

LATE



# Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

February 22, 2011, 2:50 P.M.  
(Testimony is 1 page long)

### TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 1006

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 8,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, *opposes* SB 1006. This proposal would continue an inappropriate intrusion by the Legislature into the setting of water quality standards.

The Sierra Club previously opposed the passage of Act 126, which passed in 2009. The process of establishing water quality standards -- what pollutant levels are safe for our residents and fragile marine ecosystems -- should be grounded firmly in science, not politics.

On the mainland, several states have established dozens of different water quality standards depending on the particular development proposed for that area. Hawai'i should stay out of this type of tomfoolery. We've already taken a step down the wrong path. Act 126 was passed largely to benefit a single polluter, the City and County of Honolulu, in an effort to reduce the amount of potential fines it would have to pay for ongoing water quality violations.

If SB 1006 is not passed, the Department of Health will be required to follow the process outlined in Chapter 11-54, Hawai'i Administrative Rules. Specifically, the Department will be required to adopt water standards that support the "propagation of fish, shellfish, and wildlife and recreation in and on the water . . ." H.A.R § 11-54-1.1. Further, "[w]here existing high quality waters constitute an outstanding resource, such as waters of national and state parks and wildlife refuges and waters of exceptional recreational or ecological significance, that water quality shall be maintained and protected."

Let's ensure our residents feel confident that Hawai'i's water quality standards are designed to fully protect human health and our fragile marine ecosystems. Let's keep the process of establishing water quality in the hands of scientists and the public.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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Testimony for ENE 2/22/2011 2:50:00 PM SB1006

Conference room: 225  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Arvid Youngquist  
Organization: The Mestizo Association  
Submitted on: 2/22/2011

Comments:  
Chair, ENE Committee  
Honorable Committee Members

We support SB 1006.

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony in writing.

Arvid Youngquist  
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