Hawai'i, such as those on Maui who desperately need water, not just for temporary emergency housing, but for future generations, and those on O'ahu whose water supplies have been poisoned by Red Hill. Please help us get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo!

Kainoa Wilson

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:38:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
dale chappell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Deva

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:38:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Clapper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support and urge this bill to be passed in order to avoid water shortages and disasters such as in the Lahaina wildfire where there was no water in our hydrants. The water should not be monopolized and controlled by development companies and corporations who put profit above the people who live in Hawaii.

We need to protect the water and set boundaries on its use, strictly enforcing those boundaries and being prepared for crisis in the future.  
Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Clapper

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:40:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ravi Bugga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo

Ravi Bugga

Lahaina

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:41:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Cory Harden and I am from Hilo. I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2690 HD2 SD1. Climate change will only get worse, causing water to become more scarce. But the Water Commission can be influenced by special interests since the Governor appoints its chair and legal counsel.

This bill would mean the Commission chooses its own chair, executive director, and legal counsel, and uses a performance review process, reducing the influence of special interests. This bill would also allow the Commission to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and levy meaningful fines for those who violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. This would give the Commission the authority it needs to protect our water.

This bill also establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator to protect and restore O'ahu's sole source aquifer.

Please protect our water from depletion and contamination by passing HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo, Cory

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:46:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bree Hyssop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned community member, I am writing to express my **strong SUPPORT for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial, considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina and all of Hawaii need it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1 and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina, and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Bree Hyssop

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:47:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:50:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chris McKeown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the committees

As an invested member of our community, I am reaching out to express my firm endorsement of HB2690 HD2 SD1, which plays a vital role in safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

Given the recent devastation in Lahaina, HB2690 HD2 SD1 is of utmost importance. It empowers the Water Commission to effectively tackle crucial water issues, safeguard our water sources, and maintain autonomy, free from political influences. Additionally, by granting the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee, it ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are included in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional duty has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring this mandate to fruition, especially at this critical juncture when Lahaina, and indeed all of Hawaii, is in dire need.

I implore you to lend your support to HB2690 HD2 SD1 and prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina, and all residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo nui,

Chris McKeown

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:52:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Kahaialii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Nathan Kahaiali'i

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 9:55:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelei Tancayo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Michelei Tancayo and I am from Lahaina Maui. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:04:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Ingan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Chris Ingan

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:07:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ann williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Ann Williams

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:09:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Bianca and I live in Kane'ohe. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:11:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ariel Gruenthal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Ariel Gruenthal-Rankin

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:16:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clint Kahahane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Clint Kahahane

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:24:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Chico	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Jacqueline Chico

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:30:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wendy Gibson-Viviani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Wendy Gibson-Viviani and I have been a resident of Oahu for 30 years. I support [HB2690](#) as it would:

- Establish the position of the Executive Director of the Commission.
- Allow Commission members to choose a chairperson
- Allow the Commission more autonomy and independence, free from political control.
- Allow CWRM to retain independent legal counsel.
- Amend the Commission's authority to declare water emergencies and issue orders to address them.
- Establish fines for Water Code violators and increase the maximum penalties from \$5,000 to \$25,000 per violation, and;
- Give the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) a seat on the Nominating Committee for members of the CWRM.

All of these are necessary to improve the CWRM's makeup, authority and their ability to respond during an emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Wendy Gibson-Viviani RN/BSN

Kailua

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:33:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynne wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Heard Green told guy on Maui to turn off the hydrants in Lahaina.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:35:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Taulia Tuua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this Bill so that the people and the place are being protected and the culture preserved by allowing a native Hawaiian to have a say in keeping the Cultural practices instilled.

Mahalo!

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:36:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Blichfeldt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Senate Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary**

**Hearing: April 5, 2024 10:15 AM**

**State Capitol Conference Room 211**

**Strong Support for HB2690, SD1: Relating to Water**

**Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,**

**My name is Sarah Blichfeldt, and I live in Maunaloa. I'm testifying today in strong support of HB2690, SD1.**

**I urge this legislature to pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately. We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai. This is true now more than ever as Hawai'i is burning as a result of resource abuse and global climate change. Researchers have already observed that Hawai'i is experiencing less frequent rain, and instead is experiencing more intense and spread out downpours. This is the outcome of Climate Change in our Islands, and this pattern is expected to intensify in the future. The issue with these weather patterns is that the land stays dry for a long amount of time, and then is flooded when the rain does come. All of this excess water causes erosion of soil and damages the plants instead of replenishing them. There is not enough freshwater to sustain local families, whether that is on Maui, where large corporate diverters have drained Lahaina of its natural bounty, or O'ahu, where the U.S. military's negligence has compromised our drinking water supplies. Many parts of our State are under drought conditions, but we continue to behave and use our water like nothing has changed. Importantly, this bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will**

**also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis, including with temporary emergency housing for Maui's fire survivors, Red Hill, and beyond.**

**HB2690, SD1 will provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address critical water issues in Lahaina, Red Hill, and emergencies likely to arise in the future. And while this amended bill responds to current water crises, it is not reactionary. A Review Commission assembled by the legislature in the 1990s offered many similar recommendations. HB2690, SD1 implements the original intent of the Water Code when this legislature first passed the Water Code 37 years ago. These well-established ideas have broad-based support today as well. The House passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. We need these changes now more than ever. Putting in these measures will also help the community rebuild trust in the government. As the preparedness and response to the Lahaina Fire were inadequate, our community's trust in the government is at an all time low. However, if we know that there is a Water Commission that is equipped to handle a crisis, it will give residents a greater sense of comfort that we will be prepared for future events.**

**Today, the military and other large landed interests continue to exert outsized influence on our water policy to the detriment of our communities, our streams, and our 'āina. The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB2690, SD1 have the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Hawai'i needs this the most.**

**This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate emergency we are now living in. It will benefit communities across Hawai'i, such as those on Maui who desperately need water for temporary emergency housing and those on O'ahu whose water supplies have been poisoned by Red Hill. Please help us get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.**

**Ola i ka wai!**

**Sarah Blichfeldt**



**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:39:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Coontz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Amber Coontz

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:42:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharde Freitas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Sharde Freitas. I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to **PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1**.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
April 3, 2024

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz  
Chair Rhoads  
Vice-Chair Moriwaki  
Vice-Chair Gabbard  
Members of the Committees: Ways and Means and Judiciary

**RE: HB2690\_HD2\_SD1, Relating to Water  
Hearing on Friday April 5, 2024  
IN STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690\_HD2\_SD1**

Aloha, Senators,

My name is Eileen Cain, and I have been a resident of Honolulu for nearly 50 years. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690\_HD2\_SD1, Relating to Water.**

Why do we need this bill? **Because the public trust is suffering.** How can we citizens trust a Water Commission that is vulnerable to political tampering and corporate machinations? We can't have faith in such a body. We are fed up with interference in the flow of water by greedy, grasping corporations who have been allowed to take and take and take our precious water for their selfish ends.

**Water in these islands is not a commodity**, and it must not be treated as a commodity. It is a precious resource that needs to be protected like any **public** trust. Private interests cannot be permitted to hoard it and siphon it off and keep it from the people of the 'āina.

**The Water Commission must have autonomy** to protect the citizenry from interference and undue influence by special interest groups which do not have the well-being and needs of the public at heart.

I urge the Committees to **PASS HB2690\_HD2\_SD1.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

*Eileen Cain*

Eileen Cain  
Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:47:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carie Lunsford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill, please pass this as the water is owned by A&B and they are the reason Hawaii was stolen

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:47:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei Tata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Lei and I am from Kahuku. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

*Lei Tata*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 10:57:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros

(808)866-7409

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:06:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cambria Moss	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please Vote YES, Ho'oponpono!

Mahalo for your service!

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:11:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Carter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Paul Carter

201 River RD., Wahe'e, Maui

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:21:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Shay Chan Hodges and I am from Haiku, Maui. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:24:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Freeman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

dylan freeman

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:28:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Makenzie Marzluff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Hello**

My name is Makenzie, I am a resident of Maui.

I am writing today in strong support of HB2690 and to stand with my Hawaiian relatives and friends in Lahaina.

It is absolutely essential that the voices of kanaka maoli and Lahaina natives are at the forefront of every single decision when it comes to the water on this island.

There is a water CRISES here due to misdirected political power and financial greed. We all know that the devastating tragedy of 8/8/23 is due to improper water distribution that goes against the natural law of the land. We all know that flying over Maui looks very different these days, and no one, no one, can deny that it's not looking good.

The corporations and individuals who have been extracting from Hawaii have no relationship with the aina, only a relationship with their bank accounts. They have absolutely no clue how the laws of nature work, and they don't care - because they are legally binded to putting the profits of their stockholders first. This is a moral conflict of interest that clearly has threatened the livelihood of the people of Hawaii. especially those of Lahaina.

It is long overdue for the original custodians of this land to be the primary leadership. Because they know how to care for it in a way that is harmonious and balanced, and therefore can ensure it is here, thriving, for many generations to come.

As of now, with the way we are going, life will quite literally not be able to be sustained.

Here in Hawaii, they say waiwai = wealthy. Meaning true wealth to them is determined by their ability to access water. Every tribe and civilization known to man, historically bases their location on what? On a water source. Why? Because they know that without water, there is no life.

But just like someone once said in the water committee meeting, the mo'o has smelled corruption. It's almost like these invisible people, or entities, pulling all the strings behind the scenes, don't want the natives to be wealthy, or empowered, let alone, housed on their own

homeland. We don't trust whoever these immoral decision makers are, because look where they've gotten us. So I assure you, one way or another, they will be overthrown.

There is a hawaiian legend that says there once was a mo'o, a feminine water dragon protecting the sacred site of moku'ula

But she, Kihawahine, is not there right now because her place has been defiled.

It is no longer the lush wetlands it once was.

So now, there is no one that knows how to restore this sanctuary for her, for the people and for your children's children's children, other than the natives to this place who have these stories, these laws, these traditions and this wisdom running through their blood.

It is time they return to their original throne.

I assure you we will stop at nothing to ensure the future generations get to thrive here in this beautiful place, and that they get to eat ulu from their own land here in Lahaina. So you have an opportunity to be a part of a legacy for Hawaii, a place you say you care so much about. The question is what action are you going to take, and what legacy are you going to leave?

Makenzie Marzluff

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:41:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shirie Shim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am expressing my strong support for **HB2690!!!**

**For years we've been fighting for our rights to our waters.**

**It is very simple....**

**SUPPORT & PRIORITIZE OUR WATER RESOURCES!**

***"OLA I KA WAI"***

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:55:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kahualani Aitken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Kahualani Aitken and I am from Kapa'au, Hawaii. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources.

Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner.

These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Kahualani Aitken

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:06:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Peter Wilson and I am from Pahoa. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:07:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Bo Breda and I am from Pahoa. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:08:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jade Alohalani Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities. Something we never had.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial due to the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our Wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo nui,

Jade Alohalani Smith

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:31:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arna Lahela Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Support for HB2690 HD2 SD1 - Safeguarding Water Resources

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and esteemed members of the committees,

I write to you as a concerned member of our community to express my strong endorsement for HB2690 HD2 SD1. This bill plays a crucial role in safeguarding our precious water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

In light of the recent devastation in Lahaina, HB2690 HD2 SD1 becomes even more imperative. It grants the Water Commission the necessary authority to address pressing water issues, protecting our wai (water) while maintaining autonomy and shielding against undue political influences. Moreover, including the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in the Nominating Committee guarantees representation of Native Hawaiian perspectives in crucial decision-making processes.

The constitutional mandate of the Commission has always been to safeguard and manage our water resources for current and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 presents an opportunity to actualize this mandate, especially during this critical juncture in our history when Lahaina and indeed all of Hawaii are in dire need.

I respectfully urge your support for HB2690 HD2 SD1 and prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the Lahaina community, and all residents of Hawaii.

Mahalo for your attention to this critical matter.

Warm regards,

Arna Johnson

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:32:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Alamodin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Rev. Robert ALAMODIN

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:33:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamakaawahilani Hoshino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo, Kamakaawahilani Hoshino

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:37:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Warech	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

I write today as a member of the community in **strong support** of HB2690 HD2 SD1.

I believe this is a necessary measure as the government **must** do everything in its power to safeguard our precious water resources and remain accountable to our communities.

In light of the recent devastating events in Lahaina, the significance of HB2690 HD2 SD1 cannot be overstated. This legislation empowers the Water Commission to address pressing water-related challenges effectively, ensuring the protection of our 'wai while maintaining autonomy free from undue political influences. Furthermore, the inclusion of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in the Nominating Committee guarantees the representation of Native Hawaiian perspectives in crucial decision-making processes.

Since its inception, the Commission has been entrusted with the constitutional mandate to preserve and manage our water resources for the benefit of current and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 holds the potential to breathe life into this mandate, particularly during this pivotal moment in Lahaina's history and for all of Hawaii.

After what happened with Lahaina and the reminder from Red Hill of what happens when you neglect our most precious resource. As stewards of Hawaii's future, it is imperative that you recognize and prioritize the profound importance of safeguarding this invaluable natural resource.

Water is the lifeblood of our communities, sustaining not only our bodies but also our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy. Without clean and abundant water, the very fabric of our society unravels. It is the foundation upon which our well-being and prosperity are built.

Furthermore, water is not an infinite resource. As climate change intensifies and populations grow, the strain on our water supply becomes increasingly evident. We face challenges such as droughts, pollution, and over-extraction, all of which threaten the availability and quality of our water.

I implore you to lend your support to HB2690 HD2 SD1 and prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the Lahaina community, and indeed all residents of Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Julie Warech

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:47:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Selina Higa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly urge the committee to support HB2690 HD2 SD1 bill. Aloha, Selina Higa

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 1:19:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arnold Kotler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Arnold Kotler and I am from Maui I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 1:45:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Andersen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo nunui,

Linda Andersen

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 1:51:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erik Meade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB2690.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 1:54:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Natia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Natia Ray Barber

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 2:22:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristina Bacchilega	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Cristina Bacchilega and I am from Kaimuki. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

***By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.***

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure will aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but **strongly** urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 2:29:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Manuel Hernandez Jr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,**

**As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.**

**HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.**

**The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.**

**I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.**

**Ola i ka wai!**

**Mahalo,**

**Manuel Hernandez Jr**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 2:54:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Gonzales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*My name is Nicole Gonzales and I am from Oceanview, Hawaii. I am writing to respectfully but strongly urge you to hold a hearing on [HB2690 HD2 SD1](#), Relating to Water, by Friday's Decking deadline. Water has been and will always be our most precious resource, and even more so in our ever-worsening climate crisis. We must therefore do everything we can to uphold the public trust in its protection, conservation, and fair allocation.*

*This measure may be one of the most important and historic pieces of legislation for the future water security and well-being of our islands. Please, help keep this bill alive and ensure its passage this legislative session, if not for our present generations, then for those that will follow us long after we are gone.*

*Mahalo nui for your consideration of this request.*

*Nicole Gonzales*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 3:26:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Egdamin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

In the aftermath of the Lahaina disaster, this bill empowers the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our water and remain independent from political influences. This will also give the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensuring that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in the decision making process.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history.

The Lahaina wildfires have proved that Hawaii is suffering from the lack of water that is being channeled for the wrong reasons. The water must be returned to the aina and the people that have the knowledge to bring back the ahupua'a, the lo'i, the farms. Hawaii must be more sustainable. We were people of sustainability.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources.

OLA I KA WAI!

Mahalo,

Susie Egdamin

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 4:00:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcel-Inez Iha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha kākou Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Marcel-Inez Iha and I am from Papakōlea, O‘ahu. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission’s emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the ‘āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo a nui for the opportunity to testify.*

*Marcel-Inez Iha*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 4:19:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tia Lee Klug-Wessell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Tia Lee Klug-Wessell

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 4:39:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Rodar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Dear Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*I am writing to express my STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

Thank you for your time regarding this important issue.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 4:53:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cherie Sequeria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 5:03:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Godinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,  
marissa

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 5:14:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Madison Owens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Madison Owens and I am from Southern California but currently live in Mō‘ili‘ili. I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 5:21:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Christine Davis

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 5:35:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tarsis Rich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1. This bill** is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial, considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our way, and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina and all of Hawaii need it most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1 with utmost urgency. This bill concerns not just our water resources but also the well-being of the Lahaina community and every individual in Hawaii. I implore you to prioritize this bill and its potential to positively impact our state.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Tarsis

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 5:36:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nani Dapitan-Haake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and esteemed committee members,

As a dedicated member of our community, I'm reaching out to voice my strong endorsement for HB2690 HD2 SD1. This legislation stands as a critical measure for the protection of our water resources and the assurance of community accountability.

The significance of HB2690 HD2 SD1 cannot be understated, especially in light of the recent calamities in Lahaina. By empowering the Water Commission, this bill would enable the proactive addressing of vital water issues, the safeguarding of our precious wai, and the preservation of its independence from political pressures. Moreover, the inclusion of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs in the Nominating Committee is a pivotal step in ensuring Native Hawaiian perspectives are integral to the decision-making framework.

Given the Commission's constitutional commitment to the stewardship and conservation of our water resources for both our current and future generations, HB2690 HD2 SD1 represents an unparalleled opportunity to enact meaningful and timely legislation in a period when Lahaina, and the entirety of Hawaii, requires it most ardently.

I appeal to your sense of duty towards protecting our water resources, the community of Lahaina, and all of Hawaii by supporting HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Ola i ka wai!

With gratitude,

Nani Dapitan-Haake

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 5:50:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alyssandra Rousseve	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Alyssandra Rousseve

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:03:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha- Please support HB2690 to prioritize our water resources and well being.

The water commission needs to be independant and free of other government departments and political influences. CWRM has to have the power to declare water emrgencies and issue orders to address them. Hence the importance for them to retain independant legal council.

To be pono, OHA should be part of the nominating committee for CWRM members. With the chair position established chosen by CWRM members.

Accountabilty for water code violations should be established with the max 5K fine raised to \$25,000 to show the serious nature of abuse.

Many Mahalos

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:04:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alana Rosario	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Alana Mae Rosario

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:09:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tanya Masukawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Free our water!

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:18:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Surace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community and Lahaina Resident displaced from the fire, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Deborah Surace

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:19:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kamahie Baricuatro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I as a native Hawaiian resident of Lahaina and survivor of the Lahaina Wildfires support HB2690.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:21:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Kaili	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

lexi

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:29:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ekini Lindsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

IN FULL SUPPORT OF HB2690 HD2 SD1!! LET US WORK TOGETHER IN BRIDGING A  
CONSENSUS TO THIS IMPORTANT AGENDA; ETHICALLY, MORALLY AND  
HUMANITARIANLY CORRECT!!

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:36:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikhil Khurana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Nikhil

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:37:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Chelsea

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:42:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Gannon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, and Chair Rhoads,*

My name is Joy Gannon and I am from Kahului and have been a resident of Hawaii for the past 18 years and have worked in the water industry in Hawaii throughout that timeframe. I am a licensed drinking water operator, have done training for the Hawaii Safe Drinking Water Branch staff, the Commission of Water Resources staff, the Public Utilities Commission staff, the Department of Hawaiian Homelands staff, and the Consumer Advocates office, and have worked with dozens Hawaii's water systems. I have been embarrassed and appalled by the political manipulation that has occurred with the Water Commission this past year. We can and we should do better.

*I am writing to respectfully but strongly urge you to hold a hearing on [HB2690 HD2 SD1](#), Relating to Water, by Friday's Decking deadline. Water has been and will always be our most precious resource, and even more so in our ever-worsening climate crisis. We must therefore do everything we can to uphold the public trust in its protection, conservation, and fair allocation.*

*This measure may be one of the most important and historic pieces of legislation for the future water security and well-being of our islands. Please, help keep this bill alive and ensure its passage this legislative session, if not for our present generations, then for those that will follow us long after we are gone.*

*Mahalo nui for your consideration of this request.*

*Joy Gannon*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:42:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Noelle Lindenmann  
Kailua-Kona

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:49:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Marrack	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Julia Marrack

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 6:58:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wailani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi,,

I really think HB2690 HD2 SD1 is super important for keeping our water safe. You know, after what happened in Lahaina, we really need to make sure our water stays clean and protected.

This new rule, HB2690 HD2 SD1, will help the Water Commission fix water problems fast and keep our 'wai' safe. It's like giving them superpowers to do good things for our water. And it's awesome because it stops politics from messing with our water too. Plus, it makes sure Native Hawaiian ideas are heard when they make decisions about water.

The Water Commission's job is to make sure our water is safe for us now and for kids in the future. HB2690 HD2 SD1 helps them do that better, especially when places like Lahaina really need it.

Please, can you support HB2690 HD2 SD1 too? Let's work together to keep our water safe for everyone in Hawaii.

Thanks a lot,

Wailani Carty

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:00:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB 2690 HD 2 SD1 and mahalo for putting this bill for hearing.

I support this bill because it will require the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allow it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. The important wording here is "layers of political insulation".

In addition, this bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis and situations like we have seen recently.

Extremely important to O`ahu and our water, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O`ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the `āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility. As we have seen the US Navy can not be trusted. Our water is already compromised and without it O`ahu can not survive.

Again, mahalo

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:20:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LorrieAnn Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Lorrie Ann Santos and I am from Kane'ohe. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:23:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel Bishop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Daniel Bishop. I am a native Hawaiian and a Kalo farmer from Kaalaea Oahu.

I am in Strong Support of HB2690

Mahalo

Daniel Bishop

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:24:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Athena Roebuck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwake, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the HB2690 HD2 SD1 bill.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code- and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continue to this day.

Among other things this bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis!

I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to **PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1!**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify!!

Sincerely,

Athena Roebuck and Family

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:31:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shalom Costa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do the Ruth thing for the people

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:32:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Medeiros-Criste	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,  
Mahealani Medeiros Criste

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:33:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Daniel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Allison Daniel

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:33:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eugene Elmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing this testimony in strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1 to protect our water resources and to provide accountability to the community.

Empowering the water commission to make decisions on water issues is crucial to the communities interests versus the interests of others.

Please support the people of Lahaina by supporting HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo,

Eugene Elmer

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:34:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Kristen Young  
Honolulu resident, 96813

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:43:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Patton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community and resident for 35 years, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Sara Patton

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:46:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gayle M Shufeldt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Gayle M Shufeldt

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:47:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Nakamura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Jessica



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Friday, April 5, 2024 at 10:15 a.m.

by

Vassilis L. Syrmos, Vice President for Research and Innovation  
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2690 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO WATER

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports HB 2690 HD2 SD1, which seeks to establish a Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative (Red Hill WAI) policy coordinator within the Commission on Water Resource Management under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and creates a Red Hill remediation special fund.

While the imminent threat of future leaks has been minimized through the defueling of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, years of clean up, monitoring, research and policy making will be needed for remediation of the aquifer and the surrounding ecosystem. This will require proper coordination between DLNR, the Department of Health, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, U.S. Navy, Environmental Protection Agency, UH, community organizations, and other state, federal and county agencies.

The Red Hill WAI coordinator is critical to this effort and the remediation special fund will enable this group to fund necessary efforts in monitoring, research, remediation, public outreach and education, and evaluation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:56:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
robin knox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a water scientist and concerned community member, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Robin S., Knox ,QEP

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:08:15 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aulani Dusenberry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Aulani Dusenberry

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:09:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrienne Chow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo

Adrienne Chow

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:16:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Balinbin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Eric Balinbin

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:18:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lucienne de Naie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support this bill. We need a water commission that can adapt with the times.

mahalo for giving this bills hearing

Lucienne De Naie

Huelo, Maui

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:19:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erin Drayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Thank you,  
Erin

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:20:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Mark Alexander	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Ways and Means and Judiciary Committees,

My name is Jason Mark Alexander, a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. I stand alongside the wisdom of *kia‘i wai* of Hawai‘i in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2690 HD2 SD1, needed immediately to mitigate the revebarating long-term damge of chemicals seeping into the aquifer of O'ahu and the withering exploitation of Hawai‘i's waterways.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious *wai* is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission’s emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the ‘āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:27:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marirai Tauotaha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a very concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. More transparency and more pono practices are desperately needed. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. The Commission has largely failed in this endeavor with the mere existence of "Gentlemen Estates" in West Maui that taunt the law and the people. This is hewa. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii. Ua ala e mākou.

Ola i ka wai! Koho pono.

Mahalo me ka ha'aha'a,

Marirai Tauotaha

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:31:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marjorie Masalta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Marjorie Masalta

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:34:07 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cassandra Fisher, M.A., CCC-SLP	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of this bill. I feel the water management in Hawaii needs increased oversight that is independent of systems that have repeatedly failed the citizens. As you are well aware, an island community has limited freshwater, and it needs to be protected with fair and objective standards that are enforced. Thank you.

**Senate Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary**  
**Hearing: April 5, 2024 10:15 AM**  
**State Capitol Conference Room 211**  
**Strong Support for HB2690, SD1: Relating to Water**

Aloha e Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Holly Doyle, and I live in Honolulu, 96821. I'm testifying today in **strong support of HB2690, SD1.**

I urge this legislature to **pass HB2690, SD1** and make it **effective immediately**. It is the **last remaining measure recognizing the decades-old problem of political interference** in the implementation of our Water Code. It is also the last remaining measure still alive before a legislature that promised to support Maui in its wildfire recovery.

Hawai'i needs a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai. This is true now more than ever as historic resource abuse and global climate change combine, making our communities even more vulnerable to catastrophic weather events and wildfire. Worst still, there is not enough freshwater to sustain local families, whether that is on Maui, where large corporate diverters have drained Lahaina of its natural bounty, or O'ahu, where the U.S. military's negligence has compromised our drinking water supplies. Importantly, this bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis, **including with temporary emergency housing for Maui's fire survivors**, Red Hill, and beyond.

HB2690, SD1 will provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address critical water issues in Lahaina, Red Hill, and emergencies likely to arise in the future. And while this amended bill responds to current water crises, it is not reactionary. A Review Commission assembled by the legislature offered many similar recommendations in the early 1990s. HB2690, SD1 implements the original intent of the Water Code when this legislature first passed the Water Code 37 years ago. These well-established ideas have broad-based support today because the issues identified by the Review Commission remain. The legislature knows this: the House actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. **We need these changes now more than ever.**

Today, the military and other large, landed interests continue to exert outsized influence on our water policy to the detriment of our communities, our streams, and our 'āina. The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB2690, SD1 have the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Hawai'i needs it the most.

This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate emergency we are now living in. It will benefit communities across Hawai‘i, such as those on Maui who desperately need water for temporary emergency housing and those O‘ahu whose water supplies have been poisoned by Red Hill. **Please help us get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.**

Ola i ka wai!

Holly Doyle  
96821

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Kathy Lomeli

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:43:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Brooks-Jeffiers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Zoë Brooks-Jeffiers

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:43:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Camacho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Kimberly Camacho, Lahaina Teacher

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:44:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cassandra habura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Cassandra

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:46:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Madison Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

PLEASE STAND UP FOR THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII.

Mahalo,

Madison Hall

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:52:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Winternitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Winternitz

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:52:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Velasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Catherine Velasquez

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:53:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elijah Kala McShane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Elijah Kalā McShane

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:53:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Allison Shiozaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Allison Nemenyi Shiozaki

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:54:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawaiuluhonua Scanlan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhods, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Kawai Scanlan and I am from Pālolo, O‘ahu. I am currently in my final semester at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa William S. Richardson School of Law. I am writing in strong **support of HB 2690, SD1** as it will take the politics out of our water by separating DLNR from the Commission on Water Resource Management (“CWRM”), and by holding legacy diverters accountable for mismanagement of our wai.

While at Richardson, I have decided to pursue a certificate in Native Hawaiian Law. Much of my coursework has been focused on traditional and customary practices, the public trust doctrine, and more recently water law in Hawai‘i. I have been lucky enough to work closely with the Maui Komohana community on water issues they faced, both before and since the fires. What the people of Lahaina have gone through, particularly in the last six months, is absolutely unacceptable. The political nonsense that this administration has dragged them through, while they needed time to focus on recovery, is cruel. If we have learned anything since the fires, it is that the organization of CWRM allows the Governor to manipulate the Commission to push his own political agenda. I urge this committee to **pass HB 2690, SD1** to put an end to the political games and actually kako‘o Lahaina.

I also support this bill for its establishment of a WAI policy coordinator, the OHA nominating committee seat, and the authorization of emergency powers, as these changes will have positive impacts throughout Hawai‘i. As we have seen in Kapūkakī and Lahaina, CWRM needs to have the ability to declare emergencies without first declaring a water shortage. The Commission needs to be able to act preemptively in declaring water emergencies and addressing the effects of climate change, and be able to react swiftly to unexpected disasters. Specific to the problems currently faced by Lahaina, this provision would allow CWRM to more quickly authorize water for temporary emergency housing.

The climate crisis is here and happening now. The problems we have faced in the last few years will only continue to escalate. We need your help to ensure that CWRM can uphold their constitutional duty to take care of our waters, without interference by a power-hungry, pro-development Governor. **Please support HB 2690, SD1** so CWRM can do its job as kahuwai pono.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Ola i ka wai!

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:55:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RODNEY MATHIAS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

~ Rodney Mathias

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:56:45 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi Chun	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Brandi Chun

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:57:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diopilo Hardison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Diopilo Hardison, and I live in Makiki. I'm testifying today in strong support of HB2690, SD1.

Please pass HB2690, SD1, and make it effective immediately. We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious way. This is true now more than ever as Hawai'i is literally burning as a combined result of resource abuse and global climate change. There is not enough freshwater to sustain local families, whether that is on Maui, where large corporate diverters have drained Lahaina dry, or O'ahu, where the U.S. military's negligence has compromised our drinking water supplies. Importantly, this bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis, including with temporary emergency housing for Maui's fire survivors, Red Hill, and beyond.

HB2690, SD1 will provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address critical water issues in Lahaina, Red Hill, and emergencies likely to arise in the future. And while this amended bill responds to current water crises, it is not reactionary – in fact, a Review Commission assembled by the legislature offered many similar recommendations in the early 1990s. HB2690, SD1 implements the original intent of the Water Code when this legislature first passed the Water Code 37 years ago. These well-established ideas have broad-based support today as well. The House actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. We need these changes now more than ever.

Today, the military and other large landed interests continue to exert outsized influence on our water policy to the detriment of our communities, our streams, and our 'āina. The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present

and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB2690, SD1 have the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Hawai'i needs this the most.

This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate emergency we are now living in. It will benefit communities across Hawai'i, such as those on Maui who desperately need water for temporary emergency housing and those on O'ahu whose water supplies have been poisoned by Red Hill. Please help us get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.

Ola i ka wai!

Diopilo Hardison

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:59:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kinsley McEachern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Kinsley McEachern

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:02:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgina Renee Mano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawai'i, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawai'i.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,  
Georgina R. Mano

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:06:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:08:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Riley Bond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and esteemed members of the committees,**

**As a dedicated member of our community, I am compelled to voice my support for HB2690 HD2 SD1. This bill stands as a vital measure in protecting our water resources and upholding accountability to our communities.**

**In the wake of the recent devastation in Lahaina, the necessity of HB2690 HD2 SD1 cannot be overstated. By empowering the Water Commission, this legislation ensures that critical water issues are effectively addressed, our wai is safeguarded, and autonomy from political influences is maintained.**

**I implore you to throw your full support behind HB2690 HD2 SD1 and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the resilient community of Lahaina, and indeed, all the people of Hawaii.**

**Mahalo,**

**Riley Bond**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:13:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Suzette Felicilda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1 and to prioritize the wellbeing of our water resources for the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

mahalo,

Suzette Felicilda

Kanaka Maoli o Lahaina

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:17:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jolie Wanger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Jolie Wanger and I am from Maunaloa, Oahu. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:19:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Regina Gregory	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strong support

**STATE OF HAWAI‘I**  
**KĀNE‘OHE BAY REGIONAL COUNCIL**

P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96809

**Senate Committee on Ways & Means, Senate Committee on Judiciary**  
**Hearing: April 5, 2024, at 10:15 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

The Kāne‘ohe Bay Regional Council (KBRC) submits this testimony in **strong support of HB 2690, SD 1**. The KBRC was established by the State Legislature in 1993 to, among other things, serve as the advocate for Kāne‘ohe Bay; advise the State and County regarding public policy and legislative matters impacting Kāne‘ohe Bay; and implement the goals and recommendations set forth in the Kāne‘ohe Bay Master Plan. Pono stewardship of our freshwater resources is critical to the health of Kāne‘ohe Bay and is in line with the objectives of the KBRC and the Kāne‘ohe Bay Master Plan to ensure the health and resiliency of the Bay.

The health of the Kāne‘ohe Bay watershed, including the pono management of streams and estuaries connected to the Bay and the restoration of fishponds, is critical to protect the Bay’s nearshore and coastal resources, restore fish populations in the Bay to former levels of abundance, and support local food production. KBRC members, community partners, and allies are actively engaged in the restoration of streams, wetlands, and estuaries surrounding Kāne‘ohe Bay and have identified the lack of consistent freshwater resources as a major impediment to their efforts. Freshwater resources will only grow scarcer as climate impacts worsen, and it is critical for the Water Commission to have the independence and administrative tools necessary to manage our precious water resources proactively and comprehensively. We need these changes now more than ever.

The KBRC strongly believes that HB 2690, SD 1 would strengthen the Water Code by ensuring the Water Commission’s independence and objectivity, and granting the Commission the administrative tools it needs to kahuwai pono according to its constitutional and statutory mandates. Increased fines for violations would also allow the Commission to deter the overuse of limited stream and groundwater resources more effectively, and the proposed emergency declaration language would give the Water Commission the ability to better respond to water crises. As such, the KBRC stands in strong support of HB 2690, SD 1, and requests that your committees pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,  
KBRC Legislative Committee  
on behalf of the *Kāne‘ohe Bay Regional Council*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:27:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Suzanne Conlon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Suzanne Conlon

**Senate Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary**  
**Hearing: April 5, 2024 at 10:15AM**  
**State Capitol Conference Room 211**  
**Strong Support for HB2690, SD1: Relating to Water**

Aloha mai e Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Denielle Pedro, and I live in Kalihi Valley, O‘ahu. I am a third-year law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law. I am testifying today in **strong support of HB2690, SD1.**

**Please pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately.** HB2690, SD1 is the only bill that will immediately address water needs this session. As we have seen from the Red Hill crisis and the devastating wildfires in Lahaina, we need these changes to the Water Code now more than ever. The Red Hill crisis only continues to develop—recent water sampling has revealed “forever chemicals” in the form of petroleum-based contaminants in our drinking water. And in Maui Komohana, plans to rebuild infrastructure will require efficient and responsible enforcement of the water code, after decades of gross mismanagement with lethal consequences.

HB2690, SD1 is a common-sense solution that would effectuate lessons learned from decades of water mismanagement. It would empower the Water Commission to fulfill its constitutional mandate to protect and manage water resources for present and future generations. By insulating CWRM from the whims of external politics and enforcing higher penalties, the Water Code can be enforced against powerful, wealthy water code violators, like the U.S. Military, and large landed interests.

The citizens of Hawaii witnessed with their very eyes, the corruptive influence of politics with the reassignment of former Deputy Director of CWRM, Kaleo Manuel. These same political whims also led to the veto of two widely supported bills last session –HB153 and HB1088—that would have empowered CWRM to enforce higher penalties and declare water emergencies, just months before the fires ravaged Lahaina. Like pollutants in water, politics cloud the State’s ability to see the public’s interest clearly. It is clear from the acute crises our State has endured in the last couple of years that *water* must be protected. HB2690, SD1 is the last opportunity to do so this session.

**Please help us get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.**

Ola i ka wai!

Denielle Pedro

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:33:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Diane Ware and I am from Ka'u. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:33:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nana-Honua Manuel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,**

*M. Kaleo Manuel, my nephew, was the longest serving & arguably the most effective Deputy Director of Water in the history of the Water Commission. I am intimately aware of the powerful corporate interests that may have ultimately led to his resignation as Deputy. It is my sincere hope that the passage of this bill will reduce corporate influence over management of a Public Trust resource, our wai.*

**As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.**

**HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.**

**The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.**

**I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.**

**Ola i ka wai!**

Nana-Honua Manuel

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Ways & Means and Judiciary Committees,

My name is Kaikea Nakachi from Moku 'o Keawe and I **strongly support** HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Traditionally, mahi'ai (Hawaiian farmers) held the kuleana (responsibility) of carefully guiding the flow of water through an ahupua'a (from the wao nahele, into and through the kahawai, po'owai, ho'i wai, muliwai, and out to the ko'a in the kai). I believe this bill will help the Water Commission to operate more efficiently and effectively. Just as the mahi'ai utilized various techniques and structures to guide water throughout an ahupua'a, so too must we insulate and provide tools and authorities to the Water Commission to fulfil its mission in a timely manner. By allowing the Commission to choose its own chair, appoint its own ED, and retain legal council, this bill will better equip the Commission to successfully manage our water resources.

The need for these improvements will only increase as injustices are allowed to persist, and climate change continues to make solutions even more difficult to implement. I respectfully and strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Ola i ka wai! Mahalo nui,

Kaikea Nakachi

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:42:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelsey Mapa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo, Kelsey M

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:43:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pamela Singlehurst-Kapisi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo, Pamela

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:45:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kalia Kapisi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo, Kalia

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:46:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jordan Kapisi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo, Jordan

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:51:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō‘ili‘ili, O‘ahu - 96826

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:55:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Walter Chun and I am from Oahu. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

- 1. requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a*

*meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

*Walter Chun*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:05:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ann Palacios	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALOHA ALL,

I AM IN SUPPORT OF HB2690.

MAHALO,

ANN PALACIOS

OAH'U HAWAII

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:06:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alisha Shanti Chauhan	Testifying for New Earth Flow & Sierra Club Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Alisha Shanti Chauhan and I am from Maui. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the ‘āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.  
Alisha Shanti Chauhan*

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:06:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brienna Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and I support good strong leadership from those who truly have the Hawaiian peoples' best interests at heart.

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:07:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Genesis Purdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,  
Genesis Purdy

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:09:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alli Toledo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Alli Toledo

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:12:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diana Tevaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a Hawaii resident born and raised in Hawaii and also a member of the Lahaina community displaced by the Maui Wildfire of August 2023, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is imperative to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in my hometown of Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political and corporate influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee to ensure that Native Hawaiian cultural perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our vital water resources for all of Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,  
Diana Tevaga

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:13:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephie Garrett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

Many in Hawai'i (myself included) have experienced first hand the devastation and loss of life that happens when water is diverted and not managed in the interest of the community.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai, and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

**The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations.** HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo nui loa,

Stephie Garrett

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:15:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michiko Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2690. I hope this will be a stepping stone to have county have more control of water. We can't have individuals building diversions and stealing water for their own interests. I support fines for anyone who decides to cross county law. We need to protect our resources to sustainably support our population of Maui.

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:16:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
malcolm mackey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is \_\_\_ and I am from \_\_\_. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

Mahalo nui

Malcolm Mackey

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:16:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kialoa Mossman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai esteemed members of the house,

I am writing to you in support of HB2690 HD2 SD1 as ammended. It is my position that waters (wai) of Hawaii need to be protected in perpetuity for the longevity of Hawaii and it's people. Hawaii is ancestrally tied to the waters that make up it's landscape and it is important we do everything in our power to make sure this unique resource is held in the highest regard. HB2690 HD2 SD1 is a one step in the right direction to finally allowing protection for Hawaii's waters.

Mahalo nui for your time.

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:18:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Derek Winslow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo nui,

Derek

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:18:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

thank you.My name is Glenn Choy, from Honolulu. I strongly support this bill.

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:19:09 AM  
Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kepuhi Purdy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Kepuhi Purdy

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:21:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keri Zacher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Keri Zacher and I am from Moloka. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*  
Aloha nui for the opportunity to testify, Keri Zacher

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:22:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vincent Keanu Revilla Castaneto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Vincent Keanu Revilla Castaneto

**LATE**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Tuyet Nguyen and I am from Honolulu. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



Tuyet Nguyen

Citizen of Hawaii

T: 808-955-6513

4/4/2024

Date

**LATE**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Marshall Hung and I am from Honolulu. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



Marshall Hung  
Citizen of Hawaii  
T: 808-955-6513

April 4, 2024  
Date

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:27:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melissa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,**

**As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.**

**HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.**

**The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.**

**I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.**

**Ola i ka wai!**

**Mahalo,**

**Melissa Awai**

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:38:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chloe Hartwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and honorable members of the committees,

Mahalo for this opportunity to express strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, a critical step to keeping our precious water resources safe.

This is critical particularly in light of the devastating fires in Lahaina and across the Islands. We must support the the Water Commission in effectively addressing critical water issues, protecting water, and remaining independent from political influences. Giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes, a critical step both in community accountability and in uplifting unique knowledge and perspective that is often overlooked.

There has never been a more pivotal point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs us to protect and manage our water resources.

Please support HB2690 HD2 SD1 for current and future generations.

Mahalo,  
Chloe Hartwell

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:38:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Cravalho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Sarah Cravalho

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:40:26 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sam Peck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Full Support

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:46:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katherine McClanahan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Katherine McClanahan and I am from Honolulu I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the ‘āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:54:28 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard and members of the Committees,

My name is Carolyn Eaton, and I am a resident of Honolulu. I applaud your scheduling this critical hearing, and I express strong support for the passage of this measure. The independence of water commission decision makers is extremely important to me.

Mahalo for your managing the logistics to schedule your joint hearing. Ola I ka wai!

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 11:04:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Deneen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Chair Rhoads,

My name is John Deneen and I am from Walnut Creek, CA 94598. I am writing to respectfully but strongly urge you to hold a hearing on HB2690 HD2 SD1, Relating to Water, by Friday's Decking deadline. Water has been and will always be our most precious resource, and even more so in our ever-worsening climate crisis. We must therefore do everything we can to uphold the public trust in its protection, conservation, and fair allocation.

This measure may be one of the most important and historic pieces of legislation for the future water security and well-being of our islands. Please, help keep this bill alive and ensure its passage this legislative session, if not for our present generations, then for those that will follow us long after we are gone.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this request for a Call to action regarding "Illness is Only tTeatable with Diagnosis" - Red Hill TPH and PFAS Contamination in Oahu Drinking Water and Marine Life (foods).

\* Mar 31, 2024 - Navy report on PFAS at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii comes up short Preliminary Assessment closes the door on future scrutiny at many sites. <https://tinyurl.com/37m9e6jy>

- Mar 18, 2024 - President Biden Issues Executive Order and Announces New Actions to Advance Women's Health Research and Innovation [https://lnkd.in/g\\_FRShG](https://lnkd.in/g_FRShG)

“Assess Unmet Needs to Support Women's Health Research.

The Executive Order directs the Office of Management and Budget and the Gender Policy Council to lead a robust effort to assess gaps in federal funding for women's health research and identify changes—whether statutory, regulatory, or budgetary—that are needed to maximally support the broad scope of women's health research across the federal government. Agencies will also be required to report annually on their

investments in women's health research, as well as progress towards their efforts to improve women's health.”

\* Bootstrapping the Flywheel Effect of conceptual mental models between Science and Society.

(N) NEEDS UNMET (A) APPROACH (B) BENEFITS/COSTS (C)COMPETITION or Alternatives:

\* 122 Years of Moore's Law. Steve Jurvetson, cofounder [www.Future.Ventures](http://www.Future.Ventures): It's surreal. Log scale details <https://tinyurl.com/wdwhhyew>

*"It is the combinatorial explosion of possible innovation-pairings that creates economic growth, and it's about to go into overdrive."*—**Steve Jurvetson, co-founder Future.Ventures**

You decide [N] Needs Unmet, (A) what you want, (B) what is true, and (C) what you should do to achieve (A) in light of (B) which requires a Cognitive AI Life Skill that can be taught to everyone.

MaryLouJepsen.com, MayoClinic.org, CoalitionforHealthAI.org (CHAI), and Mindcorp.ai

(A) APPROACH Task to Improve:

- (An investment that boosts (A) Capability provides a one-shot boost.)

\* **Mar 26, 2024 - NVIDIA's AI ambitions in medicine and health care are becoming clear** <https://tinyurl.com/3pdm52ct>

\* Cognitive and Generative AI Revolutionized: The ~\$100 “All-In-One” AI Smartwatch <https://tinyurl.com/y3bhgzxb>

(B) BENEFITS/COSTS: Task to Improve (A):

- (An investment that boosts the (B) Capability boosts the subsequent rate by which the (A) Capability increases.)

Welcome to [www.Openwater.Health](http://www.Openwater.Health): “The Silicon Hospital with Biophotonics and Ultrasound Wearables Revolutionizing Disease Diagnosis and Cure.”

\* **Jan 13, 2024 - [MaryLouJepsen.com](https://www.MaryLouJepsen.com): A Microscope Built from Flesh and Bones Could Revolutionize Healthcare and Brain-Machine Interfaces** <https://tinyurl.com/ym432vx6>

\* Mar 2, 2024 - MaryLouJepsen.com [www.Openwater.Health](http://www.Openwater.Health) update logic of open-source for medical device development and business [https://lnkd.in/g\\_JX\\_v8i](https://lnkd.in/g_JX_v8i)

\* This isn't just a dream: we are starting to revolutionize how we diagnose and treat a spectrum of diseases, from aggressive cancers to mental health disorders and debilitating strokes.

\* This step change is enabled by Moore's law. We are proving, at Openwater.Health, we can ride Moore's law to a better solution by modulating the waves of IR light and ultrasound to penetrate our bodies.

\* With this we see the waves in the wavelength of light, we can steer beams and we can create harmonics that enable us to selectively destroy cells like an opera singer can destroy a wine glass. <https://tinyurl.com/xrh4m8r8>

\* Clinical Trials Documentation <https://www.openwater.health/clinical>

\* Sharing Safety Data massively reduces regulatory approval costs and makes a safer product <https://www.openwater.health/safety>

\* Openwater Patent Pledge <https://www.openwater.health/patents>

"We are doing a new build of early access systems (\$100.00 ea.) for all. Make a reservation to assure your ability to get one in the next build! It's fully refundable and the amount will be deducted from the purchase price."—Mary Lou Jepsen  
<https://www.openwater.health/early-access-systems>

(C) COMPETITION Task to Improve (B) to Improve (A):

- *(An investment that boosts the (C) Capability boosts the rate at which the rate of improvement can increase.)*

\* Mar 2, 2024 - MaryLouJepsen.com [www.Openwater.Health](http://www.Openwater.Health) update logic of open-source for medical device development and business [https://lnkd.in/g\\_JX\\_v8i](https://lnkd.in/g_JX_v8i)

- \* Advancements in the fields of consumer electronics, semiconductor device physics, Cognitive and Generative AI are coming together to enable the treatment of deadly diseases- for all - transcending borders and income levels.

For instance:

\* Cognitive and Generative AI Revolutionized: The ~\$100 “All-In-One” AI Smartwatch <https://tinyurl.com/y3bhhzxb>

a) Dual probe 650nm Laser-assisted treatment of three high blood pressure, high blood sugar and high hypertension.

b) Independent accurate blood oxygen, body temperature, electrocardiogram, respiratory rate, blood pressure, heart rate, blood oxygen, AI medical diagnosis smart watch

c) Constructing high-end health monitoring Watch High-end Sensor Hardware+Firmware and APP Cloud Algorithm

- \* Dual probe 650nm Laser-assisted treatment of three a) high blood pressure, b) high blood sugar and c) high hypertension.
- \* Independent accurate blood oxygen, body temperature, electrocardiogram, respiratory rate, blood pressure, heart rate, blood oxygen, AI medical diagnosis smart watch
- \* Constructing high-end health monitoring Watch High-end Sensor Hardware+Firmware and APP Cloud Algorithm.

**Thsnk you.**

**Stay health abd vibrant,**

**--John Deneen (650) 575-6169 mobile**

Extraordinary Innovations LLC founded by John Deneen is forming Partners with a leading vision of the future; are a unique and valuable network of experts and practitioners supporting that vision; and, a seasoned team of investment professionals capable of executing investments around that vision.

\* NVIDIA announced the availability of 25 new cloud-agnostic microservices to help healthcare developers make use of generative AI in their applications.

\* Mar 13, 2024 - CoalitionforHealthAI.org (CHAI) Announces Founding Partners CHAI also announces a collaborative partnership with the National Academy of Medicine <https://www.coalitionforhealthai.org/updates/march-13th-2024>

**More info: Watch Video Presentation (1:35 hrs.)**  
<https://youtu.be/D8TxN5xKKpY?si=wMLvgj3ce8rweM9g>



**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 11:10:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Matenoa Taufu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Matenoa Taufu

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 11:19:49 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Takeno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Laurie Takeno, and I live in Kalihi. On behalf of my ‘ohana and communities, I’m testifying today in strong support of HB2690, SD1.

We urge this legislature to pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately. We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai. This is true now more than ever as Hawai‘i is literally burning as a combined result of resource abuse and global climate change. There is not enough freshwater to sustain local families, whether that is on Maui, where large corporate diverters have drained Lahaina of its natural bounty, or O‘ahu, where the U.S. military’s negligence has compromised our drinking water supplies. Importantly, this bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis, including with temporary emergency housing for Maui’s fire survivors, Red Hill, and beyond.

HB2690, SD1 will provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address critical water issues in Lahaina, Red Hill, and emergencies likely to arise in the future. And while this amended bill responds to current water crises, it is not reactionary – in fact, a Review Commission assembled by the legislature offered many similar recommendations in the early 1990s. HB2690, SD1 implements the original intent of the Water Code when this legislature first passed the Water Code 37 years ago. These well-established ideas have broad-based support today as well. The House actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. We need these changes now more than ever.

Today, the military and other large landed interests continue to exert outsized influence on our water policy to the detriment of our communities, our streams, and our ‘āina. The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for the benefit

of present and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB2690, SD1 have the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Hawai'i needs this the most.

This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate emergency we are now living in. It will benefit communities across Hawai'i, such as those on Maui who desperately need water for temporary emergency housing and those O'ahu whose water supplies have been poisoned by Red Hill. Please help us get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.

Ola i ka wai!

Laurie Takeno

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 11:20:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joel Burgess	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

I am writing today as a resident of Senate District 13 in strong support of HB2690, SD1.

I urge this legislature to **pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately**. The state needs a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious water resources. This is true now more than ever as Hawai'i is experiencing a combined result of resource abuse and global climate change. There is not enough freshwater to sustain local families, whether that is on Maui, where large corporate diverters have drained Lahaina of its natural bounty, or O'ahu, where the U.S. military's negligence has compromised supplies of safe drinking water. This bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis, including with temporary emergency housing for Maui fire survivors, Red Hill, and beyond. HB2690, SD1 will provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address critical water issues in Lahaina, Red Hill, and emergencies which may arise in the future.

HB2690, SD1 implements the original intent of the Water Code when this legislature first passed the Water Code 37 years ago. These well-established ideas have broad-based support today as well. The Legislature passed bills with similar language last year - HB153 and HB1088 - but these

bills were vetoed by the governor. Thus, there is still a dire need for this Legislature to pass laws to effectively manage the state's water.

Today, the military and other corporate interests continue to exert outsized influence on the state's water policy to the detriment of local communities. The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB2690, SD1 have the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Hawai'i needs this the most.

This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate emergency we are now living in. It will benefit communities across Hawai'i, such as those on Maui who desperately need water for temporary emergency housing and those on O'ahu whose water supplies have been poisoned by Red Hill. **Please help get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Very respectfully,

Joel Burgess, Esq.

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 11:32:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

Mahalo, Bobbie Best, Wailuku

**LATE**

Committee on Ways and Means  
Committee on Judiciary  
Re: HB2690 HD2 SD1 in Strong Support  
April 5, 2024; 10:15am Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Mai Hall, and I am from Kalihi and now live in 'Aliapa`akai. I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As a Native Hawaiian and military family who has been directly impacted by the Red Hill water crisis of 2021, I know firsthand how our precious our wai is. We cannot live without fresh, clean water.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis. Including Native Hawaiian voices is also paramount to having representation on this issue.

We need your kōkua to pass measures which restore order and justice in our islands. We cannot do this without you. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:03:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chase Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Chase Neal

**LATE**

## Support of Bill HD2690 HD2 SD1

To Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and the members of the committees,

I am writing as a concerned member of the Maui community to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, a critical bill that would not only benefit Red Hill initiatives but also benefit our entire state. Reflecting on the devastating insights of the past decade and the recent devastations in Lahaina, it is paramount to uphold accountability and protect our wai, our people and our future.

This legislation marks a significant stride toward safeguarding the independence and autonomy of the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM), imperative for effective water stewardship amidst recent adversities. Particularly, the proposed HB2690 HD2 SD1, with its separation of the CWRM Chair from the Board of Land and Natural Resources (BLNR), addresses concerns of undue influence, fostering a more impartial decision-making process.

The aftermath of the harrowing fires on August 8, 2023, served as a stark example of the disadvantages of centralized decision-making and the unjust political interference we all witnessed unfold. Extending greater autonomy to the CWRM will mitigate conflicts of interest and facilitate more community-driven resolutions.

The recent wildfire in Lahaina underscored the necessity to address years of mismanagement. Our once-abundant natural water resources have been diverted, leaving Lahaina parched and fire-vulnerable. This bill is indispensable, furnishing the autonomy necessary for the Commission to uphold its constitutional mandate to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations.

In conclusion, I urge the legislature to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1** recognizing its pivotal role in establishing a more independent Water Commission that can address the ongoing concerns, and hopefully protect our natural resources and our community.

Mahalo

Ola i ka wai!

Sincerely,

Katie Austin

**LATE**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Charis Wahineho`okae

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 12:59:02 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Louise Palmer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Louise Palmer

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 1:29:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
William H. Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

William H. Chang

Hana, HI 96713

April 4, 2024

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo

William H. Chang

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 1:39:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Harter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Nancy Harter and I am from Lahaina wnr. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 1:48:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alba Bermudez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo

Alba Bermudez

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 2:09:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hilary Oleta Lang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,**

**As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.**

**HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.**

**The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.**

**I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.**

**Ola i ka wai!**

**Mahalo,**

**Hilary Lang**

**Maui Resident and regular volunteer to help feed Lahaina since the fire.**

**#Paellas4Lahaina**

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 2:48:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yukiko Manuel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lāhainā. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lāhainā and everyone in Hawai'i.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo a me ke aloha,

Yukiko Lun Kiu Ku'uipo Manuel

**VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY**

**LATE**

April 5, 2024

Senate Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary  
Hearing: April 5, 2024 at 10:15 AM  
State Capitol Conference Room 211 and via Zoom

**Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HB2690, SD1: Relating to the Commission on Water Resource Management**

Aloha mai e Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, a me nā Members o ka Senate Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary,

My name is Kanoelani Steward and I am a kupa of Lahaina. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2690, SD1. I am committed to the future of this ‘āina and its resources and have appeared before the Commission on Water Resource Management for a number of years advocating for pono water management in Maui Komohana.

My master’s thesis focused on wai in Maui Komohana, uplifting its place within the history of water in Hawai‘i and the sugar plantation era in particular. I outlined historical accounts from nūpepa that detailed Maui Komohana as an abundant ‘āina momona as well as results suffered from the plantation era that continue to affect water use and distribution today. Because of that research, I am keenly aware of the consequences of these plantation systems and the dire need to restructure the Water Commission to make much-needed progress – especially in the wake of these fires. I strongly urge you to pass HB2690, SD1 out of your committees today.

Alongside various community groups, we have appeared before the Water Commission to restore water to ‘āina and streams for the past few years. While we are grateful for the progress we have made over the years in partnership with the Water Commission, it has also been discouraging to witness private companies’ flagrant disregard of the Commission’s orders. In addition to restoring our traditional and customary practices, we are also faced with having to monitor and ensure compliance. This bill would be a step in the right direction and hold these companies accountable through increased maximum fines and penalties.

Finally, in the wake of the fires, our community spent so much time and energy asking for transparency and for the Commission to uphold pono. We watched them battle one another and unnamed forces. In a time when we should have been focusing on our families and town, it was exhausting. And, there’s no guarantee that it won’t happen again. The Commission needs to be able to do its job independently of any political chaos or powers that arise. The Water

Commission, with kuleana over our most precious resources, *needs* to be independent to prioritize wai.

This bill has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Lahaina needs this the most. This bill would allow the Commission to focus on fulfilling its constitutional and statutory purposes.

The Legislature actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. We need it now more than ever. It was supported by the Legislature then, and we hope that it will also be supported by your committees now. Please kōkua!

I ask that you please pass HB2690, SD1 today.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Kanoelani Steward

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 3:31:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felili Mendoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii. May God fill you all with lots of wisdom, love, and patience to lead and protect our people of Lahaina! God bless you all!

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Felili Pousima Mendoza

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 3:39:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
De Andre Makakoa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and the esteemed members of these committees,

In the spirit of deep concern and unwavering commitment to our 'āina and its future, I stand before you to advocate fiercely for HB2690 HD2 SD1. This legislation is not merely a policy change; it is a vital safeguard for our precious wai, a testament to our responsibility towards our communities, and a step towards rectifying the injustices that have long plagued our lands.

The urgency of this bill cannot be overstated in light of the recent calamities that have befallen Lahaina. Such events tear at the very fabric of our community, laying bare the vulnerabilities that come from neglect and a lack of proactive guardianship over our natural resources. HB2690 HD2 SD1 proposes to empower the Water Commission with the authority needed to confront these pressing water issues head-on—shielding our wai from exploitation and ensuring it remains untouched by the pervasive reach of political agendas.

Furthermore, by integrating the Office of Hawaiian Affairs into the Nominating Committee, this bill acknowledges the indispensable insights and stewardship of Native Hawaiians in water resource management. It is a recognition of our inherent rights and a step towards elevating our voices in the conversations that shape the destiny of our water and, by extension, our people.

The mission of the Water Commission, as enshrined in our constitution, is to vigilantly protect and judiciously manage our water resources for the benefit of both present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 breathes life into this mandate at a time when our islands are at a crossroads, facing challenges that demand bold actions and an unwavering commitment to justice and sustainability.

I implore you, with the weight of our ancestors' wisdom and the hopes of generations yet to come, to lend your support to HB2690 HD2 SD1. May we honor their legacy by ensuring the vitality of our water, the health of our communities in Lahaina, and the collective well-being of all who call Hawaii home.

Ola i ka wai! For water is life, and in its protection, we affirm our devotion to life itself.

Mahalo nui,

De Andre Makakoa

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 3:47:48 PM  
Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam Tramonte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Sam Tramonte

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 3:52:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janice Palma-Glennie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha,

i strongly support HB2690 HD2 SD1.

please support this bill as a way to help avert some of the disasters facing our planet due to the climate crisis and also to follow the mandate of our consitution to protect our Public Trust Resources.

i agree with Sierra Club testimony as i read it including the purpose and logic.

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 4:22:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Lei Fisher and I am from Central Oahu. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 4:44:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicki Tedesco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Hello,**

**I am in strong support of HB2690 HD2 SD 1 to safeguard our water and allowing for accountability to our community.**

**please give it a yes vote**

**mahalo,**

**Nicki Tedesco**

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 5:15:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Inda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Jenn Inda

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 5:42:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seanne Igne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,  
Ka Ohana Igne

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:13:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau'i

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 7:25:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
emily gambino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Emily Gambino and I am from Makawao, zip 96768. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

Emily Gambino

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 8:23:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Greg Puppione and I am from Honolulu. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:05:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jaime	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Water is life. E ola i ka wai. Water in Hawai‘i is paramount to our survival as a people, as a culture, and as an identity. Our kūpuna knew the importance of taking care of wai as kin. It is something that sustains life all over our islands, all over our world. I am in strong support of putting the care of our wai in the hands of an entity like the CWRM because they are in support of our people and our land/water.

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:20:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paleka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of bill HB2690

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:21:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amy Parsons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing this evening in support of the HB2690 HD2 SD1. There is nothing more important to the survival of all living things than water. Here in the middle is the sea, it's crucial that we protect our fresh water resources.

It is of utmost importance that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and WaterCode - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Please PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo,

Amy Parsons

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:32:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenna Reed	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Kenna

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:33:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenna Reed	Testifying for Help Maui Rise	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

The Help Maui Rise Team

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 9:45:13 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,  
Nalani Abellanida

**LATE**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Rosie 'Anolani Alegado and I am from 'Āhuimanu Kahalu'u in the moku of Ko'olaupoko, O'ahu. I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to **PASS** HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 10:50:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

Kimeona Kane of Waimānalo, standing in STRONG support of HB2690 HD2 SD1.

The environmental indicators at present are pointing at a pathway that will be extremely destructive and as we have already seen, can pose danger to human life. We truly are in a climate and environmental crisis, and Hawai‘i as we know it, is in jeopardy of significant losses. The public resource that is water, wai, is one that demands the highest levels of oversight and protections. The processes that must be in place to protect it, will lend its protection to the rest of us, all of whom are so critically dependent on it. The foolish greed and unauthorized private take of wai poses a continual threat to the public trust and safety, not to mention the very integrity of Hawai‘i and its native culture. We must allow the Water Commission the opportunity to fulfill its kuleana to implement the water code and uphold the public trust, so greatly needed. Government appointments, while respectful of individuals backgrounds, continue to pose challenges to the integrity of the process. Separation from such process is a necessary step forward to reassure the public that we are making the best decisions possible. This bill gives Hawai‘i a fighting chance to manage resources better, develop communities with integrity and ensure that Hawai‘i will thrive into the next seven generations. There are tremendous opportunities that this bill offers including the establishment of a Wai Policy Coordinator, provide the Commission with the authority to issue emergency orders, and hold folks who violate public trust by ways of the Water Code or Emergency Orders, select its own Chair, Executive Director and legal counsel, ensuring that it operates with clear intention that is focused on the public interests and well being. It is with these understandings, that I strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1, and help propel Hawai‘i into a future we can be proud of.

Mahalo nui,  
Kimeona Kane

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 11:02:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jendale Kahuanui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Support the division of the water commission & dlwr because for far too long they playing favor & dirty politics. It's time to get the REAL best interest of the land, its people & the water back to its rightful places & not into the hands of the corrupt & greedy land owner thieves. Do the right thing!!!

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 11:49:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cherisse Salmo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,  
Cherisse Salmo

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2024 11:49:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lela Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Lela Kalama and I am from Keaau, HI. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 12:20:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ashley Ancheta Galacgac	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Ashley Galacgac, and I live in Pālolo, O‘ahu. I’m in strong support of HB2690, SD1.

We urge this legislature to pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately. The health of the people lay in the care of the land and waters to sustain life.

We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai. This is true now more than ever as Hawai‘i is literally burning as a combined result of resource exploitation and global climate change. There is not enough freshwater to sustain local families, whether that is on Maui, where large corporate diverters have drained Lahaina of its natural bounty, or O‘ahu, where the U.S. military’s negligence has compromised our drinking water supplies. Importantly, this bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis, including with temporary emergency housing for Maui’s fire survivors, Red Hill, and beyond.

HB2690, SD1 will provide the Water Commission with maximum flexibility to address critical water issues in Lahaina, Red Hill, and emergencies likely to arise in the future. And while this amended bill responds to current water crises, it is not reactionary – in fact, a Review Commission assembled by the legislature offered many similar recommendations in the early 1990s. HB2690, SD1 implements the original intent of the Water Code when this legislature first passed the Water Code 37 years ago. These well-established ideas have broad-based support today as well. The House actually passed bills with similar language last year – HB153 and HB1088 – that the governor killed. We need these changes now more than ever.

Today, the military and other large landed interests continue to exert outsized influence on our water policy to the detriment of our communities, our streams, and our ‘āina. The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for the benefit of present and future generations. The amendments proposed in HB2690, SD1 have the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history and when Hawai‘i needs this the most.

This bill is a necessary step towards evolving our government to meet the demands of the climate emergency we are now living in. It will benefit communities across Hawai‘i, such as those on Maui who desperately need water for temporary emergency housing and those O‘ahu whose

water supplies have been poisoned by Red Hill. Please help us get our water management back on track and pass HB2690, SD1 today.

Ola i ka wai!

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 6:58:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mealaaloha Bishop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Nā Alaka‘i o ka ‘Ahahui o Hawai‘i

Senate Committees on Ways & Means and Judiciary

or HB2690, SD1: Relating to Water

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz, Moriwaki, Rhoads, Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Mealaaloha Bishop, and I live in Ka‘alaea, Ko‘olaupoko, O‘ahu. I am writing testimony today in strong support of HB2690 SD1.

Critical Water Crisis

We urge this legislature to pass HB2690, SD1 and make it effective immediately. We need a Water Commission that is empowered to take proactive steps to manage our precious wai. Major change and decision making is closer to being the people’s choice more than ever and we need to continue the momentum. By the commission to truly be our voice.

All along the coastlines and up to the mountains stewardship was once an integral part of the Hawaiian community. Once abolished investors and opportunists became the norm. Corruption is always an opportunity undercurrent where originally were good intentions.

Communities once again are taking back the kuleana to malama the lands and resources that are in trust for the people. We are now creating critical mass and are establishing the trend of 'huli' where the people's heart is the word. We are stewards in a lei of change because our worth lies in our histories. Our stories are intertwined with the love and care for these wahi pana.

The right to fresh water

Through the State Water-code, protection was established for traditional and customary Hawaiian rights, the protection and procreation of fish and wildlife, the maintenance of proper ecological balance and scenic beauty, and the preservation and enhancement of waters of the State for municipal uses, public recreation, public water supply, agriculture, and navigation.

Ola i ka wai

How many more recommendations, strategic plans, commissions and public hearings are going to be ignored? The U.S. military's negligence has compromised our drinking water supplies. Importantly, this bill will help the Commission hold violators accountable. It will also allow the Commission to be more responsive in times of crisis. This can start today with the passing of this bill.

Ka Wai Ono....meala bishop

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 7:34:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ashley Cho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,**

**As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.**

**HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.**

**The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.**

**I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.**

**Ola i ka wai!**

**Mahalo,**

**Ashley KV Cho**

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 7:46:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary,

My name is Jackie Keefe and I am a resident of Lahaina.

I am writing **in strong support of HB2690 HD2 SD1.**

I have learned so much about the wai issues that we have on Maui since the August 2023 wildfires, and understand that *it is vital to our wai that it be managed as a public trust resource!* This is mandated in our State Constitution and Water Code, but we have witnessed relentless political pressures that prevent that from occurring and must take steps to correct this.

The Governor currently holds all power in selecting the Chairperson and Attorney General, and this raises concerns about politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees. We have a legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste, especially on Maui, and this sort of influence has negatively impacted *both kinds of* public trust consistently. We listened as the Governor baited the media over the decades-long water fights in Lahaina in the early days after the fire, then Kaleo Manuel was removed from his position over lies peddled by the exact type of powerful influencers that I just mentioned.

The Commission being able to choose its own Chair, Executive Director, and legal counsel will provide important layers of political insulation to empower them to do their jobs. I still play on repeat in my head the almost laughing exasperation of the scientists who were presenting at the CWRM meeting on Maui this fall when they were continually repeating "there's just no water."

But since the August 2023 wildfires, the water has returned in many of the places that it is been dry for decades. Multiple pumps that the community has been fighting to have condemned burned in the fire, allowing some of Lahaina's natural streamflows to return. **We must allow CWRM the autonomy to operate as a non-political entity to protect our wai - our most valuable resource!** They cannot properly do their jobs if they fear political retribution.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, our water resources are uniquely at risk. There are many local organizations on Maui that have been working to restore the 'aina in order to save the kai, but to truly do this we must protect our wai at all costs. Private entities control over 75% of west Maui's water, and they are rarely held accountable for their monopolization of our

resources. Our wai was never meant to be diverted and used for gentlemen estates' manicured lawns, decorative trees, and large swimming pools. Our wai is meant to run its natural path, sustaining life from mauka to makai. If CWRM is unable to manage our most valuable resource without the consideration of political motives, we can never bring life back into the 'aina. Water is not political. Water is essential. Water is life. Ola i ka wai.

This bill also allows for the timely authorization of emergency orders, impose fines on those who would violate those orders, aids in the protection of O'ahu's sole aquifer, and facilitates the remediation of the 'aina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I ask that you **please pass HB2690 HD2 SD1.**

Jackie Keefe

State Senate Candidate

Hawai'i District 6

Jack

Hö

[jackieforhawaii.org](http://jackieforhawaii.org)

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 8:08:04 AM  
Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cody Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,**

**As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.**

**HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.**

**The Commission’s constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.**

**I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.**

**Ola i ka wai!**

**Mahalo nui,**

**Cody Roberts**

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 8:14:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bennett Kalawaia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,

As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my **strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1**, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.

HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.

The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.

I urge you to **support HB2690 HD2 SD1**, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.

Ola i ka wai!

Mahalo,

Bennett K Kalawaia

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 8:22:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gretchen Losano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support HB2690 HD2 SD1. This is a very important step in protecting our water resources from private interest in Maui komohana. Ola I ka wai!

Mahalo,

Gretchen Losano

Lahaina, Maui

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 9:29:19 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chase Livingston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Chase Livingston. I was born and raised in Honolulu and am a proud graduate of the Richardson school of law. I stand in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Chase Livingston

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 9:34:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Danielle Espiritu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Danielle Espiritu, and I live in Waimalu, ‘Ewa, O‘ahu. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.

As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.

Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.

By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.

This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission’s emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.

Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the ‘āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo nui for your time.

Danielle Espiritu

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 9:45:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janie Kunin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

As a concerned Upcountry Maui community member, I'm writing in strong support of HB 2690 which I believe is essential in safe guarding our water resources on Maui and in the State of Hawaii. As we all know, wai is life for the people, animals and the 'aina. In the aftermath of the horrific wildfires that devastated and destroyed Lahaina and parts of Kula, I feel that it's critical to empower an independent Water Commission that is autonomous and free from political influence to protect our life giving water resources.

Mahalo nui,

Janie Kunin

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 9:52:33 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chelsea Tadena	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard and the honorable members of the committees,**

**As a concerned member of the community, I am writing to express my strong support for HB2690 HD2 SD1, which is essential to safeguarding our water resources and ensuring accountability to our communities.**

**HB2690 HD2 SD1 is crucial considering the recent devastation in Lahaina. This would empower the Water Commission to effectively address critical water issues, protect our wai and remain autonomous and independent from political influences. Additionally, giving the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a seat on the Nominating Committee ensures that Native Hawaiian perspectives are represented in decision-making processes.**

**The Commission's constitutional mandate has always been to protect and manage our water resources for present and future generations. HB2690 HD2 SD1 has the potential to bring the law to life at a crucial point in our history when Lahaina, and all of Hawaii, needs it the most.**

**I urge you to support HB2690 HD2 SD1, and to prioritize the well-being of our water resources, the community of Lahaina and everyone in Hawaii.**

**Ola i ka wai!**

**Mahalo,**

**Chelsea Tadena**

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 9:57:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anna Barbeau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha includes self determination for our future as well. The natural water of Hawai'i is for all citizens/residents and NOT to be controlled by a few with personal monetary gain/self interest in mind. As seen on Maui, by allowing the diversion of our most precious natural resource, water, which is the life of the land, West Maui. Lahaina was decimated. Greed allowed for the drying out of the land which previously was not in the condition that assisted this disaster. A Water Board need be led by local residents who have the best interests of the a'ina in mind and heart. Violators of a code which will be developed need be heavily fined and water returned to its natural flow. Developers and individuals MUST be constantly monitored and kept to rule. Greed need be replaced with what is pono. This is a reality which need be adhered to. Mahalo/Stay Safe.

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 10:12:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Scott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,*

*My name is Pamela Scott and I am from Pearl City. I stand in STRONG SUPPORT of the HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*As our climate crisis inevitably worsens, and our water resources become ever more scarce, it is critical that our precious wai is managed as a public trust resource as mandated in our Constitution and Water Code - and protected from the legacy of corporate water hoarding and waste that continues to this day.*

*Unfortunately, longstanding political vulnerabilities have hampered and will continue to hamper the Water Commission in its work to implement our Water Code and uphold the public trust in our water resources. Currently, a Governor appointee - the Board of Land and Natural Resources Chairperson - chairs the Commission. Another Governor appointee, the state Attorney General, is the sole entity allowed to provide the Commission with legal advice. This has raised and continues to raise serious concerns regarding politically connected special interests influencing the Governor and his appointees, to impede the work of the Commission and its staff.*

*By requiring the Commission to choose its own Chair, select its own executive director, and allowing it to retain its own legal counsel, this measure will provide important layers of political insulation that the Commission will need to fulfill its critical mission in a meaningful and timely manner. These provisions, as well as a performance review process to ensure an objective, apolitical basis for staff employment decisions, would also allow Commission staff to fulfill their constitutional and statutory obligations without the fear of political retribution.*

*This bill would also provide the Commission with much-needed authorities to issue emergency orders in a timely manner, and to impose meaningful but fair fines for those who would violate our Water Code or the Commission's emergency orders. Such authorities are absolutely critical for the protection of our water, and our islands, in the face of the climate crisis.*

*Moreover, this measure would aid in the protection and restoration of O'ahu's sole source aquifer, by establishing a WAI Policy Coordinator, insulated by the Commission, to facilitate the remediation of the 'āina and wai contaminated by the Red Hill Fuel Facility.*

*Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committees to PASS HB2690 HD2 SD1.*

*Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.*

**LATE**

**HB-2690-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2024 10:24:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2024 10:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Olivia Juan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I'm Olivia Juan, originally from California but currently residing here as a public health student at University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and I support HB2690 HD2 SD1. Amid worsening climate issues and dwindling water resources, it's crucial to manage our water as a public trust, free from corporate influence. Currently, political vulnerabilities hinder the Water Commission's effectiveness.

This bill empowers the Commission to choose its own leadership and legal counsel, ensuring independence. It also grants authority to issue emergency orders and impose fair fines for violations, which is essential for protecting our community's water amidst climate change. Additionally, it establishes a WAI Policy Coordinator to address contamination from the Red Hill Fuel Facility.

I politely urge you, the Committee to pass HB2690 HD2 SD1.

Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Olivia Juan