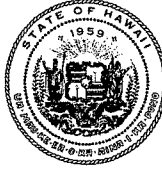


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



RUSS K. SAITO
Comptroller

BARBARA A. ANNIS
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
RUSS K. SAITO, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON
February 10, 2009

Bill No. HB 604

Support Y N

Date 2-10-09

Time 9:30a

Cat AF AS AX B C

Type 1 2 WI

H.B. 604

RELATING TO GRAY WATER

Chair Morita and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 604.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) opposes this bill for several reasons.

First, this bill, if implemented, would undermine the purpose and operation of the State Building Code Council, which was established by Act 82 of the 2007 Legislature. HRS 107 Part II, State Building Code and Design Standards, provides a comprehensive process for adopting state building codes from the national and international codes that national and international organizations review and update on an ongoing and rigorous basis.

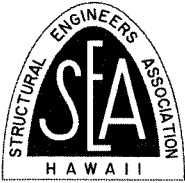
The process for adopting these national and international codes for Hawai'i involve extensive review by expert committees of architects, engineers, and industry experts, unanimous approval by a subcommittee of county building officials, and

approval by the full Council, followed by public hearings and the rulemaking process by which the building codes are put into effect. This process for adopting building codes should be used for all codes that become part of the building code.

This bill is also unnecessary. Gray water systems are included in the Uniform Plumbing Code Chapter 16. The State Building Code Council is preparing to adopt the Uniform Plumbing Code plus an appendix K, which deals with onsite sewage disposal.

DAGS recommends that this bill be held.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

P.O. Box 3348, Honolulu, Hawaii 96801

February 9, 2009

TO: State of Hawaii – House
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

SUBJECT: **HB604, RELATING TO GRAY WATER**
Hearing Tuesday, February 10, 2009
TIME: 9 a.m.

Honorable Rep. Hermina M. Morita, Chair
Rep. Denny Coffman, Vice Chair

The Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii (SEAOH) is the local chapter of the National Council of Structural Engineering Associations (NCSEA), and we have over 200 active members in Hawaii. The members of SEAOH have an historic and ongoing role in the development and implementation of building codes, and Gary Chock SEAOH past President, represents our organization as a member of the State Building Code Council established by Act 82 of the 2007 Legislature (HRS 107 Part II). HRS 107 Part II, State Building Code and Design Standards, provides for a comprehensive building code process based on national standards that involves a council comprised of the principal State agencies, county building officials, and engineers and architects.

We would like to express our opposition to HB604, RELATING TO GRAY WATER

Gray water systems are already within the scope of the Uniform Plumbing Code Chapter 16, which has not been amended or deleted by the State Building Code Council. HB604 would be in conflict with HRS107 Part II State Building Code and Design Standards, which established the State Building Code Council within DAGS to adopt administrative rules for statewide codes, specifically including the Uniform Plumbing Code as well as its Appendix K relating to onsite sewage disposal. Therefore, if it is the committee's desire to pass this bill out of committee, it should add a subsection stating: "the department shall not adopt standards conflicting with codes and standards established under HRS107 Part II State Building Code and Design Standards."

Thank you very much for an opportunity to express our views. We recommend that this bill be deferred. It is unnecessary. The standards and criteria already exist in the building code being adopted this year by the council.

Structural Engineers Association of Hawaii

Ian Robertson, Ph.D., P.E. Structural Engineer
SEAOH 2008 President

Gary Chock, P.E. Structural Engineer
SEAOH 2007 President 521-4513

Bill No. HB 604

Support **Y** **(N)**

Date 2/10

Time _____

Cat **AF AS AX (B C)**

Type **1 2 (W)**

Ian Robertson

Gary Chock



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.537.9019 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

Bill No. HB 604

Support Y N

Date 2/10

Time _____

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 10, 2009, 9 A.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 604

Chair Morita and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawaii Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports HB 604, requiring county gray water recycling programs to conform to standards already established by the Department of Health.

Gray water recycling 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. 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.

The Department of Health has already established rules for the use of gray water recycling systems. The Sierra Club does not believe that any County has done the same. This bill essentially outlines a new process to allow residents to implement gray water recycling under the Department rules, but still allows the counties to review and approve the process. This bill appears to neatly resolve any problems by ensuring: (1) the Department of Health is not unduly burdened, but (2) the Counties retain jurisdiction over, essentially, building matters.

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.



Robert D. Harris, Director