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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE

Monday, February 27, 2023  
11:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1303, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION

House Bill 1303, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate moneys to certain counties to create pilot programs that incentivize residential homeowners in certain dry areas to replace landscaping refurbishments with alternatives that reduce water use. **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 Budget request.**

The Department's Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) supports water conservation and efficiency of water use, which is essential because climate change is expected to reduce future freshwater availability in many areas of the State of Hawai'i and may also cause an increase in frequency and severity of drought events. Incentives for residential homeowners to replace water-intensive landscaping with alternatives that use less water may be an effective way to reduce residential water use in Hawai'i. According to the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (HBWS), the average residential household consumes between 6,000 to 9,000 gallons per month, with approximately half of that for outdoor use. A residential HBWS customer who fully eliminated outdoor irrigation could save an average of 45,000 gallons per year of drinking water.

The Commission also acknowledges that each of the four county water departments have existing water conservation programs and that a pilot program offering residents incentives to replace landscaping with less water intensive alternatives could also be established in the Counties of Kaua'i and Maui.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
LAURA H.E. KAAKUA  
FIRST DEPUTY  
M. KALEO MANUEL  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER  
AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
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HONOLULU, HI 96843  
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February 27, 2023

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Manager and Chief Engineer

ERWIN M. KAWATA  
Deputy Manager

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
and Members  
House Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 1303, HD1: Relating to Water Conservation

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 1303, House Draft (HD) 1, which appropriates moneys to the BWS to create a pilot program that incentivizes residential homeowners in certain dry areas to replace landscaping and irrigation with alternatives that reduce water use.

For clarification purposes, the BWS recommends an amendment as underscored to page 3, line 13-15, as follows:

Honolulu board of water supply shall verify that the residential homeowner experienced a reduction in irrigation water use by at least thirty percent . . .

The BWS has found that drought tolerant plants and xeriscaping techniques such as those demonstrated at the BWS Halawa Xeriscape Garden in Halawa Valley can reduce irrigation water demand while creating attractive landscaping.

The funding will help support and expand the BWS Water Sensible rebate program, which currently includes rain barrels and weather-based irrigation controllers in a popular and expanding suite of conservation rebates, including turf replacement.

Reducing potable water use conserves important water resources especially in dry areas subject to severe drought from climate change. Conservation is an inexpensive strategy to increase available water system capacity to meet the needs of expanding communities and to reduce the impacts of reduced source capacity affected by the Red Hill fuel contamination.

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
The Honorable Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
and Members  
February 27, 2023  
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Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1303, HD1.

Very truly yours,



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



**HB-1303-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 7:05:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2023 11:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cards Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cards Pintor