

BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843



March 24, 2009

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BRENNON T. MORIOKA, Ex-Officio

WAYNE M. HASHIRO, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

DEAN A. NAKANO
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair
and Members
House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
State Capitol, Conference Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 1206, SD1, Relating to Counties

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (HBWS) strongly supports SB 1206, SD1, which proposes amendments to Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Section 49-3 extending the authority of county boards to issue revenue bonds pursuant to existing charter provisions. However, HBWS respectfully requests a technical revision to the existing language contained in SB 1206, SD1. Specifically, we ask that the new language found in section (d) be moved to section (c) immediately following the text, "Subject to the approval of the governing body..."

Chapter 49, HRS, regarding revenue bonds creates a structure for county agencies to issue revenue bonds. SB 1206, SD1 incorporates proposed language, which will achieve consistency between Chapter 49, HRS, and Article VII of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu (City Charter).

Article VII of the City Charter is the legal authority that governs the HBWS. Section 7-105 of the City Charter expressly grants to the HBWS the unrestricted and unconditional authority to issue revenue bonds in the name of the "Board of Water Supply":

Section 7-105. Powers, Duties and Functions of the Board of Water Supply - -

The board of water supply shall:

...

(h) Have the authority to issue revenue bonds under the name of the "Board of Water Supply."

In addition to several housekeeping revisions, SB 1206, SD1 incorporates proposed language extending the provisions of Chapter 49 to the Board regarding exemption from state taxation. SB 1206, SD1 clarifies that such exemption under Chapter 49 extends to those county boards issuing revenue bonds pursuant to existing charter authority.

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply therefore, strongly supports the passage of SB 1206, SD1. Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

Sincerely,

WAYNE M. HASHIRO, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer