

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 26, 2025 at 10:03 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

In consideration of
S.B. 867 SD1
RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Committee.

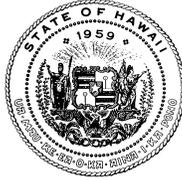
HHFDC **supports** SB 867 SD1, which establishes a working group within the Office of the Governor for administrative purposes to ascertain the State's available water resources and water system source capacity, and to streamline well permit approval processes to further plan for the development of affordable housing. It also requires the working group to inventory all available water resources statewide and identify sources of aquifer replenishment in relation to affordable housing development. Lastly, it requires an interim and final report to the Legislature.

The executive director of the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) is named as a working group member.

Permitting for the development of potable water systems is a critical issue affecting housing development in many areas of the state. On Hawaii island, HHFDC's Kamakana Villages, a master-planned community with the potential of providing 1,600 affordable housing units, has been stalled for over a decade due to the lack of potable water. On Maui, the lack of potable water is also affecting HHFDC's Villages of Leialii and hampering the recovery of affordable housing projects in Lahaina.

We appreciate the work that went into creating this measure to address a long-standing issue and are hopeful that this working group will lead to a better balance between water-resource management and fulfilling the need for more affordable housing.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0867 SD1
RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

LATE

February 26, 2025; 10:03 am; Room Number: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) supports this measure.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Management Division (EMD) provides the
4 following testimony on behalf of the Department.

5 The Department supports this measure to establish a working group to: (1) ascertain the
6 State's available water resources and water system source capacity; and (2) streamline well
7 permit approval processes to ensure available water supply to further plan for the development
8 of affordable housing. The Director of Health or their designee has been added to the working
9 group whose directed effort encompasses work related to the Clean Water Branch, Safe
10 Drinking Water Branch, Surface Water Protection Branch, and Wastewater Branch of EMD.

11 **Offered Amendments:** None

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

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February 26, 2025

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz
and Members
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 211
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 867, SD1: Relating to Affordable Housing

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports Senate Bill (SB) 867, Senate Draft (SD) 1, relating to affordable housing, which establishes a working group within the Office of the Governor to ascertain the State's available water resources and water system source capacity, identify sources of aquifer replenishment and streamline well permit approval processes for the development of affordable housing.

We look forward to participating in the proposed working group. It is important and practical to streamline well permit approval processes, especially the Well Construction Permit, because of the exploratory nature and risks involved in constructing a competent water source, and because the subsequent Pump Installation Permit will be conditioned based on the findings of the exploratory well test pumping standard procedures. Well Construction Permits approval timeframes are inordinately long, some pending for close to 2 years. This administrative permit used to take 2-3 months. Timely water supply development and advanced water conservation programs are critical to avoid water shortages.

We also support aquifer replenishment as a mitigative measure to more intense drought from climate change. BWS is working on the Nuuanu managed aquifer recharge feasibility project where treated stormwater from Nuuanu Reservoir No. 4 would be injected into the aquifer to enhance natural recharge.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony in support of SB 867, SD 1.

Very truly yours,


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

WJ

SB-867-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:09:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:03:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Managing our water resources is essential to developing sustainable communities. It's key to resolving our affordable housing crisis. This bill is a no-brainer.

I strongly urge the Committee to **SUPPORT** this bill!