

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

June 19, 2017

Honorable E. Scott Pruitt
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (1101A)
Washington, D.C. 20460

Honorable Douglas W. Lamont, P.E.
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works
Department of the Army
108 Army Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Administrator Pruitt and Acting Assistant Secretary Lamont:

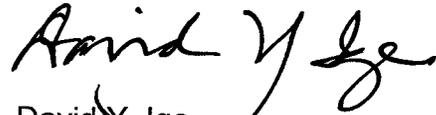
In response to your May 8, 2017 invitation to Governors to provide comments on a forthcoming proposal to revise the definition of "Waters of the United States" as that term applies to the jurisdictional scope of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), I provide the following comments:

The State of Hawai'i generally favors broader federal jurisdiction over Waters of the United States (WOTUS) that includes wetlands, tributaries, floodplains and waters adjacent to navigable waters. Hawai'i's economy is more dependent than any other state on clean waters to enhance tourism and recreational water use and to protect coral reefs. Hawai'i's coral reefs, in particular, which are critical in protecting our shorelines, have been experiencing bleaching events and signs of stress from warmer ocean temperatures in recent years. Hawai'i cannot control rising ocean temperatures alone, but broad jurisdiction over WOTUS could help protect reefs by maximizing water quality and reducing other coral stressors such as sediments, sewage nutrients, and other pollutants, particularly in stormwater runoff. Limiting the WOTUS jurisdiction to navigable waters with a surface connection would not protect water quality as well, potentially resulting in harm to Hawai'i's tourism industry, recreational water use and coral reefs. More clear administrable definitions of terms in the rule and cohesive guidance documents may help

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Y. Ige". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the word "Ige".

David Y. Ige
Governor, State of Hawai'i

C: Andrew Hanson (via email)
Donna Downing (via email)