



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 sewerred 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.



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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February 7th, 2008, 8:30 A.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2779

Chair Morita and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports HB 2779, requiring the Department of Health to establish a gray water recycling program.

This measure would allow homeowners and others to use gray water recycling systems. Such systems conserve water and reduce the burden on the environment and wastewater treatment facilities. Gray water is simply wastewater generated from domestic processes such as washing dishes, laundry and bathing. Gray water comprises 50-80% of residential wastewater. With growing pressures on Hawaii's limited freshwater aquifers and aging and expensive wastewater collection and treatment facilities on each island, this measure helps to improve Hawaii's sustainability.

Please forward this common sense measure to allow more residents to make use of safe gray water systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.