

March 14, 2025

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
House Committee on Water & Land
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Testimony in Support of SB1602 SD1 RELATING TO THE KEAUHOU AQUIFER SYSTEM.

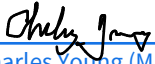
Dear Chair Lowen, Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committees,

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 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 sustainably manage groundwater use within the Keauhou aquifer system.

Respectively,


Charles Young (Mar 14, 2025 12:15 HST)
Charles Young,

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

Final Audit Report

2025-03-14

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

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