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Testimony to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, & Agriculture, and Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, & Technology Friday, February 12, 2016 2:00 PM.

State Capitol - Conference Room 414

RE: SB 3019: Relating to Gray Water.

LATE

Dear Chairs Gabbard & Wakai, Vice-Chairs Nishihara & Slom, and members of the Committees:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Chief Executive Officer for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the Voice of the Construction Industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA Hawaii is **opposed** to S.B. 3019, which would prohibit the issuance of new building permits unless it is established that the building will be furnished with equipment that allows for the collection and use of gray water for irrigation.

We understand that the City and County of Honolulu's plumbing code (based upon the 2006 UPC) currently allows gray water to be used for irrigation if the permit applicant choses to do so, but only for single family dwellings. This bill would expand to ALL buildings and it would be a mandate, not a choice.

We also understand that the proposed 2012 UPC being considered by the City and County of Honolulu will greatly expand the use of gray water on a voluntary basis, and does not limit to single family dwellings. Honolulu has increased the gray water use to allow the use of the International Green Building Code provisions in the UPC language. The matter is still being reviewed by the City's Corporation Counsel.

We understand the need to conserve water by recycling where possible; however, we do not support mandates, especially mandates on new home buyers or new projects.

Mandates on new construction are easier to legislate because future buyers of homes or developers of commercial properties are difficult to identify and organize, and as such have little or no voice in the process. If the legislature truly wants to make an impact on recycling gray water, mandate it on all EXISTING buildings.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.