

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of**  
**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
**Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on**  
**WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE**

**February 1, 2016**  
**2:45 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 2640**  
**RELATING TO WATER SECURITY**

Senate Bill 2640 proposes to establish a two-year pilot program for a water security advisory group to enable public-private partnerships that increase water security by providing matching state funds for projects and programs to increase groundwater recharge, encourage water reuse, and improve the efficiency of potable and agricultural water use. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that this appropriation does not adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget request or any existing funding to the Department's programs, and has the following comments:**

While SECTION 4 of the bill provides the Department with the ability to contract with an independent non-profit entity to carry out the duties and activities associated with this measure, the Department is concerned existing staff resources are insufficient for the workload involved with procurement, management and monitoring of the agreement with the non-profit, services to carry out the projects and programs approved by the water security advisory group, and contracts for approved projects and programs. Additional staff resources would be needed for this project oversight. SECTION 6 of the bill provides for an unspecified amount of general revenues to support the two-year pilot program, which should include sufficient resources for staff oversight.

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
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HAWAII FRESH WATER INITIATIVE

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## Testimony of the Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative on S.B. 2640

### Relating to Water Security Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture Monday, February 1, 2016 Conference Room 224

The Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative strongly supports S.B. 2640, which establishes a two-year pilot project to provide funds for projects and programs to increase water security in the State of Hawaii.

The Hawaii Fresh Water Initiative was launched in 2013 to bring many diverse parties together to develop a forward-thinking and consensus-based strategy to increase water security for Hawaii. Among the concepts in that strategy is a two-year pilot program that:

- Establishes a water security advisory group of water managers, agricultural water system experts, private landowners that are active watershed partners, knowledgeable experts in Hawaiian cultural practices, and a representative of a conservation organization;
- Authorizes the advisory group to establish criteria to evaluate and assign priorities for proposals by public or private agencies or organizations that are able to provide matching funds to increase water security; and
- Authorizes the advisory group to recommend priorities to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the grant of matching funds for water security programs.

In establishing the priorities for the pilot project, the advisory group is directed to encourage innovative proposals that:

- Establish new techniques and projects supporting the recharge of groundwater;
- Reduce the use of potable water for landscape irrigation and encourage the reuse of Hawai'i wastewater; and
- Improve the efficiency of potable domestic water or agricultural irrigation water use.

S.B. 2640 requires the selected projects to submit reports on the amount of water conserved, recharged, or reused, and requires the Department to submit an annual report on the pilot program to the Governor and to the Legislature.

This pilot program will establish base-line information for the implementation of a longer-term program.

For these reasons, we strongly support S.B. 2640 and urge its passage.



AN INITIATIVE OF  
**HAWAII COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**  
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Conservation Council  
for Hawai'i

*Hawai'i's voice for wildlife*

*Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu*



Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture  
Hearing: Monday, February 1, 2016 2:45 pm  
Conference Room 224

Support for SB 2640 Water Security

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee.

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2640, which establishes a two-year pilot program in the Department of Land and Natural Resources that enables public-private partnerships to provide funds for projects that increase water security.

With all due respect, the State is not doing enough to protect and properly manage our water resources and native forests, which serve as essential watersheds. The legislature is not providing enough funding to protect and public trust resources for the people and future generations.

Please support SB 2640 and provide more funding for the DLNR and others who are committed to securing our precious water resources and watersheds.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marjorie Ziegler".

Marjorie Ziegler

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting S.B. 2640 Relating to Water Security  
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture  
Monday, February 1, 2016, 2:45PM, Room 224

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports S.B. 2640 to create pilot program to enable public-private partnerships that increase water security through increased water recharge, reuse, and efficiency, and reduced use.

Easily available fresh water is not a limitless resource here in the middle of the Pacific. Several locations in the state have experienced prolonged drought and, though we had some reprieve in 2015, we again appearing to be entering a drought cycle. Science indicates that the likely effects of climate change in Hawai'i will include:

- More frequent and more severe storms that can increase runoff and siltation; but
- Overall, less rainfall in many locations and therefore less fresh water; and
- Higher temperatures that affect watershed health and can be beneficial to pests.

Hawai'i is already exhibiting telltale signs of climate change. UH's Rainfall Atlas catalogues a century of declining rainfall and fewer trade wind days. Summer temperature records were broken across the state and a record number of storms took aim at Hawai'i over the last two years. In 2014, tropical storm Iselle hit Hawai'i island hard. Fallen albizia trees left Puna a quagmire of damaged houses, blocked roads and downed power lines. At the same time, native 'ōhi'a and koa forests in the area were virtually undamaged. These same native forests are also showing that they are better at capturing rain water and recharging aquifers than invasive species.

In response to these conditions, we must plan and implement mitigative and adaptive measures to ensure the resilience of our natural and human systems. Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters during storm events. Additionally, we must improve our efficiencies and reuse of our fresh water resources.

While we support this measure to provide matching funds for a water security granting program, we respectfully request that this program be additive and not redirect funding from the other important fresh water and watershed programs of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

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