

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 1992, the  
2 University of Hawaii sea grant college program published the  
3 report, "Oil Spills at Sea: Potential Impacts on Hawaii," which  
4 estimated economic losses of \$6,800,000,000 if a catastrophic  
5 oil spill reached the beaches at Waikiki. This led to the  
6 preparation of the 1996 report, "Hawaii's Readiness to Prevent  
7 and Respond to Oil Spills," hereafter referred to as the "1996  
8 report," which has been the foundation of Hawaii's emergency  
9 spill response planning and was written in partnership with the  
10 department of health, department of land and natural resources,  
11 and department of transportation.

12           The legislature further finds that the 1996 report has not  
13 been updated, despite the potential dire economic and  
14 environmental consequences of an oil spill in Hawaii as  
15 indicated by the 1992 economic analysis conducted by the  
16 University of Hawaii sea grant college program. In September  
17 2013, Hawaii experienced an example of the potential impacts  
18 from a spill when hundreds of thousands of gallons of molasses



1 were spilled into Honolulu Harbor. News of the spill spread  
2 globally, which further highlights the need to prepare a spill  
3 prevention plan. Fortunately, molasses dissolves in water and  
4 will eventually be broken down by bacteria. However, the  
5 immediate impacts to the ecosystem remain, and the impacts from  
6 an oil spill would be more persistent and damaging.

7 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 8 (1) Require the University of Hawaii sea grant college  
9 program to submit a report updating the 1996 report to  
10 the legislature; and  
11 (2) Appropriate funds for staffing and resources to update  
12 the 1996 report.

13 SECTION 2. (a) The University of Hawaii sea grant college  
14 program shall prepare a report updating the 1996 report.

15 (b) The updated report shall:

- 16 (1) Concentrate on the prevention and mitigation of a  
17 variety of contaminant spills into our environment;  
18 (2) Identify natural hazards and spill risk plans; and  
19 (3) Update critical facilities and hazard maps in the  
20 State.



1 (c) In preparing the report, the University of Hawaii sea  
2 grant college program shall conduct interviews with major  
3 stakeholders, including:

4 (1) The department of health;

5 (2) The department of land and natural resources;

6 (3) The department of transportation;

7 (4) The United States Coast Guard;

8 (5) The United States Environmental Protection Agency; and

9 (6) Any other organization, company, individual, or expert  
10 that the sea grant college program deems necessary.

11 SECTION 3. The University of Hawaii sea grant college  
12 program, in consultation with major stakeholders, shall submit a  
13 report updating the 1996 report to the legislature, including  
14 findings, recommendations, and proposed draft legislation, if  
15 necessary, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
16 the regular session of 2016.

17 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
19 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to provide  
20 funding for staffing, administrative and technical support,  
21 office equipment and supplies, and travel expenses to enable the



1 University of Hawaii sea grant college program to update the  
2 1996 report.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
4 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on March 24, 2989.



**Report Title:**

Oil Spill Prevention; Sea Grant College Program; University of Hawaii; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program to submit a report updating the 1996 report on oil spills. Appropriates funds for staffing and resources to update the 1996 report. Effective March 24, 2989. (HB2620 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*





STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
P.O. Box 3378  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

**H.B. 2620, HD1, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

**Testimony of Gary L. Gill  
Deputy Director, Environmental Health Administration**

**February 11, 2014  
2:00 P.M.**

1 **Department's Position:** The Department of Health strongly supports this measure since it will further  
2 the goals of environmental protection and prevention, preparedness, and response to oil and significant  
3 material spills.

4 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

5 **Purpose and Justification:** The Department of Health is the lead state agency for the response to any  
6 oil or hazardous material release. The updating of the 1996 report, *Hawaii's Readiness to Prevent and*  
7 *Respond to Oil Spills* and the 1992 economic analysis, *Oil Spills at Sea---Potential Impacts on Hawaii*  
8 greatly shaped Hawaii's ability and capability to respond to potential oil spills in Hawaiian waters. The  
9 proposed updating of this evaluation will further strengthen Hawaii's preparedness and response  
10 program to better plan for potential harmful releases to Hawaii waters and land with current knowledge  
11 and technologies. As the economy strengthens and energy sources dynamics change, it is critical that  
12 our planning be updated to prevent environmental pollution and protect public health.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

## ichiyama2-Fern

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 06, 2014 2:07 PM  
**To:** HEDtestimony  
**Cc:** mendezj@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2620 on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM\*

### **HB2620**

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

Testimony for HED on Feb 11, 2014 14:00PM in Conference Room 309

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

#### Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)