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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, February 14, 2017
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1509
RELATING TO WATER MANAGEMENT

House Bill 1509 proposes to amend Section 174C-31(d)(4), Hawaii Revised Statutes, to include plans for storm water management, reuse, reclamation and remediation in the Water Resource Protection Plan. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department supports storm water capture, reuse and reclamation for augmenting and conserving Hawaii's fresh water supplies. However, the Department believes this measure is unnecessary because the Department's Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) is currently updating its Water Resource Protection Plan, which will include provisions for storm water capture and reuse, wastewater recycling and reuse, and other fresh water augmentation and conservation programs and measures. In addition, the Commission has completed separate studies on storm water reclamation and reuse and a statewide wastewater reuse survey report, and these will be included in the updated Water Resource Protection Plan.

Since the Commission is not a capital project implementing agency and does not own or operate infrastructure, plans for actual storm water reuse projects are usually prepared by county or state agencies responsible for storm water management. To facilitate storm water projects and services, Act 42, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, authorized the Counties to establish and charge user fees to create and maintain any storm water management system or infrastructure. We also note that each respective County Water Use and Development Plan will address the unique storm water reuse opportunities available within its jurisdiction.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 6:25 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: blawaiianlvr@icloud.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1509 on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM

HB1509

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for EEP on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Ho'omana Pono, LLC.	Support	Yes

Comments: We STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill, since it is this very building that wastes hundreds of gallons of re-useable water every time the reflective pool is drained. All that water goes down the storm drain! What a major source of waste. Please pass this bill.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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February 14, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON HB 1509
RELATING TO WATER MANAGEMENT

Room 325
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly support HB 1509, which includes stormwater as a component in the Hawaii Resource Protection Plan.

Hawaii has experienced extremes in weather conditions, severely impacting agricultural operations. Severe droughts have reduced crop production and culling of livestock herds while storms cause damage to fields and increased disease incidences.

Droughts could be managed if the excess waters during storm events could be stored for beneficial use. This was a topic during a recent conference. Extreme droughts and urban demand has placed severe water access challenges upon California farmers.



Drip irrigation has been installed meet crop water demand during dry periods.

This photo illustrates flooding of the same orchard during wet periods to encourage infiltration and recharge of groundwater aquifers. UC Davis scientists are working with farmers to implement practices that will allow trees to survive these flooded periods.

Increased aquifer capacity will provide a resource during drought periods, increasing the fresh water lens. Stormwaters should be seen as an opportunity.

HFB respectfully requests your support of this measure bringing awareness to stormwater management and providing an opportunity to better meet Hawaii's need for water.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 4:14 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: janicem@lava.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1509 on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM

HB1509

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for EEP on Feb 14, 2017 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janice Marsters	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As an environmental engineer working extensively in the field of storm water management, I urge the committee to pass this measure. Reclamation and reuse of storm water could provide additional water resources (replacing potable water for irrigation, for example), as well as improve our near-shore water quality by reducing the amount of storm water run-off.

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