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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

9:00 A.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2303, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO WAHIAWA DAM AND RESERVOIR

Senate Bill 2303, Senate Draft 2 proposes to appropriate funds and direct the Department of Land and Natural Resources Engineering Division's Dam and Reservoir Safety Program to develop and implement an emergency intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam and reservoir, and conduct a feasibility study to evaluate the State acquiring the Wahiawa dam and reservoir. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department can undertake a feasibility study to evaluate the State acquiring the Wahiawa dam and reservoir, however, we would require more time to provide a comprehensive review with reasonable confidence. We therefore recommend that both the emergency intervention plan and the acquisition feasibility study be submitted to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022.

An emergency intervention plan (Plan) could be a very important tool that would assist dam owners, operators and Government agencies in identifying triggers, unsafe conditions and response actions necessary to minimize risks to the downstream community during an emergency event. The Plan would be developed in coordination with the appropriate entities involved in its execution and would identify roles and responsibilities, trigger points and appropriate measures to be taken. It is the dam owner's responsibility to remedy any unsafe conditions at their dam, including implementing the Plan. However, the Department does have the authority to implement the Plan in the event of an emergency. If the Department, in consultation with other government agencies, deems that the conditions of a dam or reservoir

poses an imminent danger to the downstream community the Department may immediately implement remedial measures identified in the Plan necessary to protect life and property.

The Department supports this measure and proposes the following amendments:

SECTION 3. The department of land and natural resources shall study the feasibility of the State acquiring the Wahiawa dam and reservoir and shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of [~~2021.~~] 2022.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



HIROKAZU TOIYA
DIRECTOR

JENNIFER M. WALTER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

March 10, 2020

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
The Honorable Chris Todd, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Water, Land
and Hawaiian Affairs
The House of Representatives
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Members of the Committee on Water, Land
and Hawaiian Affairs:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill 2303,SD2 Relating to the Wahiawa Dam and Reservoir

The City and County of Honolulu Department of Emergency Management (DEM) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 2303, SD2, which proposes to appropriate funds and direct the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Engineering Division to develop and implement an emergency intervention plan for the Wahiawa dam reservoir.

DEM has worked closely with DLNR with additional resources and capabilities needed to identify unsafe conditions and take action during emergencies. DEM would be committed to supporting DLNR and other stakeholders to develop and implement the emergency intervention plan to make our communities as safe as possible.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hirokazu Toiya".

Hirokazu Toiya
Director

SB-2303-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 2:39:16 PM

Testimony for WLH on 3/11/2020 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In support.