

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARK

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

**Before the House Committee on
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026
2:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1728, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS**

House Bill 1728, House Draft 1, 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.**

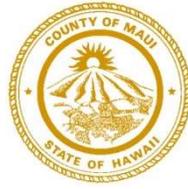
The ongoing climate crisis is exacerbating statewide drought conditions and the threat of future water shortages. This may have impacts on the State's freshwater resources and the availability of both groundwater and stream flows. As a result, the Commission on Water Resource Management (CWRM) encourages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

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

TO: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
Jordan Molina, Director of the Department of Public Works

DATE: March 2, 2026

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION FOR HB1728 HD1, RELATING TO RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS.

The County of Maui opposes HB1728 HD1 which would require the counties to allow for the installation and operation of rainwater catchment systems for potable and non-potable uses on all properties. Requires the counties to regulate and enforce standards for the use of rainwater catchment systems. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

We **OPPOSE** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Imposing extensive oversight obligations will likely result in:
 - a. Increased permitting requirements beyond standard plan review, substantially adding time and cost for homeowners seeking to install or maintain catchment systems.
 - b. Potential delays in permit issuance, as county staff are already stretched thin handling complex land use, building, and environmental permitting.
 - c. Higher costs for property owners and county taxpayers, as additional inspections, registration, and compliance reporting are necessary to satisfy the bill's broad regulatory obligations.
2. Many catchment systems are physically remote and privately maintained; counties historically have limited authority and capacity to enforce long-term upkeep of privately owned infrastructure.
3. Without additional dedicated funding or personnel, counties will struggle to administer such a program effectively and equitably.

Mahalo for your consideration.

County of Maui Testimony
HB1728 HD1
Page 1 of 1



 808-733-7060
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 1259 A'ala Street, Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96817

March 4, 2026

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

RE: House Bill 1728, HD1, Relating to Rainwater Catchment Systems

HEARING: Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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, HD1, which requires the counties to allow for the installation and operation of rainwater catchment systems for potable and non-potable uses on all properties. Requires the counties to regulate and enforce standards for the use of rainwater catchment systems. Effective 7/1/3000.

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.



March 4, 2026, 2 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 325 and Videoconference

To: House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice-Chair

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

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1728 HD1 — RELATING TO RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS

Aloha chair, vice chair and other committee members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [HB1728 HD1](#), 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 small, accessory dwelling units on their properties.

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.



Housing Hawai'i's Future
PO Box 3043
Honolulu, HI 96802-3043

March 4, 2026

TO: Chair Tarnas and Members of the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Committee
RE: HB 1728 HD1, Relating to Rainwater Catchment Systems

Dear Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

Housing Hawai'i's Future is a nonprofit dedicated to creating opportunities for Hawai'i's next generation by ending the workforce housing shortage.

We support House Bill 1728 HD1. This bill would require the counties to allow for the installation and operation of rainwater catchment systems for potable and non-potable uses on all properties.

Water infrastructure is a foundational component of housing production. In many areas—particularly rural areas that lack access to centralized water systems—limited water availability can be a significant barrier to housing construction.

This bill helps address that constraint, providing for alternative water-infrastructure models that facilitate the construction of housing in areas where traditional infrastructure may be unavailable or cost-prohibitive.

Let's advance HB1728 HD1.

Thank you,

A stylized, circular signature in black ink, appearing to be the name "Lee Wang".

Lee Wang
Executive Director
Housing Hawai'i's Future
lee@hawaiisfuture.org

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name "Perry Arrasmith".

Perry Arrasmith
Director of Policy
Housing Hawai'i's Future
perry@hawaiisfuture.org

HB-1728-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:55:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, STRONGLY SUPPORT ESPECIALLY THE STATE OF HAWAII SUPPORTED HOMELESS TINY HOMES AND/OR KAUHALES DEVELOPMENT.

1728 HB RELATING TO RAINWATER CATCHMENT SYSTEMS.

HB-1728-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 3:11:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
penny levin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The more we face longer and hotter droughts, the more we will need rainwater catchment to supplement water drawn from our already limited aquifers, particularly on Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Hawaii Islands. We would be smart to implement approvals for catchment structures now rather than too little too late.



March 2, 2026

The Hon. David A. Tarnas
Chair, Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
State Capitol
415 S. Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: House Bill 1728, H.D. 1 -- SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Tarnas,

The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) and the American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association International (ARCISA) are pleased to support HB 1728, HD 1, which would require counties to permit the installation and operation of rainwater catchment systems for both potable and non-potable uses. We respectfully request the bill be approved in the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, with amendments to include sound technical standards for the safe design, installation, and maintenance of rainwater catchment systems.

As you know, the State of Hawai'i adopts the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), providing guidance and requirements for both potable and non-potable rainwater catchment systems. These provisions outline the installation, construction, and alteration of such systems to offset the diminishing supply of fresh water in wells and aquifers. Today, consensus-based national standards such as ARCISA/ASPE/ANSI 63 (Rainwater Catchment Systems) align with Chapter 16 and Appendix K of the UPC to provide the highest level of public health protection.

Explicitly referencing the ARCISA/ASPE/ANSI 63 standard in this legislation would provide local building officials and contractors with a clear, technically sound roadmap for system design to ensure harvested water is safe for use. Furthermore, providing this regulatory clarity and consistency will ease broader adoption of rainwater capture through standards that open the market and make this approach accessible to all who seek to use it. Additionally, ASSE/ARCISA/IAPMO/ANSI Series 21000 standard provides ANSI-accredited certification for rainwater catchment personnel, complementing the ARCISA/ASPE/ANSI 63 system design standard with minimum training and certification requirements for designers, installers, and inspectors of these systems.

By enabling wider use of rainwater catchment systems, the state will promote water conservation and the use of alternate sources of water for residents while alleviating strain on Hawai'i's vital water infrastructure. For these reasons, we thank you for considering this measure and look forward to its passage with the proposed amendments referencing the ARCISA/ASPE/ANSI 63 standard and with the proposed amendments referencing the ARCISA/ASPE/ANSI 63 standard. If we can assist further, please contact IAPMO Director of Government Relations David Yow at david.yow@iapmo.org or ARCISA Executive Director Heather Kinkade at heather.kinkade@arcsainternational.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Yow". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Yow
IAPMO Director of Government Relations

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Kinkade". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Heather Kinkade
ARCISA Executive Director

HB-1728-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:46:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/4/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

STRONG SUUPORT!!! MAHALO!