



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

S.B. 1451 RELATING TO IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

February 16, 2005

By

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

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Chair Russell Kokubun, Chair Carol Fukunaga, and Members of their Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 1451. SB 1451 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.

Thank you.