



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I

TESTIMONY

HB 1278, HD2, SD1
RELATING TO IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 6, 2005

By

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

Comments Presented to
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RE: HB 1278, HD2, SD1 Relating to Improving Water Quality

Chair Brian Taniguchi, Vice Chair Shan Tsutsui and Members of the Committee:

The purpose of House Bill 1278 is to appropriate 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 sponsors of the bill to address the issues outlined in the bill. CCRT does have the capacity to do so and 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 recommends that the dollar amounts indicated in the original language of the bill, i.e. \$250,000 for fiscal year 2005-2006 and \$250,000 for fiscal year 2006-2007, be reinserted into the current draft. It is also recommended that the effective date be changed to July 1, 2005. UH 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments on this measure.