



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2612 HD 1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 14, 2018
Time: 8:30 AM

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Funds are appropriated to conduct a comprehensive statewide study of
2 sewage contamination in nearshore marine areas.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health appreciates and supports the intent of this
4 initiative as amended by H.D.1 as long as it defers to the Governor's Supplemental Budget
5 Request for appropriation priorities. The University of Hawaii Water Resources Research
6 Center has access to staff with relevant expertise and instruments capable of analyzing samples
7 to conduct a comprehensive statewide study of sewage contamination in nearshore marine areas.
8 The Department of Health will consult and collaborate with the University of Hawaii to ensure
9 that this study helps to assure that Hawaii's nearshore marine areas meet established water
10 quality standards and protects those in the public who engage in recreational activities such as
11 swimming and fishing and helps to assure the aesthetic beauty of Hawaii's coastal waters.

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

HB-2612-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 10:41:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Wednesday, February 14, 2018
8:30 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2612 HD1 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

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. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2612 HD1 relating to UH and DOH conducting an environmental study of the sewage contamination around the marine areas.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No.2612 HD1 and supports its passage.

House Bill No.2612 HD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it directs the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center, in cooperation and consultation with the Department of Health, to conduct a statewide study of sewage contamination in nearshore marine areas.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e 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 aquifers and take appropriate actions 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 stewardship and citizen involvement in protecting our resources. We know that climate change is a real threat to our islands and the world.(Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 422-433 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 2612 HD1 provides for a statewide study of sewage contamination in nearshore marine areas, 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

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LATE

HB-2612-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2018 7:17:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments: