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Testimony on

**H.B. 241**

**RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS TO ASSIST SEAWATER AIR CONDITIONING PROJECTS ON OAHU**

Before the  
State Senate

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Monday, March 30, 2015

By

Eric Masutomi, CEO and President  
Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning, LLC

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi and Members of the Committee:

Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning (HSWAC) strongly supports H.B. 241 which extends the authorization to issue \$48 million in special purpose revenue bonds (SPRBs) for Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning, LLC for the design and construction of a seawater air conditioning district cooling system on Oahu. The companion version of this measure (SB 619) was approved by the Senate earlier in the session, and it is our hope that this bill will receive the same favorable consideration.

Over the past several sessions, the Hawaii State Legislature authorized a total of \$145M in SPRBs for the HSWAC project. \$48 million of the total were authorized by the Legislature in 2010 and expire June 28, 2015. This bill extends this SPRB authorization from June 28, 2015 to June 30, 2020.

HSWAC's Downtown Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning project will service approximately 14 million square feet of downtown building space. In addition to the compelling environmental and renewable energy benefits associated with deep water cooling, the project will generate more than \$250 million of dollars in construction spending and create more than 1,500 construction jobs in 2015 through 2017. In addition, it would create long-term, high-value employment opportunities and establish the State as a leading authority on the development and installation of seawater air conditioning systems throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Other local economic benefits would accrue from money that stays in Hawaii and is not exported outside the State to purchase oil.

Previous unprecedented disruptions in the financial markets and longer-than-expected permitting and regulatory reviews caused HSWAC to postpone the earlier sale of SPRBs. Current markets have improved and there is now suitable interest in financing this renewable energy project. In addition to State of Hawaii SPRBs, the balance of HSWAC funding consists of taxable revenue bonds and equity investment. With an anticipated construction start later this year, HSWAC expects to use all of its authorized SPRBs within the next three years. The requested SPRBs are an important element in providing economically feasible project financing.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS  
Monday, March 30, 2015 — 9:00 a.m. — Room 211

## **Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 241, Relating to Seawater Air Conditioning**

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Murray Clay and I am Managing Partner of the Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment company that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally grown food, increase clean, renewable energy, and waste reduction. We believe that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity, and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

**Ulupono strongly supports HB 241**, which will extend the authorization for the issuance of Special Purpose Revenue Bonds (SPRBs) to Honolulu Seawater Air Conditioning LLC (HSWAC) for an additional five years, because it aligns with our goal of producing more clean, renewable energy in Hawai'i. As Hawai'i's energy issues become more complex and challenging, we appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support renewable energy production.

We support HSWAC's request because we believe seawater air conditioning technology is proven and will help replace the energy-intensive central refrigeration system of a traditional air-conditioning system. HSWAC is targeting buildings that could benefit from substantial savings on electricity and water consumption, system replacement costs, and maintenance costs. By using 44 degree seawater via a freshwater loop instead of electricity to cool buildings, electricity costs can be cut by 75% and save an estimated 77 million kilowatt-hours of power a year, which is equivalent to a 20 megawatt wind farm or a 40 megawatt solar farm. That is enough to power more than 10,000 homes a year and eliminate the need to burn 178,000 barrels of oil a year. HSWAC is one of the State's largest energy efficiency projects.

This technology is known to provide substantial savings of energy and fresh water, both of which are critical to our economy and sustainability. HSWAC will reduce potable water consumption for air conditioning by 260 million gallons, reduce sewage production up to 84 million gallons per year, and avoids 84,000 tons of carbon dioxide (15,000 cars). In addition, it will also help the State move closer to its HCEI clean energy goals. This

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designation will help to spur greater success in energy efficiency projects that can help Hawai'i become less dependent on imported fossil fuels.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Murray Clay  
Managing Partner