

LATE TESTIMONY

1065 Ahua Street
Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: 808-833-1681 FAX: 839-4167
Email: info@gcahawaii.org
Website: www.gcahawaii.org



GCA of Hawaii

GENERAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

Quality People. Quality Projects.

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February 20, 2014

TO: HONORABLE WILL ESPERO, CHAIR, HONORABLE ROSALYN BAKER, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR, HONORABLE RUSSELL RUDERMAN, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

SUBJECT: **S.B. 2749, Relating to the Wastewater.** Provides that a county may not prohibit, based upon proximity to a county sewer system, the use of an otherwise authorized individual wastewater system as an on-site means of wastewater disposal in lieu of wastewater treatment works.

HEARING

DATE: Thursday, February 20, 2014
TIME: 2:50 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 225

Dear Chairs Espero and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Baker and Ruderman and Members of the Committee,

The General Contractors Association of Hawaii (GCA) is an organization comprised of over approximately hundred (600) general contractors, subcontractors, and construction related firms. The GCA was established in 1932 and is the largest construction association in the State of Hawaii. The mission is to represent its members in all matters related to the construction industry, while improving the quality of construction and protecting the public interest.

S.B. 2749 would prevent the county from prohibiting the use of an otherwise authorized individual wastewater system, based on proximity to a county sewer system, as an on-site means of wastewater disposal in lieu of wastewater treatment works. GCA supports the intent of this measure.

GCA is an active participant on the State Building Code Council which is continuously reviewing new and innovative technology related to building and design. GCA appreciates this measure's consideration of the impact of the state's infrastructure and access to adequate waste disposal systems. With regard to the reference to individual wastewater treatment system, there is a question as to whether this measure would allow a homeowner to install a cesspool system, which has recently been restricted by the Environmental Protection Agency. If there is a way to further clarify what type of alternative wastewater system would be allowed, particularly composting toilets, it may be more acceptable by other regulating agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our views on this measure.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Senate Bill 2749 | RELATING TO WASTEWATER

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Chairs Espero and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Baker and Ruderman, members of the Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and Energy and Environment Committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Senate Bill 2749.

While our state government and local municipalities strive every year to better our aging infrastructure, we are cognizant of the fact that the infrastructure does not necessarily support every tax payer.

While counties move to wastewater treatment systems and move away from septic tanks and systems of the like, it is fair to say that not all households are able to link up to the respective county systems. This bill would allow for more options in dealing with waste water.

Furthermore, Hawai'i's scenic beauty is a great draw for our visitor industry; nothing could be more unnatural than a mobile sanitation unit or a porta potty alongside a trail. One example is the Kalalau Trail where the Department of Land and Natural Resources flies in porta potties via helicopters. Nothing could be more unnatural or more of an eyesore than a porta potty in the middle of our natural beauty.

Other governments and countries in the Pacific with more fragile ecologies than Hawai'i has been successful in these endeavors. It would behoove the State to allow access to such facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support.

Adrian K. Kamali'i
Pae 'Āina Communications



LATE TESTIMONY

HĀNA ★ RANCH

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

February 20, 2014, 2:50 p.m.

Room 225

SB 2749, Relating to Wastewater

Aloha Chairs Espero & Gabbard, Vice Chairs Baker & Ruderman and Members of the Committees:

This testimony is provided by Hana Ranch Stewards, LLC whose goals are to maintain Hana Ranch's natural beauty, continue its legacy as a productive ranch, and be a part of a vibrant community centered on healthy food, clean water, and a thriving environment.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the intent of this measure. Composting toilets can be an appropriate stand-alone solution for wastewater treatment in instances where it is not environmentally, geographically or economically feasible to employ other wastewater solutions such as sewage treatment or septic. At Hana Ranch, composting toilets are a potential solution that would minimize the use of water, improve water quality, and enrich soil. We support NSF approved composting toilets that have been approved by State Department of Health, and encourage close collaboration with regulators to approve safe and appropriate installations.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Josh Daniel
Hana Ranch Manager