

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, March 31, 2016  
9:05 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2040  
RELATING TO WATER SECURITY**

House Bill 2040 proposes to establish a two-year pilot program for a water security advisory group to enable public-private partnerships that increase water security by providing matching state funds for projects and programs to increase groundwater recharge, encourage water reuse, and improve the efficiency of potable and agricultural water use. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that this appropriation does not adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget request or any existing funding to the Department's programs, and offers the following comments:**

While SECTION 4 of the bill provides the Department with the ability to contract with an independent non-profit entity to carry out the duties and activities associated with this measure, the Department is concerned existing staff resources are insufficient for the workload involved with procurement, management and monitoring of the agreement with the non-profit, services to carry out the projects and programs approved by the water security advisory group, and contracts for approved projects and programs. Additional staff resources would be needed for this project oversight. SECTION 6 of the bill provides for an unspecified amount of general revenues to support the two-year pilot program, which should include sufficient resources for staff oversight.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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March 31, 2016

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The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Ways and Means  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 211  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tokuda and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2040 Relating to Water Security

We support House Bill 2040, which establishes a two-year pilot program for a Water Security Advisory Group in the Department of Land and Natural Resources that enables public-private partnerships by providing matching funds for projects that increase water security. This pilot program will provide incentives to increase the recharge of groundwater resources; encourage the reuse of water and reduce the use of potable water for landscaping irrigation; and improve the efficiency of potable and agricultural water use.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on House Bill 2040.

Very truly yours,

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



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**HawaiiCommunityFoundation.org**

**Testimony of the  
Hawai'i Community Foundation  
on  
H.B. 2040  
Relating to Water Security  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, March 31, 2016  
9:05 A.M.  
Conference Room 211**

The Hawaii Community Foundation strongly supports H.B. 2040, which establishes a two-year pilot project to provide funds for projects and programs to increase water security in the State of Hawaii.

The Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) became concerned about long-term fresh water security issues in 2012, as research emerged from the University of Hawaii linking climate change and negative trends in Hawaii's fresh water supply. HCF assembled a blue ribbon panel of water stakeholders to provide collaborative solutions, and in concert with their recommendations launched the Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative in 2013. The Fresh Water Initiative has a goal of creating 100 million gallons per day in additional, reliable fresh water capacity by 2030.

HCF supports the findings of the Fresh Water Council and strongly supports the policy recommendations found in their "Blueprint for Action." One of the key recommendations from the Council is the establishment of a public-private pilot funding mechanism to support water security in Hawaii. H.B. 2040 will establish this important program.

HCF strongly supports H.B. 2040 and urges passage, and we stand ready to assist in helping implement this important program and all elements of the Council's "Blueprint for Action."



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March 31, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2040**  
RELATING TO WATER SECURITY

Room 211  
9:05 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports HB 2040**, establishing a two-year pilot program in the Department of Land and Natural Resources that enables public-private partnerships to provide funds for projects that increase water security.

Advancements in the State's water infrastructure have far lagged population increases. At the same time, the time to prepare for a drought is when it is raining. Hawaii has had increased rainfall during the past few years and a sense of complacency to drought has developed. Yet forecasters predict prolonged droughts in the near future.

Recent reports on Maui, the island most dependent on surface water is dire:

The U.S. Geological Survey's gauge on Puu Kukui in the West Maui Mountains, **one of the wettest places in the world, logged its lowest January since 1977** and its lowest total for any month since May 1989, according to the weather service. **Only 1.08 inches - or 3 percent of normal rainfall - fell in January. The average rainfall for the month is 31 inches.**

Ulupalakua in Upcountry also was dry with **only 0.2 inch of rain; 4.71 inches** fall on average.

Maui News: February 5, 2016

This program creatively seeks to incentivize efforts to increase water supplies by increasing efficiency, encouraging recharge and encouraging reuse.

We request your **support of HB 2040**, urgently needed to increase Hawaii's tolerance and resiliency to drought event. Thank you.



# Wai Maoli

HAWAI'I FRESH WATER INITIATIVE

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HawaiiCommunityFoundation.org

## Fresh Water Council Members

William Aila

Stephen Anthony\*

Michael Buck

Suzanne Case

Reginald Castanares

Meredith Ching

Derek Chow

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Sumner Erdman

Mark Fox

Thomas Giambelluca

Timothy Johns

Howard Killian

Patrick Kobayashi

Ernest Lau

Keith Okamoto

Jerry Ornellas

Monty Richards

Kapua Sproat

David Taylor

Dennis Teranishi

Barry Usagawa

\*US Geological Survey  
Liaison/Scientific Advisor to HCF

**Testimony of the  
Hawai'i Fresh Water Council  
on  
H.B. 2040  
Relating to Water Security  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, March 31, 2016  
9:05 A.M.  
Conference Room 211**

The Hawaii Fresh Water Council strongly supports H.B. 2040, which establishes a two-year pilot project to provide funds for projects and programs to increase water security in the State of Hawaii.

The Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative was launched in 2013 and assembled our diverse Fresh Water Council to develop a forward-thinking and consensus-based strategy to increase water security for Hawaii. Our Council jointly and unanimously recommended key strategies and policies with an ultimate goal of creating 100 million gallons per day (mgd) in additional, reliable fresh water capacity by 2030. One of the key strategies to achieve this statewide water goal is to increase innovation in the water recharge, reuse, and conservation fields through a public-private pilot funding mechanism. H.B. 2040 will:

- Establish a water security advisory group made up of water managers, agricultural water system experts, private landowners that are active watershed partners, knowledgeable experts in Hawaiian cultural practices, and conservation specialists;
- Authorize the advisory group to establish criteria to evaluate and assign priorities for proposals by public or private agencies or organizations that are able to provide matching funds to increase water security; and
- Authorize the advisory group to recommend priorities to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the grant of matching funds for water security programs.

In establishing the priorities for the pilot project, the advisory group is directed to encourage innovative proposals drawn from statewide that will:

- Establish new techniques and projects supporting the recharge of groundwater;
- Reduce the use of potable water for landscape irrigation and encourage the reuse of Hawai'i wastewater; and
- Improve the efficiency of potable domestic water or agricultural irrigation water use.

H.B. 2040 requires the selected projects to submit reports on the amount of water conserved, recharged, or reused, and requires the Department to submit an annual report on the pilot program to the Governor and to the Legislature. This pilot program will establish base-line information for the implementation of a longer-term program, and demonstrate a strong commitment to protecting Hawai'i's natural resources as the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress approaches.

For these reasons, we strongly support H.B. 2040 and urge its passage.

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2040 on Mar 31, 2016 09:05AM\*  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 30, 2016 12:13:02 PM

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**HB2040**

Submitted on: 3/30/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 31, 2016 09:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaily Wakefield	Individual	Support	No

**Comments:**

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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*Hawai'i Green Growth is a public-private partnership that coordinates across government, non-governmental and cultural organizations, business, academia and philanthropy to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals.*

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## Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth In Support of HB2040 Relating to Water Security Senate Committee on Ways and Means 31 March 2016, 9:05am, Room 211

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

**Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports HB2040** to establish a two-year pilot project in the Department of Land and Natural Resources that leverages state funds through public-private partnerships for projects that increase freshwater security.

The Aloha+ Natural Capital Investment Partnership is a joint public-private conservation commitment to drive action on the *Aloha+ Challenge* natural resources goals through joint financing. It calls for doubling Hawai'i's public investment in natural resource management by 2025, and will leverage this with a 1:1 match of private and philanthropic contributions. Public-private partnerships that bring together state, county and federal governments with private philanthropic and business entities are needed to provide essential reliable, long-term funding. Based on global climate disruption, increasingly severe weather and natural disasters, and projected long-term decline of rainfall, there is an urgency to invest in Hawai'i's freshwater supplies.

Starting with freshwater security, this initiative aims to increase Hawai'i's freshwater availability by 100 million gallons per day, and fund water projects that will enhance supply, conserve, and reuse water. This pilot will launch a public-private partnership that leverages state funding with private sector finance for overall natural resource management, including marine management, watershed protection and other key areas.

HGG public-private partners identified HB2040 as an important shared 2016 legislative priority to advance the *Aloha+ Challenge* natural resource and fresh water goals. The *Aloha+ Challenge* is a statewide commitment by the State Legislature (SCR 69), Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs to achieve six sustainability goals for 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food, natural resources, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, and green jobs and education. Statewide HGG public-private partners are identifying shared measures to track progress and provide accountability with the online *Aloha+ Challenge* Dashboard, while developing an annual policy and action agenda to advance Hawai'i's shared 2030 sustainability goals.

The *Aloha+ Challenge* has been recognized nationally and internationally by the US State Department and Global Island Partnership as a model for locally appropriate implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals. With the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress hosted by Hawai'i in September 2016, this legislative session is an important opportunity for Hawai'i to showcase leadership on sustainable development, conservation and resilience.

As a public-private partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth supports HB2040 to help drive implementation and investment on statewide natural resources goals.