

Dear Chairman Garcia, Councilmen Djou and Dela Cruz,

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I would like to offer my written testimony opposing Bill 2 (2008) - RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION, Item 6 on the Agenda of the Transportation and Public Works Committee meeting, February 7, 2008.

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It is my opinion that this proposed Bill for an Ordinance has not been properly considered and/or researched. This is a Bill that sounds good but will not achieve the purpose for which it is proposed in that it will cost most of us far more money than it will save those few who may be paying more than their fair share of the water bills in their dwelling.

For example most of the older condos, particularly high rise condos, for that matter many of those with only a few floors, have more than one source of water serving each unit which would require multiple water meters to measure the usage for one unit.

The best example I can think of is my own building, the Mauna Luan, in Hawaii Kai. I have been the President of the Mauna Luan Condominium Association for approximately 4 years and represent the Board of Directors and our owners. We are two 20 story buildings with 434 units, therefore 434 owners. Presently we have one source for water coming into our property. Each owner pays for their water and hot water as a part of their maintenance fee which is charged in proportion to the square foot size of the individual unit. The maintenance fee varies a great deal from one bedroom units to two bed room units.

I own a 2 bedroom unit which is served by 6 different water lines. The one bedroom units are served by at least 4 water lines. That means to measure the water usage for my condo I would be required to have 6 water meters! There is no place inside my home to locate (hide) even one water meter, let alone 6! There is no place to locate the meters outside the unit as there are no water lines outside in the hall way. The water lines for each stack of apartments **are in the walls, straight up and down.** Again using my unit as an example, in my master bath I have one line which services the toilet, washing machine and lavatories.....another services the shower. In the kitchen, one line services the kitchen sink and dishwasher.....another services the ice maker for the fridge. In the 2nd bathroom one line services the shower and another the commode and lavatory. As stated heretofore, that is 6 lines and would require 6 water meters to measure my water usage.

To sum up, the Mauna Luan now basically has one meter to measure the total water usage by our Association. To comply with the proposed bill would require more than 2,000 water meters for our Association! It is possible that water usage varies from one unit to another, however:

- How much will it cost to install 2,000 meters?
- Who pays for the installation? My estimate is far over a million dollars for cost and installation in the Mauna Luan.
- Where will they be placed in the units?
- In addition to the cost of the 2,000 water meters, who is going to read the meters each month?
- How long will it take to read 2000 meters?
- What will it cost the city to read the meters? My guess is thousands of dollars each month. And if the Board of Water Supply requires us to do the reading, it will be necessary to hire additional employees just to accomplish this task.

And, If you think my wife will allow 6 water meters to be installed in plain view inside our unit, I invite you to be the one to tell her, not me! There is no place where they can be hidden. I invite representatives of the Committee to inspect my unit at any time if you think I am exaggerating the plight of my unit, our buildings or our Association.

I am positive that the Mauna Luan is not the only multiple dwelling in the City and County of Honolulu that will have similar problems. This is a bill that will cause far, far, more problems, cost and expense, than it will solve. As I said before, it sounds good, and for a few people it might be. For the vast majority of us, it will be ridiculously expensive.

Please, do not give this bill further consideration. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

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