



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2620, H. D. 1, S. D. 1, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Friday, March 28, 2014 **TIME:** 9:25 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

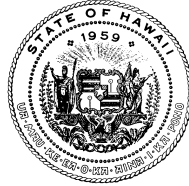
TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**
(For more information, contact Diane Erickson,
Deputy Attorney General at (808) 586-0618)

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

This bill requires the University of Hawaii sea grant college to prepare and submit a report updating the 1996 report entitled "Hawaii's Readiness to Prevent and Respond to Oil Spills," which report is to include findings, recommendations, and proposed draft legislation, if necessary, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of the Legislature in 2016.

Article X, section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution, gives the University of Hawaii Board of Regents "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides that: "This section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern."

The legislature should consider amending this bill to add a provision identifying the bill to be a law of statewide concern.



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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

H.B.2060, HD1, SD1, RELATING TO ENVIRONMENT

**Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

**March 28, 2014
9:25 A.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.