



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2503
RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: 2/27/2020

Room Number: CR 016

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. The Department would need resources to establish a new program to
4 manage the inspection of individual wastewater systems at the time of sale or transfer of
5 ownership of a property.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure. The United States
7 Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration have
8 indicated that an individual wastewater system inspection program is necessary for Hawaii to
9 receive approval of its coastal nonpoint program pursuant to Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone
10 Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990. The Department and the Department of Business,
11 Economic Development and Tourism could potentially lose approximately \$1.1 million of
12 federal funds if an inspection program is not implemented. This measure would satisfy the
13 federal requirement of having an inspection program for individual wastewater systems and
14 would decrease the number of failing systems, thereby having a beneficial impact on water
15 quality. Requiring the inspection of the individual wastewater systems at the time of sale of a
16 property will protect a potential buyer. Problems with an individual wastewater system can
17 range from simple repairs to very complex replacement which can cost thousands of dollars. The
18 individual wastewater system is considered an extension of the plumbing of a home. During
19 home inspections at the time of sale, it is common for plumbing and electrical systems to be

- 1 inspected for deficiencies. It would only make sense to include the inspection of the individual
- 2 wastewater systems in all home inspections at the time of sale.
- 3 **Offered Amendments:** None.
- 4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 2/26/2020 12:01:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/27/2020 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: