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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2043 HD1
RELATING TO WASTEWATER**

SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: March 14, 2018
Time: 1:30 pm

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** Private and public sewer laterals can have a significant impact on the
3 performance of the county sewer systems and county wastewater treatment plants. Also, the owners
4 of the sewer laterals may be unaware of problems associated with their own sewer lateral or may be
5 unwilling to fix them.

6 The proposed measure is a step in the right direction. However, in addition to saltwater
7 infiltration, leaks from laterals, groundwater/rainwater/saltwater infiltration, and inflow from illegal
8 connections can also significantly impact the county sewer systems and county wastewater
9 treatment plants. Infiltration occurs when groundwater, rainwater, and saltwater enter the county
10 sewer system through cracked, broken, or defective sewer laterals. Inflow occurs when non-sewage
11 enters the county sewer system via inappropriate or illegal connections. Infiltration and inflow can
12 cause problems at the county wastewater treatment plant, increase the cost of treatment, and/or
13 overload the sewers and cause sanitary sewer overflows. Counties need the authority to inspect and

1 control all forms of infiltration, inflow, and leaks from private and public sewer laterals connecting
2 to county sewers.

3 **Offered Amendments:** For these reasons, the DOH recommends the following amendment to
4 §46-1.5(23) (B) and (C): “§46-1.5 General powers and limitation of the counties. Subject to general
5 law, each county shall have the following powers and shall be subject to the following liabilities
6 and limitations:

7 (23) Each county shall have the power to [~~establish~~]:

8 (B) Implement a sewer monitoring program that includes the inspection of
9 sewer laterals that connect to county sewers, when those laterals are
10 located on public or private property, after providing a property owner not
11 less than ten calendar days’ written notice, to detect leaks from laterals,
12 infiltration, and inflow, any other law to the contrary notwithstanding
13 (Infiltration means groundwater, rainwater, and saltwater that enters the
14 county sewer system through cracked, broken, or defective sewer laterals.
15 Inflow means non-sewage entering the county sewer system via
16 inappropriate or illegal connections);

17 (C) Compel an owner of private property upon which is located any sewer
18 lateral that connects to a county sewer to inspect that lateral for leaks,
19 infiltration, and inflow and to perform repairs as necessary (Infiltration
20 means groundwater, rainwater, and saltwater that enters the
21 county sewer system through cracked, broken, or defective sewer laterals.
22 Inflow means non-sewage entering the county sewer system via
23 inappropriate or illegal connections)”

24 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.