



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.2
RELATING TO WASTE

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: March 1, 2016
Time: 3:00 PM

Room Number: 308

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 Section 1 of the measure, directs the proposed task force to examine: (1) the levels of sewage
6 contamination in coastal areas as a result of runoff; (2) the sustainability, scope, and capacity of
7 sewage infrastructure in each county; (3) Any history of infrastructure failure or overload in each
8 county; (4) Other problems related to sewage infrastructure; and (5) methods of reducing sewage
9 contamination and improving sewage infrastructure. We would like to point out that the
10 Department's Clean Water Branch, currently implements a coastal water quality monitoring
11 program which measures water quality at beaches around the State. Though not directly
12 targeting runoff events, the coastal water quality monitoring program includes measurements of
13 sewage contamination such as sewage indicator bacteria. The water quality data collected from
14 the coastal water quality monitoring program is used to determine beach sign posting and is
15 comprehensively reported every two years in the State of Hawaii, Water Quality Monitoring and
16 Assessment Report (i.e. Integrated Report). The next Integrated Report will be completed by the
17 fourth quarter of 2016.

18 Item (5) to be reviewed by the proposed task force is directed to address the examination of
19 methods to reduce sewage contamination. The Department's Environmental Management
20 Division, has three branches which regulate sewage systems. The Wastewater Branch regulates
21 individual waste systems (e.g. cesspools, septic tanks, etc.). The Safe Drinking Water Branch
22 regulates injection wells. Lastly, the Clean Water Branch regulates sewage systems that
23 discharge to surface waters. The three regulatory programs take a coordinated approach to

1 reducing sewage contamination which is described in the Hawaii Water Plan. The Hawaii Water
2 Plan was recently updated in 2014.

3 The Department supports the task force items (2), (3), (4) and (5) that is related to the review
4 of sewage infrastructure. Sewage infrastructure in the State are generally owned by the Counties
5 and various private entities. The information to be collected from the task force can be
6 beneficial to the State. However, the Department understands that the success will depend on the
7 Counties and private entities commitment to participate in the task force. Information and data
8 about the sewage infrastructure listed under (2), (3), (4) and (5) would have to be provided by
9 these parties.

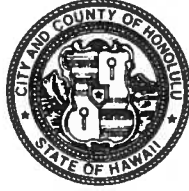
10 Given the complexity of the subjects proposed for examination, the Department has concerns
11 that there are inadequate resources to procure technical support services to operate under the
12 direction of the task force.

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

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY A. HOUGHTON
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:
WAS 16-50

February 29, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 2749, H.D.2 Relating to Waste

The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Environmental Services (ENV) strongly opposes House Bill 2749, HD2. 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 which is not already available, and what it is expected by way of recommendations. Further, the proposed task force membership does not consider technical expertise or direct experience in the area of wastewater management, which are essential to understanding the findings or to crafting recommendations.

We believe the bill and the proposed task force are duplicative and unnecessary as the responsibilities currently exist within the Department of Health. It will result in an unnecessary expenditure of funds. We strongly recommend that this be deferred.

Thank you for your consideration.

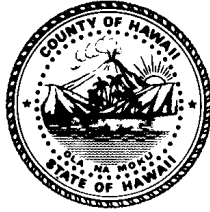
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori M.K. Kahikina", is written over a large, light-colored oval scribble.

Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E.
Director

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

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

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

DATE: Tuesday, March 1, 2016

TIME: 3:00 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, 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



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 3:00 P.M.
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

RE: HOUSE BILL 2749 HD 2 RELATING TO WASTE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports the intent** of HB 2749 HD 2, which establishes a Sewage Runoff and Infrastructure Review Task Force in DOH to examine the extent of sewage runoff and 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.

LATE

Testimony in **SUPPORT** of
HB 2749 Relating to Waste

To: The Chairs and members of the Finance Committee
Position: **Support**
Hearing: 3/1/16 3:00pm, Rm 308

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and committee members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB2749. This bill will allow for a task force to assess the current status of the State's sewage infrastructure and determine best methods for remedying deteriorating systems and avoiding harmful runoff.

It is clear that the State of Hawaii has a sewage runoff problem. On August 24, 2015, DOH reported over 587,000 gallons of wastewater were released during a single spill in Waikiki. That spill was just one of eight major spills in the state during the month of August. As the climate changes, weather patterns and heavy rain events are likely to become more frequent and severe. The Surfrider Foundation Hawaii Chapter is concerned about the likelihood of similar spills occurring in the future. It is important that the situation is remedied before another major rain event creates a similar problem in the future.

However, before the problem can be fixed, the extent of the problem must be understood. HB2749 will create a taskforce of experts in DOH who will determine the amount of sewage runoff, the extent of damage within the State's sewage infrastructure and make suggestions for the best remedies to the issue moving forward. Sewage runoff poses a health threat to those who participate in recreational ocean activities as well as the near shore reefs and marine life.

The Surfrider Foundation strongly supports HB2749 for the protection and health of our ocean and beaches and those who enjoy these places. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kaily Wakefield

Testimony to the House Committee on Finance
Tuesday March 1, 2016
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol - Conference Room 308

LATE

RE: HB 2749 HD2: Relating to Waste.

BIA-HAWAII
BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

THE VOICE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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Dear Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Nishimoto, and members of the Committee:

My name is Gladys Marrone, Chief Executive Officer for the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii), the Voice of the Construction Industry. We promote our members through advocacy and education, and provide community outreach programs to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. BIA-Hawaii is a not-for-profit professional trade organization chartered in 1955, and affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

BIA-HAWAII supports the intent of H.B. 2749 H.D. 2, which would establish a sewage infrastructure review task force in the State Department of Health to examine the sewage infrastructure in each county. Makes an appropriation for the task force.

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 opens 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 express our views on this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 8:44 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: milholen.jennifer@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2749 on Mar 1, 2016 15:00PM

LATE

HB2749

Submitted on: 3/1/2016

Testimony for FIN on Mar 1, 2016 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill will create a task force to determine where the problems are in the State's sewage infrastructure and will help prevent major sewage spills in the future, which pose major public and environmental health risks.

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.

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LATE



March 1, 2016

To: The Chairs and members of the FINANCE Committee

Position: Strong Support for HB 2749 (Relating to Waste & Sewage Runoff)

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and Committee members,

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation's Hawai'i Chapters and thousands of members across the state, I am writing in strong support of HB2749. This bill will allow for a task force to assess the current status of the State's sewage infrastructure and determine best methods for remedying deteriorating systems and avoiding harmful runoff.

The State of Hawaii clearly has a sewage runoff problem. On August 24th, 2015, the Hawaii Dept. Of Health (DOH) reported that over 587,000 gallons of wastewater were released during a single spill in Waikiki. That spill was just one of eight major spills in the state during the month of August.

With climate change and sea level rise, weather patterns and heavy rain events are likely to become more frequent and severe, especially during El Nino years. The Surfrider Foundation's Hawaii Chapters are concerned about the likelihood of similar spills occurring in the future. It is important that the situation is remedied before other storms and major rain events create even greater problems in the future.

However, before the problem can be fixed, the extent of the problem must be understood. HB2749 will create a taskforce of experts in DOH who will determine the amount of sewage runoff, the extent of damage within the State's sewage infrastructure and make suggestions for the best remedies to the issue moving forward. Sewage runoff poses a health threat to all those who participate in recreational ocean activities, economic effects to the state's visitor industry and environmental threats to the near shore reefs and marine life.

The Surfrider Foundation strongly supports HB2749 for the protection and health of our ocean and beaches and those who enjoy these places. Mahalo for your consideration and support.

Aloha,

Stuart Coleman
Hawaii Regional Manager

