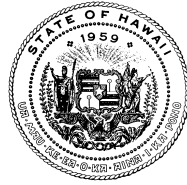


HB 1170 HD 2



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1170-HD2
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Hearing Date: March 13, 2019 Room Number: CR 224

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
- 2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
- 3 personnel priorities.

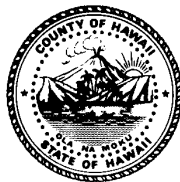
- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure as long as it does not impact
- 5 the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget Request for the Department's
- 6 appropriations and personnel priorities. Act 132, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2018
- 7 established a Cesspool Conversion Working Group (CCWG) that is administered by the
- 8 Department, to develop a long-range, comprehensive plan for cesspool conversion statewide of
- 9 all cesspools by 2050. The CCWG is also responsible for evaluating alternative wastewater
- 10 equipment and technologies appropriate to the various areas where cesspools are located that
- 11 may better protect the environment at lower or comparable cost and how the equipment or
- 12 technologies can be incorporated as part of the long-term solution to wastewater treatment issues.
- 13 The Department believes that funding a pilot project that evaluates various available wastewater
- 14 treatment alternative technologies will assist the CCWG with meeting the objectives of Act 132
- 15 SLH 2018.

- 16 **Offered Amendments:** No amendments offered.

- 17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LATE

Harry Kim
Mayor



William A. Kucharski
Director

Wilfred M. Okabe
Managing Director

Diane A. Noda
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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March 13, 2019

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Hawai'i State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Support for HB1170 HD2 (Relating to Environmental Protection)
Hearing: March 13, 2019 (Friday)
Time: 1:15 p.m.

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

The County of Hawai'i (COH) supports HB1170 HD2.

The need to determine the appropriate replacements for the numerous cesspools currently in use in the State of Hawai'i requires study and reliable alternatives; alternatives that have operated in Hawai'i, been installed by Hawai'i personnel and operated by local users. The legislature of the State of Hawai'i has the opportunity to support the Hawai'i Department of Health (HDOH) cesspool conversion working group by supplying sufficient funding and direction to meet the goals assigned to HDOH via Act 132 (2018). This Bill supports necessary real world testing of proposed solutions to the cesspool closure process and it is therefore supported by the COH.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

William A. Kucharski
Director



Mar. 12, 2019

In Support of HB1170 Relating to Cesspools
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)
Mar. 13, 2019, 1:15pm, Room 224

Aloha, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

The Surfrider Foundation's Hawaii Chapters strongly support HB1170 to establish and fund pilot projects to demonstrate new toilet and sewage treatment technologies and to expedite traditional permitting and regulation for the demonstration projects. Volunteer leaders from Surfrider five Hawaii Chapters have played an active role in passing bills to stop the construction of new cesspools, create tax incentives for homeowners to convert them and make plans to convert thousands of cesspools across Hawaii. As the Hawaii Regional Manager of Surfrider, I currently serve on the Hawaii Dept. of Health's (DOH) Cesspool Conversion Working Group.

Non-point source discharge from cesspools in Hawaii is a serious threat to our water quality, and this bill offers a sensible, overdue solution. With about 88,000 across the state, Hawaii has the highest number of cesspools in the country, and many pose a threat to water resources. These substandard wastewater systems leach an estimated 53 million gallons per day of untreated human waste, harmful pathogens and nutrient loads into nearby waters. Cesspools are a leading source of water pollution, and their effluent can contaminate drinking water sources, streams and oceans with disease-causing pathogens, algae-causing nutrients and other harmful substances.

As a member of the Cesspool Conversion Working Group, I know we need commitments from the State to help develop and fund pilot projects that use new technology to transform the way we process wastewater, and this bill will do just that. I was fortunate to be invited to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's Reinvented Toilet Expo in Beijing in Nov. of 2018, and I learned about many new technological advancements in wastewater treatment. This bill would help bring that technology to Hawaii and create demonstration projects to see which ones are the most effective.

Surfrider is part of the Hawaii Reef & Ocean Coalition (HIROC), and we believe this bill will reduce the number of cesspools and improve water quality by developing new technology that can transform the solid wastes into fuel and fertilizer (biochar that can be used as a soil amendment) and the wastewater into recycled water for farms, golf courses and other uses.

Because cesspools pose serious public health and environmental problems, new technology is needed to help Hawaii leapfrog over outmoded cesspools and septic systems, which still leach many harmful pathogens and chemicals into our waters everyday. This bill will move us toward more efficient, affordable and eco-friendly technology that transforms waste and wastewater into useful products. Mahalo for your consideration and leadership in dealing with these water quality and waste issues and help make Hawaii a leader in wastewater treatment.

Aloha,
Stuart Coleman
Stuart H. Coleman, Hawaii Manager

HB-1170-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 9:17:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert brower	Testifying for surfrider foundation kauai	Support	No

Comments:

we support this measure; we have 1500 members and followers

HB-1170-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:19:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Bishop	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT (AEN)

Monday, March 13, 2019 at 1:15 p.m. in Conference Room 224

IN SUPPORT OF HB1170 HD2: RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Committee Members:

The HAWAI'I REEF AND OCEAN COALITION – HIROC– was formed in 2017 by coral reef scientists, educators, local Hawai'i environmental organizations, elected officials, and others to address a crisis facing Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean, including wastewater nutrients.

Hawaii has 88,000 cesspools, many leaking wastewater nutrients into our near-shore marine environment that can harm coral reefs. It is therefore prudent to investigate these new toilet technologies, and to do so starting with a pilot program.

HIROC thanks you for the opportunity to support his bill.

Please pass HB1170 HD2. Mahalo!

Lisa Bishop on behalf of the Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition

HB-1170-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 8:39:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dwamato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1170-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 7:46:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/13/2019 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB1170. Our marine ecosystem is the lifeblood of our tourism dollars. To protect it by finding ways to limit run-off toxic to the reefs is to protect businesses.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei