

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

1000 ULUOHIA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-3486 • FAX: (808) 768-3487 • WEBSITE: <http://envhonolulu.org>

PETER B. CARLISLE  
MAYOR



TIMOTHY E. STEINBERGER, P.E.  
DIRECTOR

MANUEL S. LANUEVO, P.E., LEED AP  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
WAS 12-65

March 27, 2012

**LATE TESTIMONY**

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 2640, SD1, Relating to Wastewater

The City and County of Honolulu's Department of Environmental Services opposes Senate Bill (SB) 2640, SD1, Relating to Wastewater, as written.

SB 2640, SD1, proposes that counties shall permit the use of an otherwise authorized individual wastewater system as an on-site means of wastewater disposal when such system pre-dates a county-operated wastewater treatment system; and the county determines that allowing the individual wastewater treatment system is fair and equitable. On-site means of wastewater disposal have significant value in areas that are not sewered. However, when a county and its taxpayers or rate payers have invested in the infrastructure to provide an appropriate system to protect the general public health and the environment, it is not appropriate for selected residents, whom the system was designed to serve, to not participate in and connect to that public infrastructure even when their individual wastewater treatment system pre-dates the county installed system.

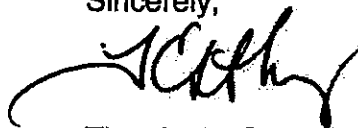
The Revised Ordinances of Honolulu provide for the creation of sewer improvement districts through a specific and extensive process with final approval by the City Council. Sewer Improvement Districts are instituted to extend service to those areas currently on individual wastewater treatment systems, particularly cesspools, to eliminate older less effective systems and to better protect public health. Many Improvement Districts are in shoreline areas or are surrounded by communities currently served by the City and County wastewater system. This proposal could

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair  
March 27, 2012  
Page 2

effectively eliminate such improvements that benefit the overall community. We understand that this language is an improvement on the original proposal, but believe that the Improvement District process with City Council approvals already provides for a determination that is fair, equitable, and provides an overall community benefit.

The Department of Environmental Services respectfully requests that the Committee not pass SB 2640, SD1, Relating to Wastewater, as currently written.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Steinberger', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the left.

Timothy E. Steinberger, P.E.  
Director