

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

355

Honolulu, Hawaii

February 15, 2017

RE: H.B. No. 631  
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2017  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 631 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WATER,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require an owner or prior owner of an abandoned well to repair or seal the well at their own expense;
- (2) Appropriate funds for enforcement of well abandonment requirements; and
- (3) Appropriate funds for three new positions to assist the Department of Land and Natural Resources with the inspection of abandoned wells and the enforcement of well construction and pump installation standards.

The Board of Water Supply testified in support of this measure. The Department of Land and Natural Resources testified in opposition to this measure.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that the funds shall be appropriated from an unspecified special fund rather than the general fund;

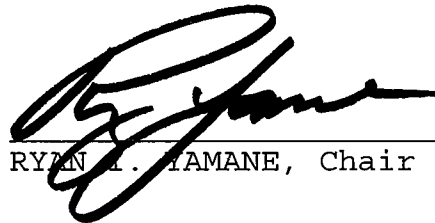
HB631 HD1 HSCR WAL HMS 2017-2001



- (2) Adding language that provides that contractors and other third parties who receive funds under this Act may be subject to review and inspection by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Attorney General, or the Auditor;
- (3) Requiring owners to notify the commission of an abandoned well transfer prior to going into escrow;
- (4) Making an owner who transfers an abandoned well liable for not reporting, repairing or sealing the well prior to transfer to another person;
- (5) Changing the effective date to July 1, 2050; and
- (6) Making technical nonsubstantive amendments for clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 631, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 631, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Water & Land,



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RYAN L. YAMANE, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-ninth Legislature

HSCR 355

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Water & Land**

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Bill/Resolution No.:<br><span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">HB 631</span> | Committee Referral:<br><span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">WAL, FIN</span> | Date:<br><span style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Feb. 8, 2017</span> |
|--|---|---|

The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.

The recommendation is to:     Pass, unamended (as is)     Pass, with amendments (HD)     Hold  
     Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)

| WAL Members              | Ayes | Ayes (WR) | Nays | Excused |
|--------------------------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| 1. YAMANE, Ryan I. (C)   | ✓    |           |      |         |
| 2. KONG, Sam Satoru (VC) | ✓    |           |      |         |
| 3. CULLEN, Ty J.K.       | ✓    |           |      |         |
| 4. EVANS, Cindy          | ✓    |           |      |         |
| 5. ICHIYAMA, Linda       | ✓    |           |      |         |
| 6. LEE, Chris            | ✓    |           |      |         |
| 7. LOWEN, Nicole E.      | ✓    |           |      |         |
| 8. SAY, Calvin K.Y.      | ✓    |           |      |         |
| 9. FUKUMOTO, Beth        | ✓    |           |      |         |
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| <b>TOTAL (9)</b>         | 9    |           |      |         |

The recommendation is:     Adopted     Not Adopted  
 If joint referral, \_\_\_\_\_ did not support recommendation.  
    committee acronym(s)

Vice Chair's or designee's signature:

**Distribution:**    Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO