

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

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MANAKIA A ME KAHU WILIKI

ERWIN KAWATA
DEPUTY MANAGER
HOPE MANAKIA



April 23, 2026

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The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
and Members
House Committee on Water & Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 430
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Hashem and Members:

**SUBJECT: SCR 165, SD 1: Designating the Month of March as March4Water Month
in the State.**

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 165, Senate Draft (SD) 1, designating the Month of March as March4Water Month in the State.

Through various initiatives and programs, the BWS and its staff embrace and carry out the important duty of promoting water conservation and sustainability efforts, and to raise awareness of the importance of clean and available drinking water is essential for the life our our island. BWS reminds the public to be mindful of water use and throughout the year various events are observed to promote the value of water and to use water efficiently. These special events include, but are not limited to: Water Conservation Week, Smart Irrigation Month, Source Protection Week, Imagine A Day Without Water, Ka Wai Wednesdays, World Water Day, and Detect-A-Leak Week.

The BWS recognizes our stewardship of O'ahu's most precious resource – water. We understand the need to protect, conserve, and manage O'ahu's water resources and watersheds now and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SCR 165, SD 1.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Y. W. Lau', written in a cursive style.

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

SCR-165-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/20/2026 1:51:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/23/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Reef and Ocean STRONGLY SUPPORTS this resolution! Infrastructure for wastewater and drinking water are severely underfunded and public education is needed to raise awareness. Mahalo!



The Plumbers and Fitters UA Local 675

1109 Bethel Street, Lower Level, Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

'A'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia

April 21, 2026

State House of Representatives- Committee on Water and Land

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair, Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair

Reference: **SCR165 S.D.1, Designating the Month of March 2026 as March4Water Month in Hawai`i**

Hearing: Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 10:00am, Room 430

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Committee Members;

The Plumbers and Fitters UA Local 675 ("Local 675") are one of three licensed crafts in Hawai`i's construction industry. Its member apprentices and journeymen are guided by and licensed in accordance with the Uniform Plumbing Code ("UPC"), published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials ("IAPMO") who's stated purpose is providing minimum requirements and standards for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare¹.

Local 675 strongly supports SCR165, S.D.1 designating the month of March as March4Water month in Hawai`i.

"Rooted in the Hawaiian value that wai is life, stewardship of water reflects the deep cultural and spiritual connection between people and 'āina. In Hawaiian tradition, waiwai, meaning wealth, derives from the word wai, underscoring that true prosperity is measured by the health and abundance of our water resources. The protection of streams, aquifers, and coastal waters honors the legacy of 'ike kūpuna and affirms our collective kuleana to mālama i ka wai for present and future generations".²

In partnership with IAPMO and other industry stakeholders, the Plumbers and Fitters UA Local 675 strongly supports SCR165 S.D.1 which recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives, and hope to bring attention and awareness to the full lifecycle of water, from its source, to its transmission, distribution, and use, its sanitary disposal, and its ultimate recycle and reuse.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this resolution.

¹ See 2024 Uniform Plumbing Code, as published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, Section 101.3.

² See The Hawai`i County Council Honorary Certificate recognizing the month of March as March4Water month, March 18, 2026.