



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Written Testimony
Only

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1852 H.D.1 S.D.1
RELATING TO WATER POLLUTION**

SENTATOR JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: March 30, 2016
Time: 9:00 AM

Room Number: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department strongly supports this measure. The Clean Water
3 State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) was established by the 1987 amendments to the Federal Water
4 Pollution Control Act (FWPCA), also known as the Clean Water Act (CWA) as a financial
5 assistance program for a wide range of wastewater infrastructure projects, under Title 33
6 U.S. Code Section 1383. The program is a powerful partnership between the United States
7 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the states that gives states the flexibility to fund a
8 range of projects that address their highest priority water quality needs. The program was
9 amended in 2014 by the Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA).

10 The WRRDA Public Law 113-121 amended Titles I, II, V, and VI of the Clean Water Act and
11 became effective on October 1, 2014. The amendments made significant changes to the CWA,
12 including explicitly expanding the CWSRF loan programs to nonprofit entities. As amended, the
13 CWA now includes section 603(c)(4), which states that each CWSRF may provide financial
14 assistance to any public, private, or nonprofit entity, "for the construction, repair, or replacement
15 of decentralized wastewater treatment systems that treat municipal wastewater or domestic
16 sewage." The CWA also includes section 603(c)(11), which states that each CWSRF Program
17 may provide financial assistance, "to any qualified nonprofit entity, as determined by the
18 Administrator to provide assistance to owners and operators of small and medium publicly
19 owned treatment works (A) to plan, develop, and obtain financing for eligible projects under this
20 subsection, including planning, design, and associated preconstruction activities; and (B) to assist
21 such treatment works in achieving compliance with this Act." Projects that provide assistance to
22 small and medium publicly owned treatment works (POTW) are eligible. The definition of small
23 and medium POTWs shall be determined by the State. Assistance recipients must be a nonprofit

- 1 entity. A nonprofit entity is one which has Federal tax-exempt status. The CWSRF may not
- 2 fund ongoing O&M activities; however, planning and design costs for capital projects, as well as
- 3 broader water quality planning projects, are eligible.
- 4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HOUSE BILL NO. 1852 H.D. 1 S.D.1 - RELATING TO WATER POLLUTION

MARCH 30, 2016

9:00 AM

TESTIMONY OF SHAYNA OLARTI, SENIOR AT MILILANI HIGH SCHOOL

DESCRIPTION:

This measure clarifies that nonprofit organizations may receive loans from the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund to engage in activities that are consistent with the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, including the planning, designing, and construction of wastewater treatment works. Takes effect 7/1/2070.

POSITION:

I am testifying in favor of the House Bill No. 1852 H.D. 1 S.D. 1.

COMMENTS:

My name is Shayna Olarti. I am a senior at Mililani High School, currently enrolled in an AP Environmental Science class. I am testifying for the House Bill No. 1852 H.D. 1 S.D. 1 so that nonprofit organization can receive loans that can help with water restoration.

Although residents want to help with the water situation in their area, they can't afford to make any changes. By allowing nonprofit organizations to receive loans from the Federal Water Pollution Act, residents can help to plan, design, and construct waste treatment works. State or county agencies do not necessarily put water pollution control facilities as their top priority so when residents join together and want to help the environment, the Federal Water Pollution Act should give them the funds to make a difference. Not only will this help control the water pollution, but it will also benefit their community. When residents get together, they can learn more about their community and how they can help the environment. Under the Clean Water Act, EPA has enforced pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry. If residents helped out with the water pollution standards, the community could fix the problems faster. By giving nonprofit organizations loans, state and county agencies would not be the only organizations that can finance the construction of water pollution control projects.

SHAYNA OLARTI

AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE CLASS AT MILILANI HIGH SCHOOL

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