



MAUNA LUAN

511 Hahaione Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

February 6, 2008

Chair Nestor R. Garcia
Transportation and Public Works Committee
Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Bill 2 (2008) - Relating to Water Conservation

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

I am the General Manager for the Mauna Luan condominium, a 434-unit complex in Hawaii Kai. I am writing in opposition to Bill 2, which is currently under consideration by your committee, that would mandate that all apartment and condominium units be individually metered so that water consumption for each unit can be determined and billed separately.

We fully understand that it is frustrating for some homeowners to be forced to pay a flat rate water usage fee when other, larger, units use a great deal more water. We also understand that when a constituent brings a request forward to their representative that in most cases that request is brought as a bill for discussion. However, there should be at least minimal research done into the feasibility of any such request before expending the important time of the Council and its members.

The idea of sub-metering for water usage is, on the surface, a good idea. Unfortunately, due to the manner in which many condominiums are constructed there is no physical way to meter all of the water going to a specific unit. A case in point is the Mauna Luan where there is no central location that the water can be shut off for an entire apartment, and thus, no central location for installation of a water meter. A typical 2-bedroom unit here has five (5) separate locations where water is delivered to the various parts of multiple apartments. This is due to the water being fed through riser stacks of water pipes. Also, in the center of the apartments there is no access to the water pipes at all unless you cut the walls open. Consequently, the installation of water meters at each of our apartment units is not physically possible nor fiscally feasible.

We would request that this proposal in its current form not be considered further, nor passed out of committee, due to the reasons cited above. If it does receive further consideration, we would hope that it will be amended to exempt projects where it is not physically possible to install sub-meters for water usage.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Randall R. Weikert
General Manager

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