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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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LAND
STATE PARK

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Tuesday, February 3, 2026
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 411 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1728
RELATING TO RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS

House Bill 1728 requires the counties to allow for the installation and operation of rainwater catchment systems for potable and non-potable uses on all properties and authorizes the counties to regulate and enforce standards for the use of rainwater catchment systems. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) acknowledges the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**


The ongoing climate crisis is exacerbating statewide drought conditions and the threat of future water shortages. This may have impacts to the State's freshwater resources and the availability of both groundwater and stream flows. As a result, the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) encourages the use of alternative water sources, including reuse, wastewater, stormwater, and rainwater catchment.

CWRM does not regulate rainwater catchment systems and defers to the counties and other regulatory agencies such as the Department of Health (DOH) to comment on the regulatory implications of using rainwater catchment for potable and non-potable uses.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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February 3, 2026

The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair

House Committee on Water & Land
State Capitol, Conference Room 411 & Videoconference

RE: House Bill 1728, Relating to Rainwater Catchment Systems

HEARING: Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawaii and its over 10,000 members. HAR **supports** House Bill 1728, which requires the counties to allow for the installation and operation of rainwater catchment systems for potable and non-potable uses on all properties. Authorizes the counties to regulate and enforce standards for the use of rainwater catchment systems.

Limited water infrastructure continues to be a major barrier to housing development across the State and especially on the neighbor islands. Allowing rainwater catchment systems for both potable and non-potable uses on all properties is a practical way to supplement our water supply and help homeowners and our communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Feb. 3, 2026, 9 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 411 and Videoconference

To: House Committee on Water & Land
Rep. Mark Hashem, Chair
Rep. Dee Morikawa, Vice-Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1728 — RELATING TO RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS

Aloha chair, vice chair and other members of the Committee,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [HB1728](#), which would require the counties to allow the installation and use of rainwater catchment systems in all areas.

This bill would give Hawaii residents the opportunity to use rainwater for drinking water and irrigation, and it could help them overcome a barrier to expanding their homes or building a small, accessory dwelling unit on their property.

Right now, tens of thousands of Hawaii residents — especially in rural areas — rely on catchment systems for their drinking water.¹ But regulations can make it difficult or impossible to construct a catchment system in areas that have access to a public water system, even if that water system is at capacity and cannot service any additional homes.

This is the situation across much of Kauai, where public water systems do not have the capacity to handle more users, but rainwater catchment is prohibited.²

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

¹ Patricia Macomber, "[Guidelines on Rainwater Catchment Systems for Hawai'i](#)," College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, 2020, p. 3.

² Jonathan Helton, "[Kauai lawmakers should revisit water catchment issue](#)," The Garden Island, Sept. 20, 2025.

HB-1728

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 4:53:06 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/3/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry Support

1728 HB RELATING TO RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS.	WAL	411 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE	Feb 3, 2026 9:00 AM
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HB-1728

Submitted on: 1/30/2026 8:38:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/3/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG SUPPORT!!!