



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

Testimony in SUPPORT of GM667
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF
CERTIFICATION OF OPERATING PERSONNEL IN WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANTS, GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, EMILY DONG, FOR A
TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2026

SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALO, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 8, 2022

Room Number: 225/Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) **strongly** supports the
3 Governor's nominee, Ms. Emily Dong, to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in
4 Wastewater Treatment Plants (Board). Ms. Dong's 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 Ms. Dong currently works as a professional licensed engineer for Brown and Caldwell.
9 She has over 12 years of engineering experience with the City and County of Honolulu and
10 Brown and Caldwell. She is a current Board member that has implemented programs to assist
11 with testing requirements and continuing education credits for wastewater operators. The
12 Department believes that Ms. Dong will continue to be a great asset to the Board as the
13 representative for the Professional Engineer in Private Practice.

14 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

LATE

GM-667

Submitted on: 4/8/2022 8:50:47 AM
Testimony for HTH on 4/8/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Souza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Ms Dong's nomination to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants.

She is currently in the position of "Engineer in Private Practice", one of nine seats on the Board, and also serves as the Board's Secretary,

Her engineering knowledge in the wastewater field is a great asset to helping facilities that may be having operational issues come up with possible solutions. Her full time job also provides her with resources to reach out to as well.

I have worked with Ms Dong on multiple projects through the years, including her efforts to assist in traing and recruitment. This is a huge problem, not just for Hawaii wastewater operators, but a problem on an international scale. Between attrition, mindset, and different work ethic of the new generation, the qualified operator workforce has been dwindling over the years, and many are eligible to retire within the next ten years.

Ms. Dong as a willingness and drive for education that I seen in few people over my career. This may be the infusion of enthusiasm we need to help bring all of the wastewater teams all up to speed.

Mahalo for yourtime and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert H K Souza