



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

H.B. 2779, RELATING TO GRAY WATER

Testimony of Chiyome Leinaala Fukino, M.D.
Director of Health

February 7, 2008
8:30 a.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health supports the concept of the use of gray water from
2 residences for irrigation purposes but respectfully opposes this measure unless the Department can be
3 provided the resources to develop and implement this program without adversely affecting the priorities
4 in the executive's supplemental budget proposal.

5 **Fiscal Implications:** Yes

6 **Purpose and Justification:** H.B. 2779 amends Section 342D-70, Hawaii Revised Statutes to establish
7 rules of a gray water recycling program for residences for irrigation purposes. The department has rules
8 that allow for the construction and use of gray water systems for subsurface irrigation for residences
9 with individual wastewater systems (IWSs). The department supports the reuse of gray water for
10 irrigation, however the department does not have the resources to include dwelling units that are located
11 in county sewer areas.

12 There is also a jurisdictional issue. Residential homes that are located in these sewer areas are
13 regulated by the counties. Nationally, gray water standards for residential subsurface landscape
14 irrigation are covered under the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) Standards that are used by the counties'
15 building departments. Unfortunately, all of the counties in Hawaii deleted the reuse water and gray

1 water provisions when they adopted the UPC for implementation. The department recommends that a
2 resolution be drafted to encourage the counties to adopt and implement the gray water standards for
3 residential subsurface landscape irrigation as provided under the current UPC Standards. This will let
4 residences served by county sewers the option to utilize their gray water for onsite irrigation.

5 We will recommend that the State Building Code be written under Act 82 to allow gray water
6 recycling similar to the UPC.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
P.O. BOX 621
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**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

on House Bill 2779 – Relating To Gray Water

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

February 7, 2008

The purpose of House Bill 2779 is to amend Section 342D-70, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require the Department of Health to establish a gray water recycling program and regulate the use of gray water in the State of Hawaii. While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of this bill as it furthers the recycling and reuse of gray water for residential irrigation purposes, the Department however defers to the Department of Health on the practicality of implementing a gray water recycling program and regulating its use.

Gray water recycling and reuse is consistent with the policies of the Department's Commission on Water Resource Management to reserve the highest quality of water for the highest uses and to promote the augmentation and conservation of the State's water resources.

carroll1-Kristen

From: Karen Chun [karen@MauiPaddle.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2008 8:58 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of Hb 2779

To: COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Thursday, February 7, 2008
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312
Re: H.B. 2779 Graywater
From: Karen Chun, 87 Lae St. Paia 96779

This is a terrific bill to protect our dwindling water resources and reduce the loads on our sewage treatment plants. It will allow new construction to legally provide gray water irrigation (as opposed to those of us who just run a hose out of the back of our washing machines into the bananas. :-)