



March 30, 2016

To: The Chairs and members of the Ways And Means (WAM) Committee

Position: Strong Support for HB 2042 (Relating to Water Conservation)

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Committee members,

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation's Hawai'i Chapters, I am writing in strong support of HB 2042, which creates a water conservation rebate program for newly constructed water conservation systems under the Commission on Water Resource Management. Surfrider is working with the Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative to bring diverse parties together to develop innovative and consensus-based strategies to increase water conservation for Hawaii.

The beauty of this new program is that it helps folks conserve water on their own property by allowing residents to get rebates up to \$1000 for newly constructed water conservation systems (like rain barrels, low-flow spray nozzles and high efficiency toilets). These innovations will save water, recharge our aquifer and reduce the amount of stormwater pollution flowing into our oceans. This is a top priority of the Surfrider Foundation.

The rebate program will also be evaluated by the Commission on Water Resource Man. to make sure that it is successful and cost-effective by:

- Reviewing the rebate program and determine the amount of matching funds;
- Determining the impact of the rebate program in terms of water saved; and
- Making a recommendation to the legislature on whether it should be extended.

HB 2042 requires the Commission on Water Resource Management submit reports on the amount of water conserved, recharged, or reused, and requires the Commission to submit a report of its findings to the Legislature. In Hawaiian culture, the word for wealth was "wai wai," which was based on water and its conservation, and this rebate program will help ensure the future wealth and health of our society.

This rebate program will help empower residents to do their own water conservation; so it has an educational aspect as well. Along with Surfrider, the RAP Coalition and many other groups, we ask you to support HB 2042. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Stuart Coleman
Hawaii Regional Manager

