

LATE

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
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STATE OF HAWAII
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

SB 2640, RELATING TO WASTEWATER

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

February 28, 2012
2:30 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health respectfully **opposes** this measure because Hawaii
2 Administrative Rules, section 11-62-06(b), for the Department of Health requires all buildings
3 generating wastewater located within or near proximity of an available public sewer system to connect
4 to the public sewer. Department rules allow the use of individual wastewater systems as a temporary
5 measure for the disposal of wastewater until such time as sewers become available to the lot.
6 County wastewater treatment plants provide higher levels of treatment and better quality wastewater that
7 can be reused as reclaimed water which conserves our limited water resources.

8 If the intent of the bill is to lessen wastewater loading to county wastewater treatment plants by
9 allowing residential compost toilets and encouraging wastewater reuse, Department rules already allow
10 compost toilets on a case-by-case basis and the reuse of graywater in areas inaccessible to county
11 sewers. The recent statewide plumbing code, if adopted by the counties, will further allow the reuse of
12 graywater on lots in county sewer areas.

13 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

14 **Purpose and Justification:** This bill prevents a county from prohibiting the continued use of an

1 individual wastewater system on a lot when a county operated wastewater treatment system becomes
2 available. This means that when a county sewer line is constructed in near proximity of a lot, the county
3 cannot require the homeowner to connect the property to the county sewer system. This bill contradicts
4 department rules that allow individual wastewater treatment systems to be constructed onsite as a
5 temporary means for the disposal of wastewater. Furthermore, this bill allows homeowners with
6 existing cesspools to continue using cesspools which have the potential to spill, and adversely affect
7 ground water and near shore waters of our islands. Once county sewers are constructed, the counties
8 have the responsibility and means to properly operate, maintain, and provide adequate treatment of
9 wastewater to levels that are safe and do not adversely impact the environment.

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



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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**SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

February 28, 2012, 2:30 P.M.
(*Testimony is 1 page long*)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2640

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Espero, and Committee Members -

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 10,000 dues-paying members and supporters, *supports* SB 2640. This bill allows homeowners to install an authorized wastewater system in lieu of connecting to a sewer line.

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. Gray water recycling systems -- which this measure could authorize -- 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.

The Department of Health has already established rules for the use of gray water recycling systems.

We hope you will move this measure forward. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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LIFE OF THE LAND

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COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOV'T OPERATIONS & MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, February 28, 2012
TIME: 2:30 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 224
BILL: SB 2640

SUPPORT

Aloha Chairs Espero and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and English and Members of the Committees

My name is Henry Curtis and I am the Executive Director of Life of the Land, Hawai'i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for four decades. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

SB 2640 deals with the expense of hooking up to a new county sewage system.

We support the bill with an amendment

HRS 27-21.6 Functions reassigned to the counties. ... (B) Except for cesspools within the coastal water inundated zone, no county shall prohibit, based upon proximity to a county operated wastewater treatment system, the use of an otherwise authorized individual wastewater treatment system as an on-site means of wastewater disposal in lieu of wastewater treatment works.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 4:46 PM
To: PGM Testimony
Cc: dumancasdennis@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2640 on 2/28/2012 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for PGM/ENE 2/28/2012 2:30:00 PM SB2640

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dennis Dumancas
Organization: Individual
E-mail: dumancasdennis@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/27/2012

Comments:
I'm supporting Bill SB2640 proposed by Senator Shimabukuro.