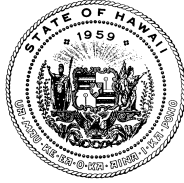


**SB 897**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.  
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0897  
RELATING TO WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

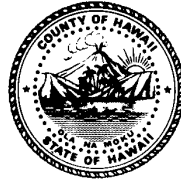
Hearing Date: February 13, 2019  
1:25 PM

Room Number: 224

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Funds are appropriated to support hiring of an Environmental Health
- 2 Specialist IV for Hawaii Island.
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health appreciates and supports the intent of this
- 4 initiative as long as it defers to the Governor's Budget Request for appropriation priorities.
- 5 Timely monitoring helps to assure Hawaii's stream and coastal waters meet established water
- 6 quality standards and protects those in the public who engage in recreational activities such as
- 7 swimming and fishing and helps to assure the aesthetic beauty of Hawaii's streams and coastal
- 8 waters.
- 9 **Offered Amendments:** No amendments offered.
- 10 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 Hawai'i

### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Ph: (808) 961-8083 · Fax: (808) 961-8086

Email: [cohdem@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:cohdem@hawaiicounty.gov)

February 7, 2019

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

**Re: Support of SB 897 (Relating To Water Quality Monitoring)**

Hearing: February 13, 2019

Time: 1:25 p.m. (Wednesday)

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

The County of Hawai'i (COH) supports SB 897

Providing funds to the Hawai'i Department of Health (HDOH) to add a new employee for water monitoring in the COH is warranted and supported by the County. As the County with the largest land area, the addition of another monitoring professional to the limited HDOH presence in COH is welcomed.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

William A. Kucharski  
Director

cc: Andrew Levin, Executive Assistant

**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 12:37:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
andy levin	Testifying for county of hawaii, Mayor's office	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support SB 897.

The Department of Health has only one water quality resident inspector for the entire County of Hawaii. This has been an ongoing issue, especially for the Keaukaha community in Hilo, and really should be remedied. As can be seen from SB 897, the investment is small, but apparently it has never quite made the priority list of the Administration.

Please act favorably on SB 897.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim, Mayor



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CORAL REEF ALLIANCE

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)

Re: SB 897: Relating to Water Quality Monitoring  
Wednesday, February 13, 2019  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania St.

From: Erica Perez- Program Manager (Hawai'i Island)  
[eperez@coral.org](mailto:eperez@coral.org)  
Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)

Subject: I am testifying in Support with comment of SB 897 Relating to water quality: Appropriates funds for an additional full-time Environmental Health Specialist IV position within the Department of Health to monitor water quality on the island of Hawai'i.  
Companion Bill: HB424

I am testifying in Support of SB 897 relating to water quality on behalf of the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL). CORAL is an international coral reef conservation organization that works with communities, businesses, and governments to save coral reefs. With field offices on Maui and Hawai'i Island, and projects throughout the Main Hawaiian Islands, CORAL uses a science-based approach to improve coastal water quality. Throughout the state, CORAL's programs mitigate land-based sources of pollution, such as wastewater discharge and stormwater runoff. CORAL is happy to be a member of the State Cesspool Working Group.

The health of the ocean *is* the health of our communities *and* the health of our island home. It is critical that the Department of Health Clean Water Branch have the resources needed to monitor Hawai'i's coastal waters and streams to best manage our resources. Hawai'i's nearshore reefs alone generate about \$800 million in gross revenue annually. Even more revenue is generated by our islands' streams, forests, and the other critical ecosystems to which tourists flock. The lack of data at the state level hinders effective management of our oceans and streams, and ultimately contributes to the degradation of Hawai'i's ecosystems. Any action that would provide additional funding and capacity so that DOH can properly monitor fresh and marine waters would be extremely helpful for Hawai'i.

In closing, CORAL Supports SB 897. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.  
Sincerely,

Erica Perez, Program Manager (Hawai'i Island)  
[eperez@coral.org](mailto:eperez@coral.org)  
Coral Reef Alliance

**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 12:23:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:50:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Karen Winslow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 11:22:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Lime	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 1:10:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 1:19:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support water quality monitoring for Hawaii Island streams and waters! As we've seen from recent issues on island, the public needs quick and accurate information about water quality, our health cultural, and environmental concerns depend on it. This bill appropriates funds for an additional full-time Environmental Health Specialist IV position within the Department of Health to of streams & coastal waters on the island of Hawaii. Thank you!

**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 2:25:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katy Benjamin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Katy Benjamin and I am a resident of Hilo, and water protector. I would like to testify in support of this bill. Our wai is too precious for us not to be doing everything in our power to protect it and monitor practices and industry that threaten the waters.

Katy Benjamin

Hilo, HI

**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 3:14:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 4:04:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:57:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support.

Mahalo

**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:00:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Only one water quality monitor presently for the entire Hawai'i Island...hmmm...what could possibly go wrong?

mahalo,

Cory Harden, Hilo

**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 9:55:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Francine Roby	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support the appropriation of funds for an additional full-time Environmental Health Specialist IV position within the Department of Health to monitor water quality of streams & coastal waters on the island of Hawaii. Mahalo.



**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 9:59:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Teresa L Nakama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I Teresa L. Nakama strongly support SB897...this is vital component to the health of human population of Hawaii Nei...

**LATE**

**SB-897**

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 2:12:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

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

Comments: