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VIRGINIA PRESSLER, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony in SUPPORT of SR 19

**URGING THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I TO PRIORITIZE INFRASTRUCTURE
IMPROVEMENTS TO WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT THROUGH A
COMPREHENSIVE STUDY FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
INFRASTRUCTURE, SUSTAINABILITY, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC POLICY**

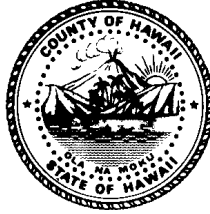
SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: March 9, 2018
Time: 1:15 P.M.

Room Number: 224

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure. Cesspools are a major source of
- 3 pollution to Hawaii's waters. There are approximately 88,000 cesspools in the State, discharging
- 4 approximately 53 million gallons of untreated sewage into the groundwater every day. There are
- 5 approximately 49,300 cesspools in the island of Hawai'i, discharging approximately 27 million
- 6 gallons of untreated sewage into the groundwater every day. The majority of the population on the
- 7 island of Hawai'i are served by cesspools. The Department believes that there is a need for
- 8 corresponding research to assess current wastewater infrastructure in the County of Hawai'i. The
- 9 Department also supports the idea that the County of Hawai'i should prioritize infrastructure
- 10 improvements to wastewater management through a comprehensive study for economic
- 11 development, infrastructure, sustainability, education, and public policy.
- 12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Harry Kim
Mayor

Wilfred M. Okabe
Managing Director

William A. Kucharski
Director

Diane A. Noda
Deputy Director

COUNTY OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
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March 7, 2018

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

State of Hawai'i Senate
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: SR 19 (County of Hawai'i Wastewater Management Comprehensive Study)
Hearing: March 9, 2018 (Friday)
Hearing Time: 1:15 p.m.

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Gabbard and Members of the PSM and AEN Committees:

The County of Hawai'i continues to steadfastly tackle the huge challenges of maintaining our aging wastewater infrastructure and facilities. Accomplishing this—while facing cesspool closures, the infrastructure upgrades required, and a limited budget—is a daunting task. One thing is obvious: addressing wastewater management issues will require significant resources. State funding would be appreciated and necessary to fund a comprehensive study for economic development, infrastructure, sustainability, education, and public policy.

The County of Hawai'i respectfully thanks you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

William A. Kucharski
Director

SR-19

Submitted on: 3/8/2018 9:45:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/9/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL & MILITARY
AFFAIRS

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Friday, March 9, 2018

1:15 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224

RE: Testimony in Support of **SR19** RELATING TO THE STUDY OF
WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE COUNTY
OF HAWAII

To the Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair; the Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
and the Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military
Affairs:

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair and the
Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

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 **SR19** relating
to global climate change which presents an urgent threat to the Hawaiian islands
through sea level rise, ocean acidification, coral bleaching, drought, flooding,

temperature changes, species extinction, infectious disease, and other impacts that increase risk from deferred maintenance on old wastewater infrastructure; and the Department of Health having produced a report on cesspools and prioritization for replacement; and the need for corresponding research to assess current wastewater infrastructure in the County of Hawai'i.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SR19** and supports its passage.

SR19 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it urges the County of Hawai'i to prioritize infrastructure improvements to wastewater management through a comprehensive study for economic development, infrastructure, sustainability, education, and public policy. Such technical feasibility study and infrastructure evaluation must focus on cost-effective finance options, including leveraging private sector investment, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and nutrient resource recovery for potential energy generation, land and soil regeneration, and other new business opportunities.

Specifically, the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i provides that "[t]he Democratic Party of Hawai'i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment is essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai'i.

We 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. (Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 407-415 (2016)).

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 aquifers and take appropriate actions to secure our fresh water resources.

We support 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 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 peoples 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. 8, Lines 422-439 (2016)).

Given that **SR19** urges the County of Hawai'i to prioritize infrastructure improvements to wastewater management through a comprehensive study for economic development, infrastructure, sustainability, education, and public policy, 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

SR-19

Submitted on: 3/7/2018 12:38:53 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/9/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support. But legislators should be doing so much more than just a reso.. urging. :(