UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 1451, SD 2, HD 1
RELATING TO IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education

March 22, 2005

by

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

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SB 1451, SD2, HD1 **RELATING TO IMPROVING WATER QUALITY**

Chair Tommy Waters, Vice Chair Maile Shimabukuro and Members of the Committee:

Senate Bill 1451, SD2, HD1 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 requests that the effective date of the Bill be changed back to July 1, 2005. The University also recommends that the original dollar amount of the Bill, i.e. $250,000 for fiscal year 2005 – 2006 and $250,000 for fiscal year 2006-2007 be reinstated in the language of the Bill. The University strongly supports passage of this Bill 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 provide testimony.