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U.S. DESALINATION COALITION WELCOMES NEWEST MEMBER

Washington, D.C. - The U.S. Desalination Coalition (USDC) today announced that the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, one of the ten largest water utilities in the nation, has joined its ranks, raising its total membership to fourteen. The Board's primary function is to preserve and protect the island of Oahu's most precious resource - water, while meeting the needs of Oahu's residents.

USDC was created to promote and advance the use of technology for desalination of seawater and brackish groundwater as part of a comprehensive solution to America's growing water crisis. It has urged Congress to pass legislation that would increase the role of the federal government in development of desalination plants.

"We are very excited to have the Honolulu Board of Water Supply on our team," stated USDC Executive Director Hal Furman. "The Water Board currently services approximately 800,000 customers in Oahu. That figure is expected to increase dramatically as its service area continues to experience tremendous growth."

Furman continued, "The Honolulu Water Board is at the forefront of the desalination movement taking place in our country. It is constructing a new desalination plant that will have the capacity to pump up to 35 million gallons of potable water a day to thirsty homes and businesses on Oahu." The plant is expected to be operational within the next two years.

"With population growth and extreme drought conditions exacerbating America's dwindling fresh water supplies, it makes perfect public policy sense for this nation to turn toward desalination the way other countries have," Furman added. "Two-thirds of the world's surface is water and the technology exists to utilize it. We need to do on a national scale what the Honolulu Board of Water Supply is doing for Oahu."