

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

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB0425-HD1  
RELATING TO WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
Hearing Date: March 11, 2019 Room Number: 224

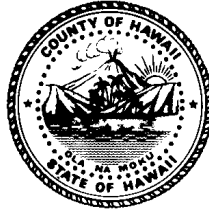
1 **Fiscal Implications:** Funding appropriation is needed to establish one full-time equivalent  
2 position (1.0 FTE) to conduct water quality assessments on streams and coastal waters on the  
3 island of Hawaii.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health appreciates and supports the intent of this  
5 initiative as long as it defers to the Governor's Budget Request for appropriation priorities.  
6 Timely monitoring helps to assure Hawaii's stream and coastal waters meet established water  
7 quality standards and protects those in the public who engage in recreational activities such as  
8 swimming and fishing and helps to assure the aesthetic beauty of Hawaii's streams and coastal  
9 waters.

10 **Offered Amendments:** No amendments offered.

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

**Harry Kim**  
*Mayor*



**Wil Okabe**  
*Managing Director*

**Barbara J. Kossow**  
*Deputy Managing Director*

## County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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March 8, 2019

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

**RE: HB 425, HD1 Relating to Water Quality Monitoring**

Thank you for this opportunity to support HB 425, HD1.

The Department of Health has only one water quality resident inspector for the entire County of Hawai'i. This has been an ongoing issue, especially for the Keaukaha community in Hilo, and really should be remedied. As can be seen from HB 425, HD1, the investment is small, but apparently it has never quite made the priority list of the Administration.

Please act favorably on HB 425, HD1, and equally important, please consider adding this position to your recommendations for the State budget.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim  
MAYOR



## **O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

DATE: Monday, March 11, 2019

TIME: 1:20 p.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 224 State Capitol

RE: HB 425, HD 1, Relating Water Quality Monitoring

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

My name is Melodie Aduja and I serve as Chair of the O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i ("DPH"). Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on HB 425, HD 1. The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities ("OCCLP") hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 425, HD 1, Relating to Water Quality Monitoring.**

HB 425, HD 1, provides that the clean water branch of the department of health has inadequate staff capacity to meet its obligations to perform the timely monitoring that ensures the island of Hawaii's stream and coastal water safety for public swimming, fishing, and other recreation. Contaminants from waste water treatment plant outfalls, injection wells, and cesspools need to be addressed because of their role in harming coral reefs.

The purpose of HB 425, HD 1, is to appropriate funds to the department of health to establish one full-time equivalent position (1.0 FTE) to conduct water quality assessments on all streams and coastal waters on the island of Hawaii, investigate complaints, and enforce surface water regulations.

Fresh water free of pollutants shall be available to all. To ensure wise use and equitable distribution of our precious water, we must stress water conservation and alternative patterns of water treatment and consumption such as the use of recycled water for irrigation, water storage reservoirs, and the use of rain barrels by the public.

We recognize the essential link between the availability of adequate and affordable water and low-cost electrical power as essential components of viable agricultural businesses. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 9, ln. 23-26, 31-32.*

For the foregoing reasons, to wit, that to ensure wise use and equitable distribution of our precious water, we must stress water conservation and alternative patterns of water treatment and consumption such as the use of recycled water for irrigation and water storage reservoirs, OCCLP supports HB 425, HD 1, and urges its passage out of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Mahalo nui loa  
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i

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**HB-425-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/9/2019 10:25:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm Teresa L. Nakama a registered voter. I'm in support of HB425 HD1 for the following reasons:

1. Hawaii Department of Health by law shall protect the health and care of its residents of Hawaii.
2. It is imperative that the health of the residents of Hawaii be of the highest standards when it comes to water quality.
3. Our Ocean and Coastal waters shall be protected by law and the adding of another position is imperative.
4. No one person alone can cover the entire State of Hawaii to carry out its responsibilities without financing another person to oversee water quality.

**By law, as follows:**

- [Wastewater Branch](#)  
Phone: (808) 586-4294  
The Wastewater Branch implements the construction of county wastewater facilities with federal and state financing by low-interest loans from the State Revolving Fund. The Branch has been involved in a number of other regulatory and financing issues.

5. This is a huge responsibility and it will take us all to make sure this happens.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa L. Nakama



**HB-425-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2019 10:47:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB425 since everything we do on land, eventually ends up in the ocean. The bill will therefore protect Hawaii's steadily deteriorating reefs, which are the "rainforests of the sea."

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei