

Hawai'i Green Growth is a public-private partnership that coordinates across government, non-governmental and cultural organizations, business, academia and philanthropy to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals.

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**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth
In Support of HB2028 HD1 Relating to Taxation
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
23 March 2016, 9:30am, Room 016**

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) supports the intent of HB2028 HD1, which would authorize Employee Retirement System (ERS) investments in public-private partnership projects that improve water infrastructure, water supply, or promote clean energy.

Based on global climate disruption, increasingly severe weather and natural disasters, and projected long-term decline of rainfall, it is urgent we invest in water infrastructure to ensure increased fresh water availability and security. The ability to pump, divert, transport, store, treat, and deliver safe drinking water to the residents of Hawai'i is of the utmost importance. Innovative new methods and programs to finance water infrastructure improvements are increasingly required.

HGG public-private partners agree that innovative finance is critical to advancing the *Aloha+ Challenge*. The *Aloha+ Challenge* is a statewide commitment by the State Legislature (SCR 69), Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs to achieve six sustainability goals for 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food, natural resources, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, and green jobs and education. Statewide HGG public-private partners are identifying shared measures to track progress and provide accountability with the online *Aloha+ Challenge* Dashboard, while developing an annual policy and action agenda to advance Hawai'i's shared 2030 sustainability goals.

The *Aloha+ Challenge* has been recognized nationally and internationally by the US State Department and Global Island Partnership as a model for locally appropriate implementation of UN Sustainable Development Goals. With the upcoming IUCN World Conservation Congress hosted by Hawai'i in September 2016, this legislative session is an important opportunity for Hawai'i to showcase leadership on sustainable development, conservation and resilience.

As a diverse public-private partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth supports the intent of HB2028 HD1 to increase innovative finance and investments in fresh water capacity and sustainable development.