



**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF PLANNING
& SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Statement of
MARY ALICE EVANS, Director

before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON
WATER & LAND AND PUBLIC SAFETY**
Tuesday, March 31, 2026, 10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

in consideration of
HCR 115 / HR 107
**REQUESTING THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT,
IN CONSULTATION WITH THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY, HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION, AND THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, TO CONDUCT
AN ASSESSMENT OF PROJECTED MAXIMUM INFRASTRUCTURE CAPACITY
AROUND TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AREAS WITHIN THE CITY AND
COUNTY OF HONOLULU.**

Chairs Hashem and Belatti, Vice Chairs Morikawa and Iwamoto, and Members of the Committees.

The Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) **offers the following comments on HCR 115 / HR 107**, which requests OPSD, in consultation with the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA), Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), and the City and County of Honolulu, to conduct an assessment of projected maximum infrastructure capacity around Transit-Oriented Development areas within the City and County of Honolulu.

OPSD recognizes that insufficient infrastructure capacity remains a significant barrier to supporting the State's desired housing and community development goals. We acknowledge the inherent value of assessments and studies to gather the critical information necessary to inform policymakers and guide strategic decisions on future development. Given the limited geographical and infrastructure-specific scope of these resolutions, OPSD believes that the requested assessment is feasible to execute and aligns with our broader mission of sustainable growth.

However, **OPSD notes** that there are current efforts already underway by OPSD in partnership with HCDA and HHFDC to create a statewide "housing suitability map". This initiative aims to assess site-level feasibility based on numerous factors, including existing

infrastructure capacity and planned expansion. As we already intend to consult with county agencies, including the City and County of Honolulu's Board of Water Supply, Department of Environmental Services, and Department of Housing and Land Management, the specific requests in these resolutions may duplicate existing work.

Furthermore, OPSD must note that due to security concerns regarding the public posting of essential infrastructure placement in the State of Hawai'i, specific geospatial information gathered during such as assessment would be restricted from public posting. While the findings of the study would be used to guide development policy, the sensitive nature of infrastructure data requires careful handling to protect public safety.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
KA 'OIHANA WAI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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March 31, 2026

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The Honorable Mark Hashem, Chair
and Members
House Committee on Water & Land
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 411
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
and Members
House Committee on Public Safety
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 411
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Hashem, Chair Belatti, and Members:

SUBJECT: HCR 115 / HR 107: Requesting the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development, in Consultation with the Hawai'i Community Development Authority, Hawai'i Finance and Development Corporation, and the City and County of Honolulu, to Conduct an Assessment of Projected Maximum Infrastructure Capacity Around Transit-Oriented Development Areas Within the City and County of Honolulu

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) 115 and House Resolution (HR) 107, which urges the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development (OPSD) to assess the projected maximum infrastructure capacity based on current sewer and water infrastructures around the transit-oriented development (TOD) area in consultation with the Hawai'i Community Development Authority (HCDA), Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), and the City and County of Honolulu (City).

The BWS looks forward to collaborating with the OPSD, HCDA, HHFDC, and City in the evaluation of infrastructure capacity to support TOD projects.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HCR 115 / HR 107.

Very truly yours,

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

HR-107

Submitted on: 3/30/2026 2:14:32 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/31/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubrie Jones-Owens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Ocean Safety Lifeguards in Hawai‘i respond to life-threatening emergencies every day. We are often the first on scene for drownings, spinal injuries, cardiac arrests, and traumatic incidents in some of the most dangerous environments imaginable.

Yet despite the realities of our job, lifeguards are not formally recognized as first responders.

That lack of recognition has real consequences. First responder status opens the door to specialized training and critical support services — including therapies and resources designed to address PTSD and cumulative trauma experienced on the job.

Over half of lifeguards report being involved in critical incidents, yet there is almost no research on the psychological impact of those events. While other first responders have PTSD rates as high as 20 percent, lifeguards face the same trauma but fall into a gap in recognition and support. In fact, researchers studying emergency personnel have referred to lifeguards as the “forgotten first responders,” because we operate in the same traumatic environments but fall into a gap in recognition and support.

This resolution helps close that gap.

Recognizing Ocean Safety Lifeguards as first responders acknowledges the reality of the work we do and ensures we have access to the training, resources, and support needed both before and after traumatic events.

Mahalo for your support. From an Ocean Safety Lifeguard,

Aubrie Jones-Owens