



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM518
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
CERTIFICATION OF OPERATING PERSONNEL IN WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANTS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, VIRGILIO VIERNES,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2025
SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOOLE, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 2/18/2022

Room Number: Via Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) **strongly** supports the
3 Governor's nominee, Mr. Virgilio Viernes, to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel
4 in Wastewater Treatment Plants (Board). Mr. Viernes' confirmation will allow the Board to
5 continue to operate and perform its duties required under Chapter 11-61, Hawaii Administrative
6 Rules, entitled, "Mandatory Certification of Wastewater Treatment Personnel in Wastewater
7 Treatment Plants."

8 Mr. Viernes has a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology and Leisure Science from
9 the University of Hawaii. He has over twelve years of supervisory and operations experience in
10 the wastewater industry. He holds a Grade 4 wastewater treatment plant operator certificate. He
11 currently works for the County of Maui. The Department believes that Mr. Viernes will be a
12 great asset to the Board as the representative for the County of Maui.

13 **Offered Amendments:** None

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