



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

H.B. 1278 RELATING TO IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

February 10, 2005

By

Kenneth Kaneshiro
Director, Center for Conservation, Research & Training
University of Hawai'i

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Chair Tommy Waters and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1278. House Bill 1278 appropriates funds to develop and demonstrate comprehensive watershed management measures to improve water quality of Lake Wilson and reduce contaminated sediments in statewide waterways.

The University of Hawaii's Center for Conservation Research and Training (CCRT) has been asked by the Legislature to address the issues outlined in the bill. CCRT does have the capacity to do so and we will be able to establish a comprehensive watershed management plan that can improve the water quality of Lake Wilson including the drainage areas surrounding the lake. Furthermore, while the plan will be designed to specifically address the Lake Wilson issues, because of the more comprehensive watershed management approach, such a plan will be applicable more widely to improve water quality of streams and wetlands statewide.

The University of Hawaii is in concurrence with the intent of the bill and strongly supports its passage on the condition that the funds requested for the project do not supplant any portion of the University's Biennium Budget.