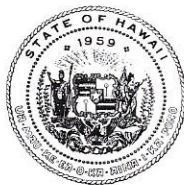


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2749 H.D.1
RELATING TO WASTE**

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 12, 2016
Time: 8:30 AM

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities as set forth in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports the intent of the bill and would like to offer
4 the following comments.

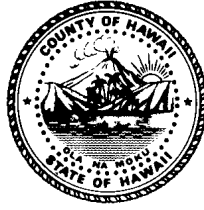
5
6 The Department supports the establishment of a sewage infrastructure review task force under
7 Section 1 of the bill. Sewage infrastructure in the State are generally owned by the Counties and
8 various private entities. The information to be collected from the task force can be beneficial to
9 the State. However, the Department understands that the success will depend on the Counties
10 and private entities commitment to participate in the task force. Information and data about the
11 sewage infrastructure listed under (b)(1) to (b)(6) would have to be provided by these parties.
12 Therefore, the Department supports the establishment of a sewage infrastructure task force as
13 long as there is a commitment by the Counties and private entities to participate in this initiative.

14 Due to the complexity of the information that will need to be collected and analyzed, the
15 Department requests that additional time be provided to submit the report of its findings and
16 recommendations to the legislature as required by Section 1(e). The Department estimates that
17 an additional year will be needed to complete this report.

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

William P. Kenoi
Mayor

Randy Kurohara
Managing Director



BJ Leithead Todd
Director

John A. Medeiros
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

(808) 961-8083 · Fax (808) 961-8086

<http://www.Hawai'i-county.gov/environmental-management/>

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 2749 HD1 RELATING TO WASTE SEWAGE RUNOFF TASK FORCE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

DATE: Friday, February 12, 2016

TIME: 8:30 am

PLACE: Conference Room 329
State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

Department Testimony: The County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management (COH-DEM) offers the following comments.

SECTION 1: As pointed out by the Department of Health in their testimony to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, on February 4, 2016; due to the complexity of the subjects proposed for examination under the bill, substantial resources would be required to meet the purpose of the Task Force.

The County of Hawai'i does not have adequate resources to support the Task Force as existing staffing within the COH-DEM is limited.

SECTION 3: As pointed out by the Department of Health in their testimony to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, on February 4, 2016; substantial effort would be required by COH-DEM to produce information required by the Task Force in order to fulfill the requirements under Section 3 of the bill.

As indicated under Section 1; the County of Hawai'i does not have adequate resources to support the Task Force as existing staffing within the COH-DEM is limited.

Based on the above, the County of Hawai'i Department of Environmental Management respectfully requests that **HB 2749 HD1** not be passed.

Sincerely,

BJ Leithead Todd
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

1000 ULUOHIA STREET, SUITE 308, KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707
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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



LORI M.K. KAHIKINA, P.E.
DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY A. HOUGHTON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:
WAS 16-39

February 11, 2016

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Health
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Belatti and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 2749, H.D.1 Relating to Waste

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services (ENV) opposes House Bill 2749, H.D. 1. ENV currently conducts the studies and assessments listed in section 1(b) of the bill, and the data is used to drive ENV's planning and management activities. This information is already available to the Department of Health, which currently holds the responsibility to oversee and regulate wastewater systems.

It is unclear what the intent of the task force is, what value it is expected to provide, and what it is expected to provide recommendations on that is not already under the authority of the Department of Health. Further, the proposed task force membership does not consider technical expertise or direct experience in the area of wastewater management, which are essential.

We believe the bill and the proposed task force is duplicative and unnecessary as the responsibilities currently exist within the Department of Health. This bill should be deferred.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori M. Ke Kahikina", is written over a large, faint circular stamp or watermark.

Lori M. Ke Kahikina, P.E.
Director



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Health
Friday, February 12, 2016 at 8:30 A.M.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 2749 HD 1 RELATING TO WASTE

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports the intent of** HB 2749, which establishes a sewage infrastructure review task force in DOH to examine the sewage infrastructure in each county. Makes an appropriation for the task force.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

We have been consistently requesting information on infrastructure capacity especially along the 20 mile rail transit corridor on Oahu. The City has not been responsive to the numerous requests but indicated that the determination of capacity, specifically related to sewerage, is done on a parcel by parcel basis.

The Building Industry Association of Hawaii and the Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii convened a conference (Houseless in Honolulu) in November of 2015 to raise awareness of one of Hawaii's most pressing issues - home affordability. With the median home price in the Islands now \$730,000, the repercussions are having a major impact on Honolulu's economy. The lack of adequate infrastructure capacity is a major barrier to increasing the supply of housing at all price points. The City's \$5 billion rail project would benefit from improved infrastructure in and around the transit corridor in order to accommodate higher densities, thus protecting our open spaces and agricultural areas.

While the proposed bill recognizes the need to assess the infrastructure capacity issues in each county, we do not believe that creating and funding another government task force is the proper response to the problem. We believe that the State needs to find innovative ways to either find the information or have the counties provide information on the sewage infrastructure capacity, both collection and treatment, on each island.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Friday February 12, 2016 8:30AM Room 329

In Support HB2749 Relating to Waste

Aloha Chairwoman Belatti and members of the House Health Committee,

On behalf of our 12,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports the intent of HB2749** to find solutions to Hawai'i's cesspool crisis. We prefer the original language of the bill establishing a task force to study the level of contamination in coastal areas affected and methods for reducing that contamination.

Hawai'i needs immediate action to address the failure of our infrastructure. Unfortunately, year after year, litigation, legislation and regulations to retire cesspools, improve county sewer infrastructure, and manage run-off are initiated, but then delayed. And year after year, our nearshore waters are contaminated with human waste, people are made sick, and fishing areas are closed. Decades of failure to properly manage our wastewater has compounded into a major threat to public health and the quality of our environment.

HB2749 offers a solid step toward workable solutions to Hawai'i's embarrassing sewage problem.

This bill seeks to establish two short-term task forces: 1) to review the current state of sewage runoff, 2) to review our current sewage infrastructure. These task forces are comprised of the Department of Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the mayors of each county. The task forces have a six-month window to research our sewage infrastructure and waste run-off, and then propose solutions to the Legislature.

We need real and immediate action to address the current failures of our system. That is why the Sierra Club strongly urges this Committee to move this measure forward. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo,

Martha Townsend
Director