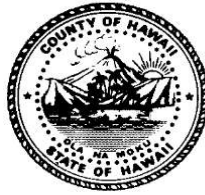


C. Kimo Alameda, PhD.
Mayor



John Pelletier
Vacant
Heather Korotie
Vacant
Charles Young, Chair
Nancy Pisciocchio, Vice-Chair
Charla Thompson
David Huerta
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County of Hawai‘i

KONA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN ACTION COMMITTEE

Aupuni Center • 101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3 • Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720
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March 20, 2025

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of SB1602 SD1 RELATING TO THE KEAUKOU AQUIFER SYSTEM., as amended in HD 1, on 3/18/25

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee,

I am Charles Young, Chair of the Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee. On March 11, 2025, the Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee voted unanimously to support SB 1602, which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to install two monitoring wells in the Keauhou Aquifer System. It also establishes the Keauhou Aquifer System Monitoring Program and requires reports to the Legislature, detailing groundwater levels and water quality analysis in the Keauhou aquifer system.

The public trust doctrine is described by the Hawai‘i Supreme Court as, “the right of the people to have the waters protected for their use [which] demands adequate provision for traditional and customary Hawaiian rights, wildlife, maintenance of ecological balance and scenic beauty, and the preservation and enhancement of the waters” (HRS 174C-2), aims to protect ecological, cultural, and social uses of waters.

Much of the Keauhou aquifer system is located underneath the Kona Urban Growth Area (UGA) by the County General Plan and the Kona Community Development Plan. This land is envisioned for future urban growth and infrastructure development. At the same time, the Keauhou Aquifer System is a vital water source that sustains local ecosystems and cultural practices. Therefore, achieving the balance between high-density development and resource sustainability is critical. The Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee supports SB1602, which proposes to create a Keauhou aquifer system monitoring pilot program to enhance our ability to manage groundwater use within the Keauhou aquifer system sustainably.

Respectively,


Charles Young (Mar 20, 2025 20:54 PDT)

Charles Young

Testimony in Support of SB1602 SD1 RELATING TO THE KEA UHOU AQUIFER SYSTEM

Final Audit Report

2025-03-21

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"Testimony in Support of SB1602 SD1 RELATING TO THE KEA UHOU AQUIFER SYSTEM" History

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