

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND & COMMERCE,
CONSUMER PROTECTION, & HEALTH**

**MARCH 22, 2017
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 632, HD1
RELATING TO WATER INFRASTRUCTURE LOANS.**

Chairpersons Rhoads and Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 632 HD1, which broadens the Water Infrastructure Loan Program. The Department supports this bill.

This bill broadens the water infrastructure loan program to include water utilities. The bill amends the definition of water infrastructure charge to include on-bill charges for loan repayments and other charges that may be imposed on the water utility. The bill also amends the definition of water infrastructure equipment, water infrastructure loans and loan program to include water tanks.

Water is a vital resource for the state, its citizens and the agricultural industry. The water infrastructure loan program will provide funding to help ensure efficient use and management of private and public water resources. Expansion of the program will allow it to assist more entities and make it more useful.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843
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March 22, 2017

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

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

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
and Members
Committee on Water and Land
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 204
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

and

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker
and Members
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Baker, and Members:

Subject: House Bill 632, HD1 Relating to Water Infrastructure Loans

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports House Bill 632, HD1. This measure expands the Water Infrastructure Loan Program, administered by the Department of Agriculture, to include loans made to water utilities and amends various corresponding definitions to include water tanks. House Bill 632, HD1 will provide BWS with an additional option to finance waterworks projects. The savings realized from lower interest rates will ultimately help keep water rates affordable for BWS customers.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony on House Bill 632, HD1.

Very truly yours,

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



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER & LAND AND COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, &
HEALTH

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 — 2:45 p.m. — Room 224

Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 632 HD 1, Relating to Water Infrastructure Loans

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and reduce waste. Ulupono believes that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono strongly supports HB 632 HD 1, which allows loans to water utilities, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

Hawai'i's agricultural industry relies on a constant supply of water, but in times of drought, farmers and ranchers often struggle to keep their businesses alive. In recent years, the state has suffered through severe drought conditions including a two to three decade downward trend in rainfall, which heavily impacts our local agricultural communities. As droughts are increasing, it becomes more important for managers of water to have the financing ability to develop water infrastructure to protect our island's most valuable natural resource.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become more complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate these committees' efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



Kyle Datta
General Partner