

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843



February 1, 2016

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Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 2645 Re: Relating to Water Audits

The Board of Water Supply, City and County of Honolulu (BWS), supports the intent of Senate Bill 2645, which establishes a standardized water loss audit program to reduce water loss and conserve potable water resources. We believe the leadership role of the State Commission on Water Resource Management is essential to ensure large public water systems comply in a consistent state-wide approach utilizing the American Water Works Association M-36 manual, which guides water utilities across the nation.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on Senate Bill 2645.

Very truly yours,

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

LATE



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE

Monday February 1, 2016 2:45PM Room 224

In Support **SB2645** Relating to Water Audits

Aloha Chairman Gabbard and members of the Senate Water, Land & Agriculture Committee,

On behalf of our 12,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawaii strongly supports SB2645 relating to water audits. This bill would establish a five-year program for auditing public water systems statewide.

A reliable audit of Hawaii's public water systems is crucial. The U.S. Geological Society estimates that 258 million gallons/day of the water used by public water supplies comes from groundwater and 15.8 million gallons/day from surface water, and nearly all residents in Hawaii receive their water via one of these public water supplies.

These public water supplies face enormous challenges when it comes to replacing and repairing their systems. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found a 20-year capital improvement need of more than \$1 billion for Hawaii's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

The agency with jurisdiction over water loss reporting is the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources – Commission on Water Resource Management (WRM). As a function of implementation of the Hawaii Water Conservation Plan, the WRM Commission has educated and encourages public water systems to do water loss auditing. The Commission has some experience in this area, as it conducted statewide water audit and loss control training in April 2014.

This bill is needed to create a more comprehensive system for annual evaluation and reporting of our public water supply systems.

We strongly urge this Committee to move this measure forward. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo,

Martha Townsend

Director

Background Information

EPA's "Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment" http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/dwsrf/upload/epa816r13006.pdf.

U.S. Geological Survey's "Estimated Use of Water in the United States in 2010" <http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1405/pdf/circ1405.pdf>.