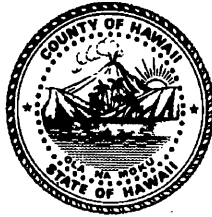


**VALERIE T. POINDEXTER**

*Council Chairwoman & Presiding Officer  
Council District 1*



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**HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL**

*County of Hawai'i  
Hawai'i County Building  
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

February 27, 2018

House Committee on Finance

Sylvia Luke, Chair

Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Email: [repluke@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repluke@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Email: [repcullen@Capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repcullen@Capitol.hawaii.gov)

Subject: Testimony Supporting HB2276 HD1, Relating to Water Quality Monitoring

Hearing: February 28, 2018, 12:00 P.M., Room 308

Dear Representatives:

On behalf of myself and the constituents of Council District 1 in Hāmākua, County of Hawai'i, I would like to express our support of HB2276 HD1, and submit a brief testimony as follows:

This bill establishes an additional full-time Environmental Health Specialist IV position within the Department of Health to monitor water quality in Hawai'i island and appropriates funds.

I strongly support and urge the enactment of HB2276 HD1. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Valerie T. Poindexter  
Hawai'i County Council Chairwoman  
District 1, Hāmākua

**HB-2276-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 11:50:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**HB-2276-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2018 2:33:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Norman Arancon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This letter is to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2276. I ask that our senators and representatives do what is necessary to protect the health and safety of our most vulnerable children in Hawaii.

Youth in foster care are the most vulnerable to needing guidance throughout their lives, it is important for CWS to be properly staffed to be able to assist these youth, birth families and resource caregivers in a fashion that will allow for timely and quality support.

Please do what is necessary to help our CWS workers be supported in a way that will bring us closer to national standards for child welfare workers. Please help these CWS workers and their assistants to do their jobs in a caring and reasonable fashion, with support and regulation.

We look forward to continuing our collaborative work.

Sincerely,

Dr. Norman Q. Arancon

**HB-2276-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 7:59:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2018 12:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kat Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**LATE**

**HB2276 HD1**  
**RELATING TO WATER QUALITY MONITORING**  
House Committee on Finance

February 28, 2018

12:00 PM

Room 308

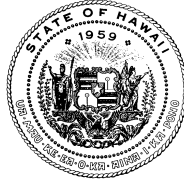
The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB2276 HD1, which establishes an additional full-time Environmental Health Specialist IV position within the Department of Health (DOH) to monitor and enforce water quality for Hawai‘i island, and appropriates funds. **This measure would help to ensure timely monitoring of Hawai‘i island streams, coastal waters, watersheds, and surface waters, and facilitate public notice and corrective action when water quality conditions threaten the public health and safety of residents and visitors.**

As evidenced during recent conversations regarding a proposed waste facility in Pana‘ewa, Hawai‘i Island’s streams and coastal waters – particularly in East Hawai‘i – are threatened by various sources of pollution, including an existing wastewater treatment plant outfall, injection wells, and numerous cesspools throughout the region. Regular beach advisories and closures due to elevated bacteria levels along Hilo’s coastline further demonstrate the extent of water pollution problems in this area. Frequent and consistent monitoring of East Hawai‘i streams and coastal waters would result in quicker public notice when stream and coastal water quality do not meet legal standards, thereby protecting the general public, and particularly the young, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems who may be especially vulnerable to developing illnesses or infections from contact with polluted water. By adding an additional DOH Environmental Health Specialist to monitor and enforce water quality for Hawai‘i Island, this measure would help to advance these important interests.

It is OHA’s understanding that the DOH has had a total of six water quality monitoring positions statewide, including two for Hawai‘i Island, and that all of these positions were state-funded, with the exception of the East Hawai‘i position. The East Hawai‘i position was federally-funded and was discontinued due to the uncertainty of continued federal funding. Since that time, Hawai‘i Island has had only one water quality monitor position. Accordingly, adding an additional Hawai‘i Island position as proposed in this measure will help to address long-standing water quality issues that have threatened and continue to threaten the health and safety of residents and families in East Hawai‘i and elsewhere on Hawai‘i Island.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB2276 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2276 HD1  
RELATING TO WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**LATE**

Hearing Date: February 28, 2018  
Time: 12:00 p.m.

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Funds are appropriated to support hiring of an Environmental Health  
2 Specialist IV for Hawaii island.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health appreciates and supports the intent of this  
4 initiative as long as it defers to the Governor's Supplemental Budget Request for appropriation  
5 priorities. Timely monitoring helps to assure that Hawaii's stream and coastal waters meet  
6 established water quality standards and protects those in the public who engage in recreational  
7 activities such as swimming and fishing and helps to assure the aesthetic beauty of Hawaii's  
8 streams and coastal waters.

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