

ITEM C2: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE ON BILLS AND BUDGET

May 16, 2023

Water Bills of 2023

- Total of 153 Bills Tracked
- Testified on 19 Bills not including HB300 (Budget Bill)

HOUSE BILLS

- HB194 Efficiency Standards Sets minimum efficiency standards for toilets and urinals
- HB362 State Water Code Penalties
- HB546 Fuel Tank Advisory Committee Quarterly meetings and budget to DOH
- HB905 Sustainable Ground Water Yields UH and CWRM to develop flexible groundwater model -T&C and GDE
- HB909 Water Conservation Water neutrality turf replacement program
- HB1212 Water Neutrality Water neutral by 2050
- HB1303 Water Conservation Pilot in Counties to incentivize landscape alternatives
- HB1405 Natural Resources Limu research with DAR and UH
- HB1511 Water Resources Grant to BWS for 7 monitoring wells and 1 exploratory well

Water Bills of 2023

SENATE BILLS

- SB71 Environmental Impact Statements Exempts drilling of well on DOA land from Chapter 343
 HRS
- SB93 Reuse Zones Required nonpotable water reuse within certain distance
- SB735 Disposition of Water Rights Exempts instream use of water for commercial kalo cultivation from water license
- SB1066 Fresh Water Security Working Group to recommend priority CIP to increase water security
- SB1459 Environmental Protection Water quality task force to address Waipahu Wells II contamination
- SB1573 Affordable Housing Working group in Office of Governor determine water availability and streamline well permit approval processes

Two Bills Passed

- HB1088 (SB1386) Declaration of Water Shortage and Emergency
- HB153 (SB44) State Water Code Penalties
- No Resolutions

Water Bills Passed

HB1088 - Declaration of Water Shortage and Emergency (Admin Bill)

Summary

- Bifurcates Shortage from Emergency
- Reaffirms Commission jurisdiction in and out of Water Management Areas
- Requires consultation with County and Department of Health
- Will allow for Commission to act immediately
- Requires Statewide Water Shortage Plan

<u>Testimony</u>

- Support from Charley Ice
- Comments and Opposition from Andrew Crossland, Honolulu BWS, and LURF
- Comments from Hawai'i, Maui, Kaua'i DWS





Water Bills Passed

HB153 – Water Code Penalties

<u>Summary</u>

- Sets a minimum fine of \$50 and maximum of \$60,000 per violation per day
- Water Quantity and Quality parity
- Clarifies what constitutes a Continuing Offense
- Requires Commission to make determination based on criteria and severity of offense

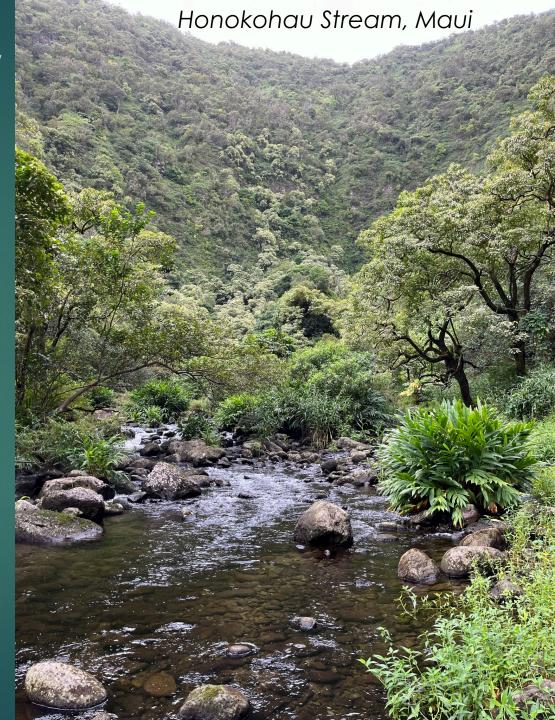
<u>Testimony</u>

- Support from Hawai'i Reef Ocean Coalition
- Opposition from Gerard Silva, LURF

LNR 404 Commission on Water Resource Management

Base Budget

- 27 Positions (22 General Funded 5 Special Funded)
- FY23 Operational Budget \$4,120,444
 - \$2,951,202 General Funds
 - \$356,474 Special Fund (Water Resources Mgmt 326)
 - \$812,768 Special Fund (SPAM 354)
- FY23 CIP Budget \$2 Million
 - Deep Monitoring Wells





FY 24-25 Biennium Budget Request

IGE

- Operating (FY24: \$136,512 A; FY25: \$145,464 A) Full year funding for four (4.00 FTE) authorized Aquatic Biologist positions
- CIP (FY24: \$2,000,000; FY25: \$2,000,000) in general obligation bond funds for new Deep Monitor Wells (DMWs) statewide.

GREEN GMs

- Seven (7) New Positions Ground Water and Survey Branch
- Climate Crisis Research and Monitoring
 - USGS Stream Gages (5/year)
 - Limu Research
 - Hawai'i Mesonet

CWRM Biennium Budget FY24-25

- 33 Positions (28 General Funded, 5 Special Funded)
 - Four (4) in Ground Water Regulation to assist with Red Hill Crisis and Water Use Permit Regulation
 - Two (2) in Planning Water Code Compliance and Enforcement
- FY24 Operational Budget \$4,583,190
- FY25 Operational Budget \$4,852,351
 - Will need to request increase to base budget for increase expenses due to staff increase (i.e. travel, supplies, etc.)
- FY24-FY25 CIP Budget \$2 Million Each Year
 - Deep Monitoring Wells