

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

14

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 04 2019

RE: S.B. No. 455
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirtieth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2019
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 455 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriate funds to the Department of Health for a study, design, engineering, and land acquisition for a wastewater treatment plant in Pahoā, Hawaii.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Office of the Mayor of the County of Hawaii, one member of the Hawai'i County Council, Mainstreet Pahoā Association, O'ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, Malama O Puna, and four individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Health.

Your Committee finds that the oldest buildings in Pahoā were built in the mid-1800s and have cesspools. The proximity of the buildings to each other leaves limited space for upgrades, conversions, or connections of cesspools. The Department of Health has identified 220 cesspools in the Kapoho area, near Pahoā on the island of Hawaii, among the cesspools in the top fourteen priority areas for upgrade or closure.



Additionally, recent volcanic activity impacted the Pahoa community in many ways. Pahoa's economy has suffered, and many businesses have closed. As the new gateway to the volcano, Pahoa expects more tourism and needs proper infrastructure to support the town and tourists.

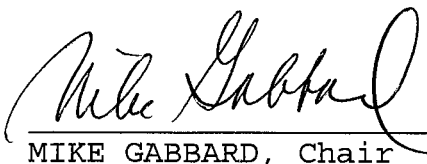
Based on testimony, your Committee finds that in order to improve infrastructure and water quality, Pahoa needs a study, design, engineering, and land acquisition for a wastewater treatment.

Your Committee notes testimony submitted by the Department of Health indicating that while the department regulates wastewater systems, it is not the appropriate agency to fund a study, design, engineering, and land acquisition for a wastewater treatment plant for Pahoa. State law authorizes each county to construct, manage, and maintain sewers. Therefore, your Committee finds that the County of Hawai'i would be a more appropriate agency to implement this measure.

Accordingly, your Committee has amended this measure by designating the County of Hawai'i as the project lead and expending agency in lieu of the Department of Health.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 455, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 455, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment,

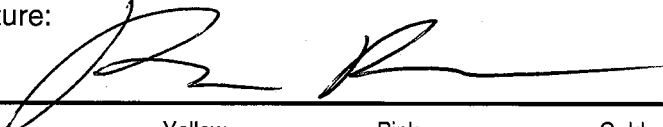


MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
Thirtieth Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 455	AEN, WAM	1-30-19		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	X			
RUDERMAN, Russell E. (VC)	X			
RHOADS, Karl	X			
THIELEN, Laura H.	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	X			
TOTAL	5	0	0	0
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes