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

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SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on
WATER & LAND
and
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Wednesday, February 14, 2018
10:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In Consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1984
RELATING TO WATER SECURITY**

House Bill 1984 proposes to appropriate out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii \$500,000 to conduct a study examining the current state of water resources in the State, potential alternative sources of water, and the future needs of water in the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) acknowledges the intent of this measure and offers the following comments and amendments.**

The Department's Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) notes that Section 174C-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), provides for the development of the Hawaii Water Plan, a long-range, comprehensive, multi-component plan that seeks to address the problems of supply and conservation of water. Virtually all of the study elements outlined in House Bill 1984 are already elements of the Hawaii Water Plan.

The Hawaii Water Plan is intended to serve as a continuing long-range guide for water resource management. The Hawaii Water Plan consists of five constituent parts: 1) a Water Resource Protection Plan which is prepared by the Commission, 2) a Water Quality Plan which is prepared by the Department of Health, 3) a State Water Projects Plan which is prepared by the Engineering Division of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, 4) an Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan which is prepared by the Department of Agriculture, and 5) Water Use and Development Plans prepared by each separate county. The Commission recommends that the Hawaii Water Plan components be updated on a five-year cycle.

Section 174C-31(n), HRS, provides that the Commission may add to the Hawaii Water Plan any other information, directions, or objectives it feels necessary or desirable for the guidance of the counties. Under this authority, the Commission adopted the Statewide Framework for Updating the Hawaii Water Plan in 2000. The Framework is a guidance document that provides recommended elements for inclusion in each component plan so that updated plans are more useful and may be more easily integrated and coordinated with respect to water source development by the State and county (<http://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/cwrp/planning/framework.pdf>). For example, the 2000 Framework established an integrated planning approach, and as a result, all of the counties are now considering the use of alternative water sources and incorporating water conservation measures and programs as strategies to meet future demands.

With many of the components being updated for the first time since initial adoption in 1990, The Commission proposes the intent of House Bill 1984 be revised to address the need for a comprehensive review of its Framework based on the experiences and lessons learned by the various agencies responsible for updating the individual component plans. Better guidance will provide the basis for more holistic water planning thereby increasing our future water security.

Specifically, the Commission requests the following amendments:

(1) In SECTION 1 at line 9, insert:

The State Water Code, Chapter 174C, HRS, requires that the commission on water resource management implement and utilize comprehensive water resources planning in its protection and management of our State's water resources. The water code sets forth the requirement for initial development and updating of the Hawaii Water Plan to guide the Commission in executing its general powers, duties, and responsibilities assuring economic development, good municipal services, agricultural stability, and environmental protection.

The Hawaii Water Plan is intended to serve as a continuing long-range guide for water resource protection and management. The Hawaii Water Plan currently consists of five major components (plans) identified as the: 1) Water Resource Protection Plan, prepared by the commission on water resource management; 2) Water Quality Plan, prepared by the department of health; 3) State Water Projects Plan, prepared by the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Engineering Division; 4) Agricultural Water Use and Development Plan, prepared by the department of agriculture; and 5) County Water Use and Development Plans, prepared by each of the four counties.

(2) Amend SECTION 1, lines 9 to 13, as follows:

The purpose of this Act is to direct the commission on water resource management to [conduct a study examining the current state of water resources in the State, potential alternative sources of water, and the future needs of water in the State] provide additional guidance for future Hawaii Water Plan updates to address emerging issues such as of climate change and to include any other useful or necessary elements to ensure the long-term protection and wise management of water resources.

(3) Amend SECTION 2.(a) as follows:

The commission on water resource management shall conduct ~~[a study examining the current state of water resources in the State, potential alternative sources of water, and the future needs of water in the State]~~ an update of the Statewide Framework for Updating the Hawaii Water Plan to provide additional guidance for updating the Hawaii Water Plan.

(4) Delete SECTION 2.(b).

(5) Replace SECTION 2.(c) with the following:

Tasks and elements of the Statewide Framework update shall include but not be limited to:

- (1) Facilitated interagency meetings with all agencies responsible for updating a component plan to identify information gaps that need to be filled in order to better integrate the components and coordinate water source developments between the State, county, and private entities;
- (2) Consultation with federal, state, and county agencies having an interest in water resource science, protection, management, development, or use;
- (3) Inclusion of emerging issues in the county WUDPs, such as climate change, watershed protection, protection of public trust uses, and drought planning;
- (4) Comprehensive review and revision, as needed, of current planning elements for each component plan;
- (5) Extension of the planning horizon from twenty years to a longer time period; and
- (6) Any other useful or necessary elements that are identified through the interagency meetings and consultation processes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-1984

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 4:39:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-1984

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 9:15:12 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

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HB2595

HB1984

Testimony in Support

House Committees on Water and Land, Energy and Environmental Protection

Wednesday, February 14, 2018. 10:45 a.m. Conf. Room 325

Aloha,

BIISC would like to express our support for House Bill 2595, which appropriates funds to the DLNR for improvements, repairs, and maintenance of watersheds throughout the state. We also support House Bill 1984, which requires the study of our statewide water security into the future.

We are grateful to the authors of this bill for recognizing the importance of watershed protection in securing the health and economic well-being of the people of Hawaii and our future generations. Ours was the first comprehensive watershed protection system in the nation, dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. The territorial forester fought to protect forest cover, stop active burning, and stop goats, pigs and cattle from destroying the forests' water recharge capacity back then, and we are fighting for it now.

Active management of invasive species, and active restoration of damaged land is required to keep our forests going. A clear understanding of the state of water security over the next 30 years will help us determine how much area, how intensive the management, and how much money must be allocated to be sure my kids and yours can swim in clear water, hike in healthy forests, drink pure Hawaiian water, and eat locally grown produce.

We thank you for your consideration and commend you all for your attention to take care of the land this session—your efforts are truly appreciated.

Springer Kaye

BIISC Manager

HB-1984

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 10:33:57 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/14/2018 10:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

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February 14, 2018

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Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water & Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane, Chair Lee and Members:

Subject: House Bill 1984: Relating to Water Security

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 1984. This bill directs the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) to conduct a statewide water security study examining past water supply, current state of water resources and future water needs until the year 2050. The study shall also include a review of water usage by each county, and identify potential alternative sources of water for conservation, sustainability and water recharge opportunities.

The BWS is committed to doing its part to ensure water security on Oahu by understanding climate change and its implications on water resources and the impact of sea level rise and coastal erosion on water distribution infrastructure. The BWS will collaborate with CWRM on this study.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on HB 1984.

Very truly yours,

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