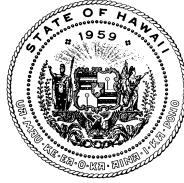


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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
RELATING TO WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: February 8, 2018
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Room Number: 325

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

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:06:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Kucharski		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairperson Lee and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

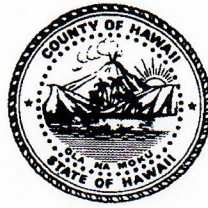
1. The County of Hawaii (COH) supports HB2276.
2. The addition of one (1) additional Hawaii Department of Health (HDOH) staff person to be located in East Hawaii County, while inadequate to meet the regulatory needs of the County, is a good start. The citizens of the County of Hawaii (COH) deserve to have the State of Hawaii provide the personnel necessary to ensure that their health and safety is being monitored and protected. It is the HDOH that has been delegated the authority to enforce water quality standards established by the State and the COH supports the placement of sufficient personnel in the COH to enforce State law and HDOH regulations.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

William A. Kucharski, Director, Department Environmental Management, COH

From the office of -
Council Member
District 3



Office: (808) 961-8396
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: sue.leeloy@hawaiiicounty.gov

SUSAN L.K. LEE LOY
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
And members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

February 6, 2018

Dear Chair Lee and Committee Members,

I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of House Bill 2276, relating to water quality monitoring.

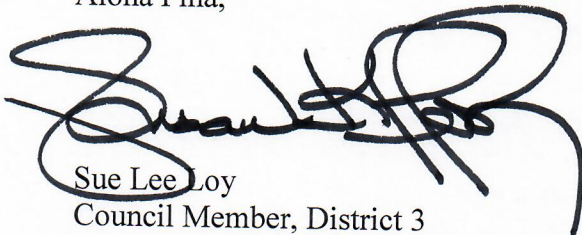
The council district that I represent includes many of the most popular oceanside county parks in East Hawai'i Island, including Mokuola, Reeds Bay, Puhi Bay, Onekahakaha Beach Park, Kealoha Beach Park, Carlsmith Beach Park, Wai'olena Beach Park, Leleiwi Park, and Richardson Ocean Park. These ocean parks are visited by thousands of people – residents and visitors alike – every day for fishing, swimming, recreation, or quiet reflection.

In a report filed with the Legislature pursuant to Act 125 (SLH 2017), the Department of Health has found there are 49,300 cesspools on Hawai'i Island, discharging a staggering 27.3 million gallons of effluent *per day*. Projected population growth will pose a growing threat to our water quality.

For years we have had periodic reports of harmful levels of bacteria in the water in Hilo Bay, along the coastline of Keaukaha, and in Kapoho. But without professional water quality monitoring by a full-time environmental health specialist in East Hawai'i, we will be left to rely on the current ad hoc approach by well-meaning but underfunded concerned citizens.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2276, and I ask for your approval.

Aloha Piha,



Sue Lee Loy
Council Member, District 3

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 2:24:46 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Thursday, February 8, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2276, RELATING TO WATER QUALITY MONITORING

To the Honorable Chris Lee, Chair; the Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii ("DPH"). Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2276 relating to an Environmental Health Specialist position in the Clean Water Branch.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in support of House Bill No. 2276 and is in favor of its passage.

House Bill No.2276 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it establishes an additional full-time Environmental Health Specialist IV position within the Department of Health to monitor water quality in East Hawaii.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[w]e believe in supporting best management practices in sustaining our environment and in increased citizen involvement. We support programs that encourage sustainable clean, efficient, creative and environmentally-friendly modes of transportation, recycling, and waste reduction.

The conservation, preservation, and restoration of Hawaii's natural resources are connected to the health and welfare of our people; therefore, we support the conservation and protection of our natural environment, which includes reducing our carbon footprint for the benefit of current and future generations.

We support the protection of our 'aina against destruction by corporate, government, or military usage and expect full restoration and reparation of environmental damage to handle current and future demands for water, we must assess the current condition of our aquifer and take appropriate action to secure our freshwater resources.

We support the democratic participation of citizens and residents to protect (i) valuable coastal ecosystems and reefs from misuse and (ii) beaches for public use and recreation. The Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law, HRS Chapter 205A, currently provides for public participation in the management of coastal resources.

We believe in the vigorous enforcement of our environmental laws and increased public-private stewardships and citizen involvement in protecting our resources.

We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world. We strongly urge our candidates and elected officials to take immediate action to mitigate and adapt to the consequences of climate change. This includes funding adaptation measures including coastal retreat, effective participation of indigenous people in climate change governance, and recognition that indigenous, local, and traditional ecological knowledge is key in climate change adaptation solutions." (Platform of the DPH, P. 7, Lines 413-439 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No.2276 establishes a new Environmental Health Specialist position in the Clean Water Branch, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

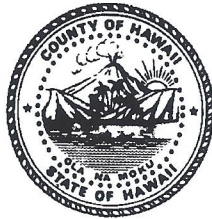
Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

VALERIE T. POINDEXTER
Council Chairwoman & Presiding Officer
Council District 1



Phone: (808) 961-8828
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Email: vpoindexter@co.hawaii.hi.us

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

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

LATE

February 8, 2018

House Committee on Energy
and Environmental Protection

Chris Lee, Chair

Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

Email: replee@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Email: replowen@Capitol.hawaii.gov

Subject: Testimony Supporting HB2276, Relating to Water Quality Monitoring
Hearing: February 8, 2018, 8:30 a.m., Room 325

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, 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 East Hawai'i and appropriates funds.

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

Sincerely,

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

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:48:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Cuddle Party	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 6:03:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laulani Teale	Ho'opae Pono Peace Project	Support	No

Comments:

Protect water, protect life.

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:05:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Whispering Wind	Patients Without Time	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB2276.

Clean water is vital to good health.

We must protect our delicate marine environment.

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:57:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Acasio		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Rep. Lee, Rep. Lowen and committee members,

I am writing on behalf of myself as well as for Surfrider Foundation Hilo. I urge you to support HB2276.

We are in dire need of an additional full-time Environmental Health Specialist IV position within the Department of Health to monitor water quality in East Hawaii. The passage of this bill is critical to the health and wellness of the people of East Hawaii.

Many people, including children, are becoming ill at an alarming rate due to bacterial infection from the waters of highly frequented beaches in East Hawaii. This is a very critical public health and safety issue and needs immediate attention.

Currently there is only one similar specialist for the entire island of Hawaii and he is unable to adequately test our highly frequented waters. We need more monitoring to ensure the waters are safe to swim in. This is becoming even more critical as our sewage system ages and spills are occurring more often. Additionally, as cesspool conversion is mandated the sewage system will see higher load and therefore increase the need for better monitoring.

I urge you to support this bill HB2276 and appropriate funds for this very needed position for East Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to give written testimony.

Laura Clint Acasio

Surfrider Foundation Hilo.

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:01:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rafael Bergstom	Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 3:45:52 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marti Townsend	Sierra Club	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 10:13:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:52:42 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Maupin		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 2:24:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pat gegen		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 2:38:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
renee n katada		Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 4:58:28 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph		Support	No

Comments:

Strongly Support.

The 'Big Island' is BIG ~ we need two people testing water here.

LATE

State House of Representative

Feb. 6, 2018

Of the Twenty Ninth Legislature

Regular Session of 2018

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Representative Chris Lee, Chair & Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

SUPPORT H.B. 2276 Relating to Water Quality Monitoring

Please accept this letter from Ms. Terri L. Napeahi of Keaukaha Hilo, Hawaii who is in **support** of this House Bill: *Which establishes an additional full-time Environmental Health Specialist IV position within the Department of Health to monitor water quality in East Hawaii. Appropriates funds.*

The community of Hawaii Island has been working tirelessly regarding water quality issues on the shore lines, rivers and streams, particularly on the East Coast. This bill will allow the appropriation of funds for a position to open in the Department of Health Clean Water Branch for a Water Quality Monitoring employee which we find necessary. Passing this Bill would provide more consistent, accurate and adequate readings for the collection of fecal chloroform, Enterococci and Clostridium bacteria. This position would certainly assist the Department of Health as they continue to be the "checks and balances" for water quality safety. At present Hawaii Island community has ONLY one employee to do water quality testing and he is stationed in Kona. It is long over due. We have three Waste Water Treatment plants that discharge sewage into the East Coast of Hilo. One Waste Water Treatment outfall placed only a quarter of a mile in front of a Hawaiian Homes community. It was developed in the 1960's and the pipes are old and fatigued and have had numerous problems with shoreline and outfall leaks. We are fortunate that the pipes through an EPA Administrative Order, was looked at for repairs and according to the County of Hawaii Department of Environmental Management, the repairs we done. However, we are still very concerned of the reports of sicknesses from community members after swimming in the waters of Hilo. It is imperative for the safety of our people, marine life and resources that our "regulators" are well equipped and adequately funded.

Keaukaha Action Network is a committee of the Keaukaha Association Hawaiian Homes, working to resolve several Environmental Justice issues concerning the HEALTH AND SAFETY of its community members. Please consider this Bill appropriate and necessary.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to dialogue what is important to our community and its future.

Mahalo,

Terri L. Napeahi

69 Lyman Ave.

Hilo, Hawaii 96720

(808) 315-9996 /tnapeahi@yahoo.com

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 5:52:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Debra Koonohiokala Norenberg		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I believe this bill is necessary considering the many man made contaminants present in our ocean that have the potential to adversely impact human life. So, I strongly support this bill. And I humbly ask that you all support this bill as well, thereby placing the lives of humans as your top priority. Mahalo for your time and attention. Have a blessed day everyone.

Aloha,
Debra Koonohiokala Norenberg

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 6:04:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Theodora Akau Gaspar		Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 6:36:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wai'ala Ahn		Support	No

Comments:

Please Support HB2276 to add an environmental health position to the Dept of Health to monitor water quality. Water is Life.

Thank you.

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 7:00:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marion McHenry		Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 7:27:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye		Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:15:06 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon		Support	No

Comments:

Important!

Please include West Hawai'i ~

we have sewage and chemicals, pesticides flowing into our water!

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:32:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I Strongly Support HB 2276.

Mahalo,

Ms. Barbara Barry

Ha'iku, HI

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:49:01 PM
Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa L. Nakama	BIFA	Support	No

Comments:

I speak in support of HB2276. I ask for your support in approving this vital bill that will assist in the quality of life for our community and seek answers to the health problems and serious illnesses that have for years have ask questions that goes unanswered.

This bill is just the beginning in finding out why there are health issues and poor quality of life for those who live in areas that have for years complained about the water quality that may have a direct affect to their poor health and we need asnswers. We all live on a very special Islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean and should at all times maintain the great quality conditions in our water and shorelines and in our ocean. It is all of our responsibility to do what is pono.

Mahalo...Teresa L. Nakama

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:00:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Mader	Hawai'i resident	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

We support HB2276. Please add an environmental health position to the dep of health to monitor water quality!!

Mahalo nui
Deborah Mader

Hawai'i Voter

LATE



HB2276
RELATING TO WATER QUALITY MONITORING
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

February 8, 2018

8:30 AM

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB2276, which establishes one full-time position within the Department of Health (DOH) to conduct water quality assessments in East Hawai'i, investigate complaints, and enforce surface water regulations. **This measure would help to ensure timely monitoring of East Hawai'i streams, coastal waters, watersheds, and surface waters, and facilitate public notice and corrective action when water quality conditions threaten public health and safety.**

As evidenced during recent conversations regarding a proposed waste facility in Panaewa, Hawai'i Island, East Hawai'i's streams and coastal waters 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 by a dedicated East Hawai'i water quality monitor 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.

It is OHA's understanding that the DOH has had a total of six water quality monitoring positions statewide and that all of these positions were state-funded positions, 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. Accordingly, re-establishing and funding this position as proposed in this measure will provide parity with other state-funded water quality monitoring positions, and help to address long-standing water quality issues that have threatened and continue to threaten the health and safety of East Hawai'i's residents and families.

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

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 11:00:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

I'm afraid to swim in the ocean in East Hawai'i. One of my friends won't let her kids go in. Wasn't the ocean once a place for healing?

mahalo, Cory Harden, Hilo

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 1:11:17 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Culina		Support	No

Comments:

Let's get back the clean ocean! Protect public and marine life's health!

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 4:50:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aurelie Catherine Cormier	Ms.	Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT Water Quality Monitoring and the need for an additional Full Time Position for the Eastern End of Hawaii. In support of this proposal I would like to document the following justification:

In mid November 2017 my 19 year old daughter went to Pahoia for a 3 month experience working on an Organic Farm as part of her Gap Year Experience before starting college. In early December she went swimming in the Warm Ponds of the Pahoia region and soon thereafter became very sick. She developed swelling in the right side of her neck that extended out from her ear. She had a temperature, redness, pain and swelling of her Right neck down to her upper chest. She was subsequently admitted to Hilo Medical Center for 6 days as she was diagnosed with Cellulitis of her Right Sternocleidomastoid muscle from her ear to the collar bone. She was on 3 different IV antibiotics. This was highly unusual for my daughter as she takes great care of herself. She eats organic vegan food, she jogs 5-6 miles per day since being on her Girls High School Cross Country Team that came in #1 in the State of Massachusetts 2 years in a row when she was there and she does yoga. She had only been sick one time before this when she was 2 years old when she had norovirus.

After 6 days in the hospital she was discharged back to the farm on antibiotic pills and 24 hours after completing the antibiotics the infection started coming back. She went back to the Emergency Room and was given more antibiotics. She took them but soon after completing that round the infection started coming back again except this time it was at the lower end of the area on her Right collar bone. She went back to the Emergency Room where she was again admitted.

On January 12, 2018, 48 hours after returning from seeing her in Hawaii, I got a call from one of the best surgeons in Hawaii, Dr Josh Pierce who told me that my daughter was going to be okay but he would need to take her to the Operating Room to Open the abscess in her Supraclavicular area to drain the abscess that had formed subsequent to the Cellulitis that she had been dealing with. As a Mother and a Clinical Oncology Nurse at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, I was very relieved that she would be in good hands with Dr Pierce. However, I was appalled that my daughter who has taken such great care of herself and was only 19 years old with almost no illnesses in her lifetime was now back in the hospital for a 3rd time in a month and was now facing

surgery. I learned from the hospital staff that cellulitis is a very common problem in Hawaii, even in young people without other major medical problems. I also learned that the warm ponds have been a big problem due to toxic algae.

The good news is that my daughter is now recovering thanks to the great care she got at Hilo Medical Center and all the highly professional Doctors, Nurses, Surgeons, Anesthesiologists, and Case Managers who worked so hard to help my daughter get better. I felt however that this was a totally preventable problem and never should have happened to a Healthy 19 year old young woman. It sheds a spotlight on areas for tourists to be aware of and an area that Hawaii needs to improve upon if more tourists are going to continue to visit your island. I did call the Department of Public Health to report my daughter's illness. There was only 1 person in Kona who was responsible for all Clean Water on the entire island and was unaware of any problems with the warm ponds. I was surprised. I Support and Highly Recommend an additional Full Time position to oversee the Clean Water and Water Monitoring on the Eastern end of Hawaii. Thanks very much for your time reviewing my comments. Warmly Submitted, Aurelie Cormier

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 7:42:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlton York		Support	No

Comments:

Water quality is of utmost importance , This is a Step in the right direction !

LATE

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 12:07:34 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/8/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stuart Coleman	Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of Surfrider's Hilo and Kona Chapters, we are in strong support of this bill to give funds to the Dept. of Health's Clean Water Branch to hire someone to do water quality monitoring in East Hawaii. There have been significant reports of poor water quality in Hilo and surrounding areas, and there is a dire need to hire someone to do the testing. After working with the DOH's Clean Water Branch for the last two years, we are glad to see them making progress in notifying the public about water quality issues through their new website. But the fact is that they need more people doing testing on a regular basis. As part of our citizen science program, Surfrider is in the process of setting up a Blue Water Task Force on the Big Island, like the ones we have on Kauai, Maui and the Big Island, and we look forward to working with DOH to share the results of our own monitoring. Sorry for the short and late testimony, but we just became aware of this bill and will submit more detailed testimony at the next hearing.

Aloha, Stuart Coleman,

Hawaii Regional Manager, Surfrider Foundation