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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU  
State of Hawaii  
State Capitol, Room 446  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

## Written Comments

### **SB350 SD1 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director  
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Tuesday, March 2, 2021, 9:30 a.m.  
Via Video Conference

Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

I am Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi, Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB). Thank you for this opportunity to provide written **comments** on S.B. No. 350, S.D. 1, Relating to the Environment.

The purpose of this measure is to:

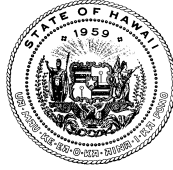
- (1) Require the Department of Health to fill the vacant division chief staff position within the Environmental Management Division by 10/1/2021 and consider environmental justice issues when making certain assessments and determinations;
- (2) Require the Department of Health's the Clean Water Branch to perform water quality testing during brown water advisories, inform the public of health risks associated with water runoff during brown water advisories, and establish an Environmental Management Division Oversight Advisory Board; and
- (3) Require the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a comprehensive review of the Environmental Management Division.

The Bureau takes no position on this measure but submits the following comments for your consideration.

With regard to requiring the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a comprehensive review of the Environmental Management Division, we note that the Bureau has no specific expertise or particular experience in matters relating to environmental management or how to conduct what seems to be a performance evaluation of an executive department program. Pursuant to section 23-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, "*[t]he [A]uditor shall conduct postaudits of the transactions, accounts, programs, and performance of all departments, offices, and agencies of the State and its political subdivisions.*" Consequently, by law, executive agency performance evaluations fall under the purview of the Auditor.

Furthermore, as currently drafted, it is unclear what is the issue to be examined or what is to be achieved under a "comprehensive review of the Environmental Management Division" since no parameters, other than that the review should focus on the Division's Clean Water and Wastewater Branches, are provided under which to frame the scope of the review.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written comments.



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in OPPOSITION to SB0350 SD1  
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: 3/2/2021

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Adding monitoring activities during Brown Water Advisories would  
2 require additional resources (i.e., more staff time, additional sampling materials, increased  
3 laboratory costs, etc.). Also, collecting samples during brown water conditions may pose a  
4 hardship and safety concern for staff traveling during inclement weather to monitor and/or post  
5 signs on the affected beaches. The additional resources necessary to monitor and to post signs  
6 are of significant concern, since the Department of Health (Department) relies heavily on federal  
7 funds (approximately \$310,000 per year) to conduct the beach monitoring and notification  
8 program. The allotted federal funds are insufficient to pay for additional statewide laboratory  
9 analytical testing. The allotted federal funds are also insufficient to pay for the signs and the  
10 additional staff costs needed to post signs. This measure will impact the priorities identified in  
11 the Governor's Executive Budget Request for the Department's appropriations and personnel  
12 priorities.

13 **Department Testimony:** The Department acknowledges the intent of this measure, but  
14 respectfully opposes it and submits the following comments.

15 Environmental Management Division Chief. Section 1(a)(1) of the bill requires the  
16 Department to fill the vacant environmental management division chief position by October 1,  
17 2021. A candidate has been selected and the position will be filled effective March 1, 2021. The  
18 Governor's biennium budget includes a tradeoff/transfer request to fund the position salary, since  
19 that was reduced to \$0 by Act 9, SLH 2020.

1           Testing During Brown Water Advisories. Section 1(a)(2) of the bill requires the Clean  
2 Water Branch (CWB) to perform water quality testing during brown water advisories as part of  
3 its Hawaii beach monitoring program. This includes testing water samples from affected Tier 1  
4 beaches during advisories, but does not require the CWB personnel to collect water samples until  
5 hazardous conditions have subsided. The Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)  
6 found that there is minimal data to describe the pollution and health risks during brown water  
7 advisory conditions.

8           The Department believes water quality testing during brown water advisories is not  
9 necessary and is an undesirable diversion of an already low supply of resources, both material  
10 and human. The CWB has historic water quality data that shows that the action threshold value  
11 for the fecal indicator is almost always exceeded after heavy rainfall. The CWB has more than  
12 700 data points at this time and does not understand how this is characterized as “minimal.” This  
13 data is available to the public upon request. The Department acknowledges that, as AEN noted,  
14 the EPA Region 9 recommended to the CWB that establishing a protocol to test in brown water  
15 advisories would provide more accurate and comprehensive data regarding water quality. After  
16 the CWB informed the EPA that it had data showing that enterococci counts were almost always  
17 elevated during rain events and that, logistically, it would be nearly impossible to collect samples  
18 from all affected areas, the EPA declined to pursue the matter further.

19           If the Committee believes testing during an advisory is necessary, the Department notes  
20 that the sampler will be required to return to the affected beach(es) while the advisory remains  
21 active. Brown water advisories often last several days and have lasted for several weeks in the  
22 past, and this bill does not provide guidance on how the CWB can determine when it has  
23 achieved the objective this bill requires. The Department further notes that there is only one  
24 sampler each on Kauai and Maui, one in Hilo, one in Kona, and two on Oahu. More field  
25 samplers will clearly be needed to be able to fulfill this requirement.

26           The Committee should be aware that a condition of the federal grant that supports beach  
27 monitoring is weekly monitoring of all statewide Tier 1 beaches and subsequent retesting of all

1 beaches that exceed the threshold on each subsequent work day until the threshold is no longer  
2 exceeded. Samplers are required to deliver the samples to the laboratory within a set timeframe,  
3 often by early afternoon to meet the maximum analytical holding time and to allow time for  
4 processing in the laboratory. This limits the number of sites that can be monitored per day. The  
5 Department notes that testing during brown water advisories will require additional laboratory  
6 resources to analyze those additional samples. In the event laboratory resources are  
7 overburdened during a brown water event, the Department will be faced with a difficult decision  
8 on how to balance this bill's requirement to test waters during brown water advisories and post  
9 signs on the affected beaches and the competing federal requirement that funds much of the  
10 beach testing program, potentially jeopardizing future federal grants.

11 Health Advisories During Brown Water Advisories. Section 1(a)(3) of the bill requires  
12 the Department to issue health advisories during brown water advisories that explain the health  
13 risks associated with water runoff, including, but not limited to, informational signs posted  
14 during these advisories at affected Tier 1 beaches.

15 The CWB already issues health advisories and risk communication on beach water  
16 quality when human health may be at risk and posts signs as warranted. If fecal indicator levels  
17 exceed the threshold, CWB is already required by federal grant obligations to notify the public  
18 and collect follow up samples on each subsequent workday until the fecal indicator levels no  
19 longer exceed the threshold level.

20 As already noted, sign posting and removal will take time away from testing the required  
21 Tier 1 beaches. In addition, posting signs only at Tier 1 beaches may unintentionally mislead the  
22 public if an adjacent non-Tier 1 beach, which is also affected by the same source of brown water,  
23 does not have posted signs. Beaches, as identified for BEACH Act purposes, may not  
24 correspond to what the public commonly considers a beach – for example, “Waikiki Beach” is  
25 actually comprised of 8 individual beaches for BEACH Act reporting purposes and includes both  
26 Tier 1 and non-Tier 1 beaches. The time involved in both posting and removing signs along an  
27 entire coastal stretch with both Tier 1 and non-Tier 1 beaches will likely require more personnel

1 than the CWB has available for the beach monitoring program, and will certainly reduce the  
2 amount of time samplers can devote to collecting samples at other scheduled sites for that day.

3 Determining and Ranking Beaches. Section 1(a)(4) of the bill requires the Department to  
4 take into consideration environmental justice issues in the assessment of use, when considering  
5 usage and public health risk for its determination and ranking of beaches for inclusion in  
6 Hawaii's beach monitoring program. In developing its statewide tier system, the CWB evaluated  
7 the usage level of the various beaches, the availability of facilities such as restrooms and  
8 showers, the presence of staffed lifeguard stations, and accessibility. Currently, Tier 1 beaches  
9 represent the most heavily used beaches on each island. The rationale for this decision was to  
10 protect as many beach users as possible with the resources available. The Department does not  
11 fully understand what additional specific criteria should be used in formulating this  
12 determination but is open to further discussion and concrete guidance.

13 EMD Oversight Advisory Board. Section 1(a)(5) of the bill establishes an oversight  
14 advisory board to provide oversight and guidance to the EMD. It is not clear what the purpose  
15 and scope of an EMD oversight advisory board will be. The EMD covers all the Clean Water  
16 Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Clean Air Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act  
17 programs in the state. It seems infeasible to assemble an advisory board that can adequately and  
18 knowledgeably oversee and provide guidance on all the programs under the EMD.

19 LRB Comprehensive Review. Section 2(a) of this bill requires the Legislative Reference  
20 Bureau (LRB) to conduct a comprehensive review of the EMD with a focus on the EMD's CWB  
21 and Wastewater Branch (WWB). An independent review and report by LRB is repetitive and  
22 unnecessary.

23 In 2018, the CWB completed an extensive internal operational review conducted by the  
24 EPA's contractor, Blue Earth Consultants, a Division of ERG. Their report, the "Hawaii  
25 Department of Health Clean Water Branch Program Evaluation, Final Report" was completed on  
26 June 29, 2018. Preparing the report cost the Department over \$200,000, which represents a  
27 significant amount of the EPA grant funds. The Department realizes that improvements can and

1 should be made to managing the Clean Water Act programs. That was one of the reasons for  
2 having the Blue Earth report completed.

3 Also, it is not clear what the purpose and scope of LRB's comprehensive review of the  
4 EMD will be, since the EMD's CWB and WWB have very large and broad program  
5 responsibilities (which include the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)  
6 permitting, water quality standards, surface water monitoring and assessment, Total Maximum  
7 Daily Load, BEACH Act monitoring and notification, NPDES enforcement and compliance,  
8 non-point source management, state revolving funds management for water pollution control  
9 projects, management and regulatory oversight of individual wastewater systems, onsite  
10 wastewater and reuse treatment facilities, water reuse, and wastewater sludge reuse programs).

11 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 12:00:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Moran	Testifying for Kihei Community Association (KCA)	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this measure. Beachgoers, whether local or visitor do not view the DOH website to become aware of brown water alerts. South Maui's many beaches need on site signage.

Mahalo

Mike Moran President Kihei Community Assoc (KCA) [www.gokihei.org](http://www.gokihei.org)





February 26, 2021

**In Support of SB350 Relating to the Environment**  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)  
March 2, 9:30am, Videoconference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the WAM Committee,

The Surfrider Foundation Hawaii Chapters would like to offer this testimony in **support of SB 350**. In addition, and attached to our testimony, is a sign-on letter from **22 local organizations** representing thousands of local residents urging your support of this bill.

In their testimony presented to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment, the Department of Health incorrectly maintains that this bill will increase the Department's workload and cost. On the contrary, SB350 **will not increase costs and does not require DOH to sample more beaches**. It simply requires the Department of Health to maintain its regularly scheduled monitoring activities during Brown Water Advisories, seek partnerships at Tier 1 beaches to post public signage during Brown Water Advisories, and re-evaluate its current Beach Tiering system to account for environmental justice and to protect public health where it is most at risk.

Specifically, SB350 would require:

1. **Continued Monitoring During Brown Water Advisories.** The DOH monitors Tier 1 beaches on a weekly or bi-weekly basis and Tier 2 beaches monthly or every two to three months. If the water is brown, or if there is a Brown Water Advisory in place, the DOH will simply skip over that beach - even if it is on the regular schedule to be monitored. This is unacceptable and creates an incomplete picture of water quality data in Hawaii by skewing data towards dry conditions. Because the overall dataset is biased, the public is less informed of actual pollutant loads during Brown Water Advisories. In some cases, the bacteria levels could be extremely high and dangerous, and the public should be aware of that risk.

To clarify, SB350 does not require additional testing or for DOH to specifically seek out and test beaches with Brown Water Advisories. Rather, it simply requires DOH to stop its practice of skipping over regularly scheduled beaches if there is brown water and/or if a Brown Water Advisory is in place. This should not add any additional sampling costs for the Clean Water Branch.

2. **Public Advisory Signs Posted at Tier 1 Beaches During Brown Water Advisories.** DOH currently notifies the public of Brown Water Advisories via online alerts, emails, and radio/TV notifications. Physical signs posted at Tier 1 beaches during BWAs would provide better notification to beach goers as they are stepping onto the beach of Brown Water conditions, allowing families with young children and people with compromised immune systems to take precautions from becoming sick. Surfrider feels confident that

the Clean Water Branch could work out a system with beach managers or property owners of Tier 1 beaches to develop a reasonable plan to make this work without burdensome costs on staff or financial resources.

- 3. Environmental Justice and Tiering of Beaches.** The current ranking system identifies beaches that are heavily used, but this results in overlooking many areas that are important to local communities for fishing, gathering food, recreation, and cultural practices. Many coastal waters that are used primarily by native Hawaiian communities and local people are in areas with high cesspool density and/or low coastal circulation, such as Kahalu'u on O'ahu. The HDOH should place equal weight on prioritizing beaches for regular testing where pollution concerns are the highest, or where people are most likely to be exposed to sources of pollution, rather than continuing to single-mindedly cover beaches with high use, regardless of potential health threats.

This provision is not asking DOH to sample more beaches, but rather to shift its prioritization from beaches that have years of data indicating clean water to beaches in our communities that do not currently benefit from weekly testing. This is a highly reasonable request that also prioritizes the health and safety of our local communities.

- 4. Oversight of Environmental Management Division.** This position has remained unfilled since Stuart Yamada left HDOH employment over 2 years ago, and should be filled as soon as possible for optimal oversight and implementation of the various Division programs. The DOH already has money for this position.

We also agree that an oversight advisory board should be created to provide oversight and guidance to the Environmental Management Division (EMD). A similar board was active in the past, but it has been over 10 years since this board has been convened. Sub-committees will be convened to address specific issues.

The Surfrider Foundation supports a robust citizen science program called the Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) that is providing valuable water quality information to coastal communities so people know where it is safe to get into the water. We currently have over 50 BWTF labs established in coastal states across the country, including three water testing programs in Hawaii: Oahu, Maui, and Kauai. Through the Blue Water Task Force program, Surfrider volunteers are testing marine beaches and estuarine and freshwater outflows onto beaches for enterococcus fecal indicator bacteria, and sharing their results with local agencies, decisionmakers and the general public.

Given Hawaii's dependence on the ocean, we believe that our statewide beach monitoring program should represent a model program for states across the country. SB 350 will greatly strengthen our current program and ensure that public health and safety is prioritized. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of SB 350, submitted on the behalf of the



Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters and 1,000 members in Hawai'i.

Sincerely,  
Lauren Blickley  
*Hawai'i Regional Manager*  
Surfrider Foundation

February 26, 2021  
SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
In SUPPORT of SB350: Relating to the Environment

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the WAM Committee,

We, the **22 undersigned organizations**, write to express our support for SB 350 directed towards improving the Department of Health Clean Water Branch's statewide beach water quality monitoring and public notification program.

The ocean is a vital part of our communities in Hawai'i. From recreation and putting food on our tables to cultural and traditional practices, our way of life depends on clean coastal waters. Unfortunately, statewide water quality monitoring at beaches in Hawai'i currently lags other states, favors beaches predominately visited by tourists, and lacks data collection during wet weather.

**SB 350 is a critical step towards improving water quality monitoring in coastal recreational waters in Hawai'i and will achieve the following:**

- Account for environmental justice when DOH is evaluating its beach tiering system.
- Ensure that water quality sampling adequately covers popular local beaches and is not biased towards tourist-dominated beaches.
- Improve public notification of health hazards during Brown Water Advisories by requiring the DOH to post signs at affected Tier 1 beaches and to continue their testing program during Brown Water Advisories. Currently, the Clean Water Branch suspends all testing when Brown Water Advisories are issued, leaving us with an incomplete assessment of coastal water quality conditions across the state.
- Provide for more oversight and guidance to the Environmental Management Division for better implementation of their clean water permitting, monitoring and research programs, including the hiring of a Chief of Staff position that has been vacant for over two years.

We believe that it is a public right to ensure that our beaches and coastal waters are clean and free from pollution. Our local keiki, kupuna, 'ohana, and visitors should furthermore be able to enjoy surfing, swimming and recreating in the ocean safely. We appreciate your support of SB 350 and the improvements to beach water quality monitoring that will protect the public health of all our communities.

Sincerely,



**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 2:35:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
janice palma-glennie	Testifying for Surfrider Foundation's Kona Kai Ea chapter	Support	No

Comments:

aloha,

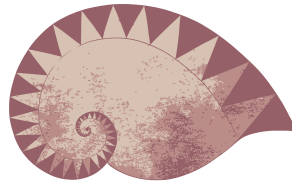
as per our mission to protect and enjoy our state's waters, we believe that this bill will further those goals by increasing clean water shoreline testing which will, in turn, provide environmental justice, including to inform the public of health risks due to tainted waterways.

mahalo for supporting this bill.

sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

for Surfrider Kona Kai Ea chapter



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

Patrick Shea - Treasurer • Lena Mochimaru - Secretary  
Nelson Ho • Summer Starr

Monday, March 2, 2021

Relating to the Environment  
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

**The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) supports SB350 SD1 Relating to the Environment. This measure establishes clear rules regarding water sampling and signage when there is a brown water advisory and requires DOH to fill a vacant environmental management division chief position.**

**This measure will help ensure that water quality at all local beaches, not just major tourist beaches are monitored by Department of Health Water Quality Branch and will help to educate water users from the health risks associated with water runoff.**

**For these reasons we urge the committee to support SB350 SD1.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gary Hooser  
Executive Director  
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:31:37 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dyson Chee	Testifying for Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition, thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB350.

February 26, 2021  
SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE  
In SUPPORT of SB350: Relating to the Environment

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the WAM Committee,

We, the 22 undersigned organizations representing thousands of local community members, write to express our support for SB 350 directed towards improving the Department of Health Clean Water Branch's statewide beach water quality monitoring and public notification program.

The ocean is a vital part of our communities in Hawai'i. From recreation and putting food on our tables to cultural and traditional practices, our way of life depends on clean coastal waters. Unfortunately, statewide water quality monitoring at beaches in Hawai'i currently lags other states, favors beaches predominately visited by tourists, and lacks data collection during wet weather.

**SB 350 is a critical step towards improving water quality monitoring in coastal recreational waters in Hawai'i and will achieve the following:**

- Account for environmental justice when DOH is evaluating its beach tiering system.
- Ensure that water quality sampling adequately covers popular local beaches and is not biased towards tourist-dominated beaches.
- Improve public notification of health hazards during Brown Water Advisories by requiring the DOH to post signs at affected Tier 1 beaches and to continue their testing program during Brown Water Advisories. Currently, the Clean Water Branch suspends all testing when Brown Water Advisories are issued, leaving us with an incomplete assessment of coastal water quality conditions across the state.
- Provide for more oversight and guidance to the Environmental Management Division for better implementation of their clean water permitting, monitoring and research programs, including the hiring of a Chief of Staff position that has been vacant for over two years.

We believe that it is a public right to ensure that our beaches and coastal waters are clean and free from pollution. Our local keiki, kupuna, 'ohana, and visitors should furthermore be able to enjoy surfing, swimming and recreating in the ocean safely. We appreciate your support of SB 350 and the improvements to beach water quality monitoring that will protect the public health of all our communities.

Sincerely,

**Organizations**



**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 10:45:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I fully support this bill - it is imperative that we monitor water quality at ALL beaches equally, and especially during brown water advisories. In fact this should be the most important, highest priority time to be testing water quality in order to protect the health and safety of ALL people on the island - kama'Ä• ina, tourists, family, and friends alike. It is everyone's right to know whether water is clean and safe. Thank you.



**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 3:19:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. We need to measure the quality of our water for our safety.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 3:26:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support passage of this bill.

Mahalo..!!

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 3:53:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alfred F Kelly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support SB 350.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 3:58:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mark A. Koppel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB350 SD1

Mark Koppel

Umauma, HI

Aloha Legislators,

I strongly support SB350.

You know all the reasons why. DOH doesn't EVER do its job. It needs this bill.

Mahalo

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 6:39:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

1. Prior conduct of State DOH confirms the need for Department oversight because of its failure to protect our environment from confirmed contamination.
2. There will be no significant cost associated with passage of SB 350.
  - A. DOH has had funding for an Environmental Management Director for years but the position remains vacant.
  - B. The bill seeks to assure that beaches are tested based on public health risk and are not restricted to testing beaches on tourist body count.
  - C. Testing schedules need to be maintained, even during Brown Water Advisories (BWA).
  - D. Cost of warning signs for contaminated waters not expensive \$5,000-\$10,000 for the entire State.
  - E. SB 350's DOH audit requirement already under that department's budget; DOH failed most recent self-audit.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 7:27:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha! PLEASE make sure SB350 passes! We need to protect our water and aina!

Mahalo!

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 8:25:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

\*We're not asking for more testing sites, just Environmental Justice in selecting sites. Test where locals paddle, keiki play, etc.

\*We need warning signs on the beaches during Brown Water Advisories. Signs and posting are not expensive and can prevent residents and visitors from getting sick.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 8:34:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Leadership role must be filled and by qualified individuals. Water cleanliness reports are vital for public health and awareness. Filthy water and it's causes need to be addressed.



**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 9:02:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB 350. I do, it's too important!

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2021 9:37:14 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB 350.

The DOH on Kauai has been terrible at monitoring the water purity in the Koloa / Mahaulepu area.

Kauai really needs stronger monitoring and much stronger enforcement of EPA standards to maintain the health of our reefs and our ocean.

Mahalo !

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 9:34:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB 350. Prior conduct of State DOH confirms the need for Department oversight because of its failure to protect our environment from confirmed contamination.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 9:37:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

1. Prior conduct of State DOH confirms the need for Department oversight because of its failure to protect our environment from confirmed contamination.
2. There will be no significant cost associated with passage of SB 350.
  - A. DOH has had funding for an Environmental Management Director for years but the position remains vacant.
  - B. The bill seeks to assure that beaches are tested based on public health risk and are not restricted to testing beaches on tourist body count.
  - C. Testing schedules need to be maintained, even during Brown Water Advisories (BWA).
  - D. Cost of warning signs for contaminated waters not expensive \$5,000-\$10,000 for the entire State.
  - E. SB 350's DOH audit requirement already under that department's budget; DOH failed most recent self-audit.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 1:17:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

At no cost, this bil is a bargain and there is no earthly reason not to passit because it will take steps to ensure cleaner environemtal actions.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 6:17:05 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass SB350, thank you!

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2021 8:53:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support Sen. Gabbard's SB 350. We need to protect our coastal waters and reefs and to inform citizens when standards are not met.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 10:48:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Christopher T Cross	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My wife and I support SB350 as a much needed measure to deal with the environment and water issues for the islands.



**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 10:51:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support protecting our coral reefs and shoreline.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 10:52:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

in support

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:16:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I was the attorney for EMD from 2006-2020, so I provide these comments based on substantial experience. My comments: I propose that this bill be amended as follows:

1. Strike Section 1 (a)(1), as the EMD Chief position has already been filled;
2. Strike Section 1 (a) (5) EMD advisory oversight board as unnecessary and distracting; and
3. Strike Section 5 LRB report because, as LRB has testified, it has no expertise in environmental management. Also, the Clean Water Branch was recently audited by an EPA consultant.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Bohlen

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:27:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Clean water now!

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 11:59:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT!!

## Testimony SB350

Please support this bill as clean water and informing the public of health risks is a fundamental necessity. I often see visitors allow their children to play in water that is brown from sewage. This is a major health risk!

Testing, monitoring and informing the public of water that is not safe should be a priority,

Thank you,

Mira Walker

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 12:54:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this Bill. I swim in the ocean and sometimes notice a lot of junk that looks like pollution in the water. I would like to know when the water is polluted so I can choose to swim there.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 12:59:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testing our water and notifying the public of contaminants should be a non-negotiable requirement. Safety of our residents and visitors is paramount. Clearly visible signs should also be posted when there is contamination.



**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 1:19:01 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

We need to know about our water quality. Currently Surfrider tests water in rivermouths and some beaches on Kauai, and it's alarming how polluted our waters are. Figures usually in the red zones, even when it's not raining. As people become aware of the pollution, we will be motivated to find solutions, and at the very least, know to keep our keiki from playing in those contaminated waters!

Mahalo.

Sherry Pollock, Anahola

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 1:42:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this Bill. Thank You.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 1:44:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I walk my dogs on Kahala Beach everyday and am disgusted by the seeing the outfall of storm water and trash that gets sent out to the ocean. Kahala Beach has been shown to be one of the most "pilau" beaches by Surfrider's own water quality studies. We also take our dogs out to Kuliouou beach at low tide but is also another pilau beach due to the run off from the canal.

The Ala Wai is shameful and my daughter paddled in that sewer for a season and I am glad she quit. Until it threatened Waikiki, only then was the State willing to do something about this open sewer.

The ocean is one of our most valuable resources and sources or recreation for "our" local community and not just for the benefit of our visitors.

Lets take ocean health seriously!

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:13:47 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Without clean water, we get sick and can die. In addition, contaminated water kills off other species. All the environmental laws must be updated, enforced, and in favor of future generations. Clean water is a human right!

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:27:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

High clean water standards are a hallmark of Hawaii's success, not only for those of us who live here, but also for the those who desire to visit our lovely island. Maintaining and improving our high standards for clean water is a goal we must never back away from. Please support this critical legislation.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:34:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Daniel Bishop and I am in Support of SB350

Mahalo

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:35:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is a very important bill for our wai/Kai - please pass it! Mahalo

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:36:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Yes, we need clean water. And yes, we need to know when it's not clean.



**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 3:39:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 5:45:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 7:30:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

It is important for visitors as well as residents to know the condition of the beaches that they use. As acknowledged, there is not a history of testing during brown water, exactly when it is most important to know about the safety of the water for use. Please support this bill!

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 9:24:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Senators, Please support this bill.

Thank you.

Elizabeth Hansen,  
Hakalau HI 96710

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/27/2021 9:46:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Senators:

We need to have a healthy environment here in Hawai'i. This bill of requiring clean water shoreline testing, environmental justice, requires water quality testing, and informing the public of health risks are all essential needs here.

Thank you.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 1:01:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

It is very important that we place the environment on the upper threshold of our top priorities. We must protect and enhance the ability of our natural surroundings to thrive. A symbiotic relationship is needed for our species to live together in harmony.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:44:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Without necessary countywide sanitation system, (cesspools still existing everywhere around the island and near our well water sites) each years rain take everything right into the ocean. How many tourists need to go home with staphylococcus infection before testing and water cleanliness signs could help with swimming area decisions. Agriculture pesticides and animal waste certainly contribute to the bacterial stew.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:55:56 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill.



**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:44:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

It is our right to know the quality of our water.

Pass SB350 and do right by your constituents.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:14:16 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Urgently need testing and transparency about water quality

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:17:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
M. Llanes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senate Members:

Please support SB350 for the sake of safety for all in Hawai'i. The people have the right to know what is in our water especially what unhealthy components are in our water. During brown water episodes this is needed even more.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

MeleLani Llanes

Kapolei resident

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:32:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and committee members,

I strongly support cleaning up our polluted waters. There is no excuse and a public trust issue that will affect all natural resources and resident's health not to mention tourism.

Mahalo for your support,

Diane Ware 99-7815 Kapoha Volcano

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:33:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support SB350 Clean water and transparency policies are vital to environmental protections

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:40:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Sypport HB 1352 Transparency is vital to environmental protections and best use land policies

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:30:36 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee members,

Thank you for allowing me to voice my support of this bill. As a frequent swimmer and a citizen concerned with the quality of our environment, both for Kamaaina use and tourism, I am strongly in support of the this bill.

Please appoint the chief staff position within the Environmental Management Division and require the Clean Water Branch to perform water quality testing during brown water advisories. I want transparency and information about the health risks associated with water runoff during brown water advisories. Furthermore, establishment of an Environmental Management Division Oversight Advisory Board makes sense, as does requiring the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a comprehensive review of the Environmental Management Division.

Mahalo for your work and consideration,

Jeanne Lindgren

jmlmilkyway@gmail.com

96817

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:48:51 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB350 SD1 to ensure that residents and visitors are protected from untested and unreported low water quality in Hawaii. Leaving this essential service at it's present ineffectual level is ultimately suicide to Hawaii's people and to our reputation as a visitor destination.



**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:01:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please protect our oceans.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 12:36:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha:

Please accept this as my strong support for SB350

Mahalo nui loa

Carol Beardmore

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 1:38:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bridget Hammerquist	Testifying for Friends of Maha'ulepu	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of our many members, numbering over 1,000 on Kauai, please accept this testimony as our strong support for SB350 SD1. The COVID-19 pandemic has made all of us keenly aware of the need for an honest and well run Department of Health. This bill goes a long way toward promoting that end. The cost to the State will be minimal and the position for the Director Environmental Management has been budgeted for years though left vacant. Now more than ever before we need to take good care of our environment as the surest way to maintaining and preserving our public's health.

Mahalo nui loa,

Bridget Hammerquist, President  
Friends of Maha`ulepu, a 501(c)(3)  
Kia`i Wai o Wai`ale`ale, Co-founder  
[Donate](#)  
[friendsofmahaulepu.org](http://friendsofmahaulepu.org)  
kiaiwaialeale@gmail.com  
(808)742-1037

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:05:29 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Puanani Rogers	Testifying for Ho`okipa Network - Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Puanani Rogers of the ahupua`a o Kealia, mokupuni o Kaua`i.

I am testify in strong support of SB350 SD1 and support all testimonies that are request that this measure be passed.

Mahalo a nui,

Puanani Rogers

4702 Mailihuna Road

Kapa`a, Kauai, Hi 96746

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 2:20:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support and favor all the points that SB350 deals with. We need to have our Environmental Management Division staffed by a chief head and reviewed and accountable. Also to ensure the quality and health of our water resources and supply.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:16:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Please, SUPPORT this vital legislation.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:48:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jackie Lott	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

1. Prior conduct of State DOH confirms the need for Department oversight because of its failure to protect our environment from confirmed contamination.

2. There will be no significant cost associated with passage of SB 350.

A. DOH has had funding for an Environmental Management Director for years but the position remains vacant.

B. The bill seeks to assure that beaches are tested based on public health risk and are not restricted to testing beaches on tourist body count. Thank you for letting me help our beach waters! Citizens use our Ocean water for their safety, mental and physical and of course visitors from all over the world come here specifically for ocean participation. We should do better to keep all safe and informed.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 3:57:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support SB350 SD1 because the ocean is such an important part of so many people's lives. We must test the waters for dangerous bacteria levels and other toxins and have a reliable way to notify the public of the results. Human health is at stake here, residents and visitors alike.

Mahalo.

Ms. Barbara Barry

Maui



**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 5:14:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha committee members, please support SB350 SD1, which is designed to help community members and residents make informed decisions on where and when it is safe for them and their families to get into the water, while also ensuring that statewide quality monitoring is more routine, transparent, and equitable across Hawai'i beaches.

The bill also recommends providing more oversight and guidance to the Environmental Management Division for better implementation of their clean water permitting, monitoring and research programs. The Department of Health's current sampling schedule and beach "tiering" system is biased towards testing popular, touristy beaches instead of beaches where public health is more likely to be threatened by pollution. For example, Tier 1 beaches that are tested most frequently (usually weekly or every two weeks) are overwhelmingly based in tourist areas, whereas community beaches are tested far less frequently, often only once every two to three months.

To ensure that water quality is regularly and equitably monitored at beaches that are utilized by local residents for swimming, surfing, fishing, and canoe paddling, SB350 requires the DOH to take into consideration environmental justice issues in the assessment of public health risks and the ranking of DOH's tiering system.

Currently, no water quality testing occurs when Brown Water Advisories (BWAs) are issued, resulting in a lack of robust data during wet weather and creating an inaccurate picture of water quality conditions in Hawai'i. SB350 requires the DOH to continue its regularly scheduled water quality monitoring during BWAs, provided that hazardous conditions have passed.

Signs are needed on the beach to warn beachgoers of BWAs. BWAs are currently posted online and shared via email and radio spots, but health advisories are not required to be posted at beaches themselves. SB350 requires DOH to post BWA signs to warn the public of conditions at affected Tier 1 beaches.

The DOH's Environmental Management Division (EMD) Chief of Staff position has remained vacant for over 2 years. This unfilled position results in a lack of oversight and hinders the implementation of various Division programs. SB350 requires the EMD Chief Staff position to be filled by October 2021. It also establishes an Oversight Advisory Board to provide oversight and guidance to the Environmental Management

Division. A similar board was active in the past and provided critical guidance that ensured a responsible balance of scientific integrity, public health protection, and due diligence were applied to all clean water permitting and monitoring programs run by EMD and CWB.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support passage of SB350 on to second reading.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:42:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

The minimal steps provided for in this bill are a good start. The real need is for a comprehensive assessment of threats to water quaiity and how to mitigate them.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 6:46:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support sustainable environmental practice. Measuring the quality of our shoreline water is a critical way of monitoring the health and safety of our shoreline, and also keeps us accountable to ensure this sacred source is treated with the respect and gratitude it deserves.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:33:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I live in Pahoia HI and am in support of SB758

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 7:46:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:34:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:48:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Leilani Bronson-Crelly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for supporting our clean waters of Hawai'i for residents and tourists alike. This bill will help us all know that when brown waters impacts our ocean and that we will be issued health advisories regarding its condition.



**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:50:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB350. It's extremely important to me that I am able to access information about water cleanliness in my area, especially during brown water events. I also have concern for my students, many of whom are young surfers. I would like to be able to mentor them around water awareness and safety. Please pass SB350. Mahalo nui for your time.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 8:57:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please vote to require shoreline and river water quality testing and mandates results must be shared with public openly by signage nearby warning of health risk.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:20:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly support this bill as clean water is vitally important to us all. Thank you, Brandi Corpuz (Kihei, Maui)

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 9:44:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill and efforts to perform clean water shoreline testing. The public deserves quality water testing, and has a right to be informed of any public health risks.

Thank you,

Andrea Morgan

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:05:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please perform clean water shoreline testing,that requires water quality testing, and informs the public of health risks.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:23:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sierra Sonene Donnelly	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please provide clean water shoreline testing to ensure water is of healthy quality and inform the public of any known health risks.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:32:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB350 - for clean water shoreline testing, environmental justice, water quality testing, and informing the public of health risks.

As a pre-pandemic volunteer for Hui O Ka Wai Ola - clean ocean team, I've tested for water quality in Ma'alaea and Kāʻahehi. I know places on Maui where because of the test results, I will not swim. The public needs such information too

Please support SB350.

Aloha, Renée Riley, Kīhei voter

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 10:35:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass this important legislation!



**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2021 11:42:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 2:10:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:40:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony in support of SB 350 which requires the Department of Health to maintain what it is already mandated to do to protect public health: monitor activities during Brown Water Advisories, post public signage and re-evaluate its current Beach Tiering system.

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 8:58:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

We must ensure water quality is monitored at ALL beaches, not just tourist beaches...remember the LOCALS! Posting Brown Water Advisories for ALL to see, is crucial in taking care of each other, we must protect our people!

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:21:38 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB350

**LATE**

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:31:10 AM  
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carl J. Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB350 will not increase costs to DOH if done properly.

Monitoring Tier 1 sites should be based on scientific monitoring of Public Health Risk, especially bacteria counts, not just on number of people on the beach.

Local communities are not be protected.

Environmental Injustice!

**LATE**

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:40:16 AM  
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**LATE**

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:41:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

(From an O'ahu resident since 1963 who has voted in every election since I turned 18. Please support this bill for the health of our shoreline kai and 'aina and also the health of our people.



**LATE**

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 9:51:48 AM  
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of SB 350. It is critical that we protect our natural resources. Living on an Island with a fragile ecosystem we must be proactive.

**LATE**

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 10:40:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong SUPPORT for SB350 SD1, which would require the Department of Health to test nearshore water quality even during brown water events. It is incredibly important to test water quality during brown water events, because these events present the true hazards you face on any given day in Hawaii. Currently, our water quality results appear to be better (cleaner) than they actually are, because DOH is never testing after large rain events when the bacteria levels are the highest. Our water quality suffers the most during these events from surface runoff and from submarine groundwater that collects discharge from the state's 90,000 cesspools on its way to the ocean. Please support SB350 SD1 to ensure that we can properly assess the water quality issues that Hawaii is facing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elizabeth Benyshek

Vice Chair, Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 2:59:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

There can be a lot of contamination in the water during Brown Water Advisories, it's a good idea to test the water during these events!

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 4:04:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

<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 SB350.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 5:28:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

**LATE**

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB350. Hawaii needs more testing of our coastal waters. Cesspools and other OSDS are a real threat to our public and reef health. Mahalo -Daniel Amato

**LATE**

**SB-350-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2021 6:09:48 PM  
Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2021 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I thoroughly support this Bill.