



# DLNR SUPPORTS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO HELP IMPROVE DAM AND RESERVOIR SAFETY



This November, there will be a chance to amend the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i (Constitution) to allow the State to issue special purpose revenue bonds to assist dam and reservoir owners with investigating and improving their facilities.

## Private dam and reservoir owners pay the debt service of the special purpose revenue bonds.

*Amendment benefits our communities as improvements to dam and reservoir facilities provide:*

- public safety,
- flood control,
- recreation,
- agricultural,
- water quality, and
- ground water recharge.



### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT QUESTION NO. 1

***“Shall the State be authorized to issue special purpose revenue bonds and use the proceeds from the bond to assist dam and reservoir owners to make their facilities compliant with current safety standards?”***



### How does this affect our communities?

The proposal would allow dam and reservoir owners the ability to apply and obtain special purpose revenue bonds to make their facilities compliant with current safety standards. Many of these facilities have positive impacts on the general public, as these facilities provide a resource for the agricultural community as well as other benefits such as flood control, water quality, recreation, and ground water recharge benefits, which is critical in ensuring adequate water supply for future generations.

The State will not be pledging any of its assets or revenues to support a bond sale for this purpose. The private dam and reservoir owners who choose to apply for these bonds will be responsible for the debt payments. The presumption is that as we aid these owners, businesses and non-profits, the public will benefit from their services. In order to obtain a special purpose revenue bond, a dam and reservoir owner must meet compliance requirements, such as being able to generate sufficient revenues in order to support the issuance of these bonds.

Similar special purpose revenue bonds have been approved for other uses such as health care, industrial enterprises, early childhood care, and schools.

For more information on this proposal, visit the following links:

DLNR Wai Halana newsletter

[http://www.hidlnr.org/eng/nfip/waiHalana/pdf/2012\\_oct.pdf](http://www.hidlnr.org/eng/nfip/waiHalana/pdf/2012_oct.pdf)

Notice of Proposed Constitutional Amendments to the Constitution of the State of Hawaii:

<http://hawaii.gov/elections/documents/2012/ConAm%20Poster%202012%20Final%20-%20all%20languages.pdf>

Did you know that when voting on a constitutional amendment, **a blank vote is considered a “no” vote?** Only a “yes” vote will count toward the passage of the amendment and the amendment needs more than 50% of all the total ballots cast to be “yes” in order to pass.