

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

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

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: 2/17/2021

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, increase
3 laboratory costs, etc.). Collecting samples during brown water conditions may also pose a
4 hardship and safety concern to 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 cannot accommodate additional statewide laboratory
9 analytical testing. The allotted federal funds would also not accommodate the signs and the costs
10 for the needed sign posts. This measure will impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
11 Executive Budget Request for the Department's appropriations and personnel priorities.

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

14 Environmental Management Division Chief. Section 1(a)(1) of the bill requires the
15 Department to fill the vacant environmental management division chief position by October 1,
16 2021. The Department already anticipates that this position will be filled well before October 1,
17 2021.

1 The Department received Governor’s approval to fill this position on December 24, 2020, and
2 recruitment has resumed from the point where it was halted due to the hiring freeze. An
3 applicant had been recommended from the interviews conducted and the program is currently
4 completing the required paperwork to make a conditional offer to the selected applicant. The
5 Governor’s biennium budget includes a tradeoff/transfer request to fund the position salary, since
6 that was reduced to \$0 by Act 9, SLH 2020.

7 Testing During Brown Water Advisories. Section 1(a)(2) of the bill requires the Clean
8 Water Branch (CWB) to perform water quality testing during brown water advisories as part of
9 its Hawaii beach monitoring program. This includes testing water samples from affected Tier 1
10 beaches during advisories, but does not require the CWB personnel to collect water samples until
11 hazardous conditions have subsided. The Department believes that water quality testing during
12 brown water advisories, which would be in addition to testing already performed on a regular
13 basis, is unnecessary.

14 As part of the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000
15 (BEACH Act) monitoring program, the CWB routinely monitors Hawaii’s beaches for
16 enterococci, which encompasses sample collection, field measurements, and field observations.
17 Tier 1 beaches, which are the most heavily utilized beaches, are monitored on a weekly basis.
18 The BEACH Act also requires states to monitor coastal recreational waters and provide prompt
19 notification to the public whenever there is an exceedance or likelihood of exceedance of
20 recreational water quality standards.

21 If the CWB detects levels of enterococci that may pose a risk to human health, it notifies
22 the public and provides specific actions to take to protect health. These notifications include
23 issuing brown water advisories. In the case of brown water, data collected by CWB and several
24 scientific studies already show that waters impacted by surface runoff (the cause of brown water)
25 almost always show increased levels of enterococci. Testing during a brown water advisory is
26 unlikely to provide more actionable data on enterococci.

1 As part of the BEACH Act, the EPA made funding available to states in the form of
2 grants to help implement coastal recreational water monitoring and public notification programs.
3 The Department is a recipient and relies heavily on this grant (approximately \$310,000 per year)
4 to conduct the beach monitoring and notification program. Adding monitoring activities during
5 brown water advisories would require additional resources (i.e., more staff time, additional
6 sampling materials, increased lab costs, etc.). The allotted federal funds cannot accommodate
7 the additional statewide laboratory analytical testing that would be required under this bill.
8 Neither would the allotted federal funds to be able to accommodate the signs and sign posts that
9 would be needed.

10 Health Advisories During Brown Water Advisories. Section 1(a)(3) of the bill requires
11 the Department to issue health advisories during brown water advisories that explain the health
12 risks associated with water runoff, including, but not limited to, informational signs posted
13 during these advisories at affected Tier 1 beaches. As discussed above, the CWB already
14 provides public notification and risk communication on beach water quality when human health
15 may be at risk and posts signs as warranted.

16 The CWB’s public notification and risk communication was developed after extensive
17 stakeholder outreach and includes postings of beach advisory signs at beach parking lots,
18 entrances, or points of access when there is indication of potential exposure to sewage or toxic
19 pollutants from water contact. Other forms of risk communication include posting advisories on
20 the CWB Water Quality Notification and Advisories website at: [https://eha-](https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/cwb#!/landing)
21 [cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/cwb#!/landing](https://eha-cloud.doh.hawaii.gov/cwb#!/landing) and through informational placards disseminated to
22 lifeguards, hotel personnel, volunteers, and CWB staff to help explain the beach advisory signs
23 to beach users. Other means of notifying the public of beach water quality (including brown
24 water advisories) include email advisories sent to the general public (subscribers), officials from
25 each county, various state and federal offices, local news media outlets, county lifeguards, visitor
26 industry representatives, community partners, and other organizations and interested parties.

1 Brown water can affect all beaches in the State. It will not be feasible to post
2 informational signs at all beaches impacted by brown water, especially on the neighbor islands
3 where there is only one CWB staff member to cover the entire island. Also, as brown water
4 advisories are often issued during heavy or severe storm conditions, it is unsafe to have CWB
5 staff traveling and posting signs in coastal areas at such times. Even if posting signs is limited to
6 Tier 1 beaches, that may send the wrong message to beach users recreating at non-Tier 1
7 beaches.

8 Determining and Ranking Beaches. Section 1(a)(4) of the bill requires the Department,
9 when considering usage and public health risk for its determination and ranking of beaches for
10 inclusion in Hawaii's beach monitoring program, to take into consideration environmental justice
11 issues in the assessment of use. In developing its tier system, the CWB evaluated the usage level
12 of the various beaches, as well as the availability of facilities such as restrooms and showers, the
13 presence of staffed lifeguard stations, and accessibility. Currently, Tier 1 beaches represent the
14 most heavily used beaches on each island. The rationale for this decision was to protect as many
15 beach users as possible. CWB resource limitations necessitated a limit to the number of Tier 1
16 beaches established on each island.

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

23 LRB Comprehensive Review. Section 2(a) of the proposed bill requires the Legislative
24 Reference Bureau (LRB) to conduct a comprehensive review of the EMD with a focus on the
25 EMD's CWB and Wastewater Branch (WWB). An independent review and report by LRB is
26 repetitive and unnecessary.

1 In 2018, the CWB completed an extensive internal operational review conducted by the
2 EPA’s contractor, Blue Earth Consultants, a Division of ERG. Their report, the “Hawaii
3 Department of Health Clean Water Branch Program Evaluation, Final Report” was completed on
4 June 29, 2018. Preparing the report cost the Department over \$200,000, which represents a
5 significant amount of EPA grant funds. The Department realizes that improvements can and
6 should be made to managing the Clean Water Act programs. That was one of the reasons for
7 having the Blue Earth report completed.

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

16 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi
Director

Shawn K. Nakama
First Assistant

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

Written Comments

SB350

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Director
Legislative Reference Bureau

Presented to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 1:00 p.m.
Via Video Conference

Chair Gabbard 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, 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. Historically, executive agency performance evaluations have fallen under the purview of the Auditor. Furthermore, as currently drafted, it is unclear what is to be achieved under a "comprehensive review of the Environmental Management Division" since no parameters are provided under which to frame the scope of the review.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit written comments.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 6:22:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlie Quesnel	Testifying for Surfrider Maui Chapter	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 12:01:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-chair Nishihara, and members of the AEN Committee,

My name is Dyson Chee, I am 18 years old, and I am submitting written testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition (HYCC) in support of SB350.

HYCC is a youth-led, youth-founded organization dedicated to taking on the climate crisis through just and equitable means. This includes ensuring that local beaches get water testings and advisories, not just beaches frequented by tourists. As a bodyboarder myself, I am often concerned when my favorite breaks are discolored but there are no warnings posted by DOH. An example of this was just a few weeks ago, when the heavy rains made the water around Diamond Head brown and murky. I hope that this committee will pass SB350, and mahalo for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Dyson Chee

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 10:03:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai climate action coalition	Support	No

Comments:

Asking the Department of Health to do their job and protect our water supplies.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 12:01:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mulinix	Testifying for Our Revolution Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

On behalf of Our Revolution Hawaii's 7,000 members and supporters, we are in full support of SB350. Ensuring that our ocean waters are clean is essential to our health and safety.

Mahalo for your kind attention,

Dave Mulinix

Statewide Community Organizer

Our Revolution Hawaii

SB-350

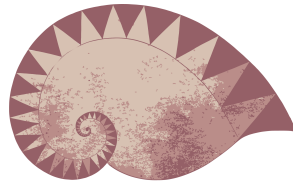
Submitted on: 2/11/2021 10:26:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

ARH strongly supports SB350; Hawai'i's people deserve better oversight of pollutants to our oceans, as do the marine animals. Please pass this bill! Mahalo~



Pono Hawai'i Initiative

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

Monday, February 15, 2021

Relating to the Environment
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

The Pono Hawai'i Initiative (PHI) **supports SB350 Relating to the Environment**. SB350 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gary Hooser
Executive Director
Pono Hawai'i Initiative

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 2:33:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Masessa	Testifying for Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Greg Masessa, I am an avid surfer, work as an ocean guide, my background/degree is in marine science as well. I also work the coordinator the for the Blue Water Task Force program on Maui. This bill obviously means a lot to me as I coordinate and help analyze all of the water testing the Surfrider Foundation does on the North Shore. I see first hand the differences in priority between the testing at tourist beaches (every week or two), vs the testing at popular local beaches and surf breaks (every couple months).

In addition to this I have seen first hand how heavy rains effect local bacteria levels and cause brown water advisories in our water. Not sampling after these heavy rains and storms is not only misleading but irresponsible. It is irresponsible to our citizens, visitors, and ourselves to disguise the true quality of Hawai'i's water. This bill also aims to "inform the public of health risks associated with water runoff during brown water advisories". Anybody who cares about our water, uses it for recreation, or has children, grandchildren and other family members spending time playing, or fishing in the water needs the support of more public outreach (i.e signs warning of water quality). As of now there are notifications on the DOH website where you can check the bacteria levels. I have lived near the ocean my entire life all across the country and have never once checked these notifications, or even knew they existed until recently. As I have lived on Maui and have worked towards clean water quality, I believe we must address that there is bigger problem than the general public is lead to believe and if there is going to be any progress made on this front, this bill needs to be passed.

Mahalo for your time,

Greg Masessa

bwtf@maui.surfrider.org

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 4:02:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Moran	Testifying for Kihei Community Assoc (KCA)	Support	No

Comments:

It is pono to alert all beach users, residents and visitors alike, when there is a brown water alert.

Having DOH-CWB post such notice on their website is hardly sufficient. We need signage at the location. Mahalo

Mike Moran President Kihei Community Association



February 15, 2021

In Support of **SB350** Relating to the Environment
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEM)
Feb. 17, 1:00pm, Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the AEN Committee,

The Surfrider Foundation would like to offer this testimony in support of SB 350. In addition, and attached to our testimony, is a sign-on letter from **21 local organizations** urging your support of this bill.

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 5 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. One of Surfrider's five primary initiatives is the protection of clean water, and we work at the local, state and federal level to ensure adequate monitoring programs are in place to protect public health in recreational waters across the country.

We support 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.

In Hawaii, we have worked extensively with the Hawaii Dept. of Health (DOH) and their Clean Water Branch (CWB) to support robust water testing and public notification programs so the beach-going public has the information they need to make decisions on where it is safe to surf, swim and play at the beach in Hawaii.

SB 350 directs the Department of Health to make changes to the Clean Water Branch's (CWB) beach water quality and public notification program to better assess the threats to public health in Hawaii's recreational waters and to take further steps to communicate these risks to the public, so people can make informed decisions on where and when it is safe for them or their families to get into the water. The bill also recommends more oversight and guidance be provided to the Environmental Management Division for better implementation of their clean water permitting, monitoring and research programs.

Continued Monitoring During Brown Water Advisories

Currently the CWB suspends all testing activity when Brown Water Advisories are issued. No samples are collected from any of the affected beaches, not even Tier 1 beaches, until the BWAs are lifted as a result of visual inspections. The problems with this approach are multi-faceted:

1. There is virtually no data to really describe the pollution levels and health risks during Brown Water Advisory (i.e. "wet") conditions. Because the overall dataset is biased, the public is less informed of risks during pollution associated with Brown Water Advisories. In some cases, the bacteria levels could be extremely high and dangerous, and the public should be aware of that risk.
2. Data from Surfrider Foundation's Blue Water Task Force monitoring clearly demonstrates that many locations have elevated levels of fecal indicator bacteria after rain events and in brown water events. Without testing during brown water events, it is unknown which locations monitored by the Department of Health experience pollution spikes during heavy rains. As noted above, this gap in knowledge puts ocean users at risk and delays the identification and enactment of needed pollution mitigation efforts.
3. By never testing during BWAs, cumulative water quality statistics communicated by the CWB beach monitoring program do not give an accurate picture of water quality conditions at many of Hawaii's beaches, and certainly not during wet weather conditions when public health is most likely to be threatened. EPA Region 9 has likewise recommended to the CWB, *"Establishing a protocol to test in Brown Water Advisories would provide much better and accurate data in regards to the water quality."*
4. In addition to providing better information to describe the health risk, testing during Brown Water Advisories could also allow the CWB to lift those advisories more quickly when testing results show bacteria levels dropping to safe conditions. This would minimize the disruption to people's enjoyment of Hawaii's beautiful beaches and coastal environment. Tourism and water sports activity companies are severely impacted when BWAs are issued as they cannot operate due to liability issues. The CWB must do more to monitor pollution levels during wet weather conditions and to lift BWAs sooner when water quality conditions return to normal.

Public Advisory Signs Posted at Beaches During Brown Water Advisories

Likewise, physical signs posted at the beach during BWAs would provide better notification to beach goers as they are stepping onto the beach that water quality conditions are likely affected by Brown Water conditions, allowing families with young children and people with compromised immune systems to take precautions from becoming sick.

While local residents and those who use Hawaii's beaches frequently may be aware of the BWAs that HDOH issues online and shares via email and radio/TV in some cases, there are many tourists and visitors who have no idea that Advisories have been issued and Brown Water could be affecting water quality conditions. Signs posted at popular Tier 1 beaches, would help provide better warning to visitors and those unfamiliar with HDOH's online advisories, and should not require any more staff time or logistical problems than it does to post temporary advisory signs for high bacteria readings. 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.

Continued Monitoring During Brown Water Advisories

Surfrider Foundation also supports the inclusion of environmental justice considerations in the prioritization of beaches for testing. 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 Department of Health has a responsibility to the public health of our island communities, and therefore the Surfrider Foundation supports updating the beach prioritization scheme to shift prioritization from beaches that consistently test as clean (and well below the health standard) to higher risk areas where local communities fish, work, and recreate.

Oversight of Environmental Management Division

The Surfrider Foundation also supports the provision of SB 350 that requires HDOH to fill the vacant Environmental Management Division (EMD) Chief Staff position. 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.

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. This board could provide much needed guidance to the EMD and Clean Water Branch to ensure that a responsible balance of scientific integrity, public health protection and due diligence are applied to all the clean water permitting and monitoring programs that they run, as well as any special research or pollution investigations that they undertake.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of SB 350, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawaii and all of our members who live in the state and visit to enjoy the many coastal recreational opportunities offered by all of the islands' coastlines.

Sincerely,



Lauren Blickley
Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation

February 17, 2021
SENATE AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
In SUPPORT of SB350: Relating to the Environment

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Committee Members,

We, the **21 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,



Feb. 15, 2021

In Support of **SB350** Relating to the Environment
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEM) / Ways and Means (WAM)
Feb. 17, 1:00pm, Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the AEN/WAM committee,

Surfrider Foundation - Oahu Chapter would like to submit this testimony in support of SB 350. Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network. SB350 would require the Department of Health to continue normal water testing protocol during brown water events, fill the vacant environmental management division chief staff position, consider environmental justice in beach prioritization, and provide informational public health releases during brown water advisories about the risks of sewage pollution. Enacting these measures would reduce the current biases in the water quality data collected by the department of health, provide the public with better information about ocean pollution risks, improve the Department of Health's water quality program in meeting the needs of local communities and native Hawaiians, and will allow for better management and decision with leadership and accurate data.

The current water quality data collected by the Department of Health are skewed towards dry conditions by avoiding sampling during brown water events. This means that the overall dataset is biased and that the public is less informed of risks during pollution associated with brown water events. Surfrider Foundation's Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) program tests coastal water across Hawaii, with active programs on Oahu, Kauai, Maui, and Big Island. BWTF uses the same methods as the Department of Health to test water samples for evidence of sewage contamination, but does not suspend testing during brown water events. From our data it is clear that many locations have elevated levels of fecal indicator bacteria after rain events and in brown water events (Figure 1). Without testing during brown water events, it is unknown which locations monitored by the Department of Health experience pollution spikes during heavy rains. This gap in knowledge puts ocean users at risk and delays the identification and enactment of needed pollution mitigation efforts.

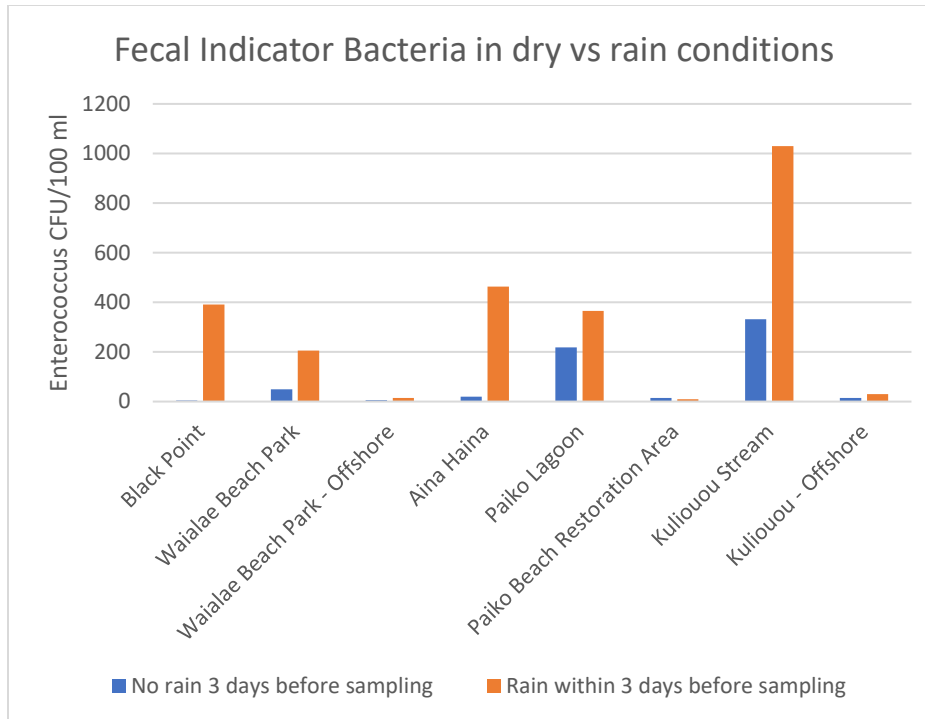


Figure 1. Mean concentrations (colony forming units / 100 ml seawater) of the fecal indicator bacteria *Enterococcus spp.* at 8 sites in Maunalua Bay, Oahu. Orange bars show counts during dry weather, and blue bars show counts when there was rain within the past 3 days. The beach closure limit is 130 CFU/100ml.

Surfrider Foundation Oahu Chapter also supports the inclusion of environmental justice considerations in the prioritization of beaches for testing. The current ranking system identifies beaches that are heavily used, but this results in passing over many areas that are important to local communities for fishing, gathering food, 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 Department of Health has a responsibility to the public health of our island communities, and therefore Surfrider supports updating the beach prioritization scheme to include these higher risk areas where local communities fish and work.

SB350 would increase the validity of ocean water quality data collected by the Department of Health by reducing systematic biases in the current sampling methodology. It promotes the health of the local community by requiring that more information is provided to the public about the health risks of swimming in brown water, and by providing an opportunity for the Department of Health to select beaches for testing with environmental justice concerns in mind. Overall, passing this bill will improve the State's handling of water quality issues and allow for better management and mitigation of sewage pollution throughout the state.

Mahalo,
 Christina Comfort
 M.S. Biological Oceanography
 Co-Chair, BWTF 2018-2020

On behalf of Surfrider Foundation - Oahu Chapter



Feb. 16, 2021

In Support of **SB350** Relating to the Environment
Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment (AEN)
Feb. 17, 1:00pm, Via Videoconference

Aloha, Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

I am writing in strong support of SB350. Along with other provisions, this bill would protect water quality by making sure that the Dept. Of Health's Clean Water Branch tests during Brown Water Advisories. Currently, Hawaii is one of the only states that suspends water quality monitoring during rain events, and this creates an inconsistent record and insufficient data about the safety of our waters.

Though citizen-science groups like the Surfrider Foundation's water quality testing program, we have worked extensively with the Hawaii Dept. of Health (DOH) and their Clean Water Branch (CWB) to improve water testing and public notification programs so the beach-going public has the information they need to make decisions on where it is safe to surf, swim and play at the beach throughout the state.

This bill directs the Department of Health to make changes to the Clean Water Branch's (CWB) beach water quality and public notification program to better assess the threats to public health in Hawaii's recreational waters and to take further steps to communicate these risks to the public, so people can make informed decisions on where and when it is safe for them or their families to get into the water. The bill also recommends more oversight and guidance be provided to the Environmental Management Division for better implementation of their clean water permitting, monitoring and research programs. We strongly agree with both objectives.

The CWB should follow its normal beach monitoring schedule under Brown Water Advisories to better assess water quality conditions and communicate public health risk.

- Currently all testing activity is suspended under BWA's, leaving virtually no data to really describe the pollution levels and health risks during these conditions.
- As a result, water quality statistics from the beach monitoring program do not give an accurate picture of water quality conditions at many of Hawaii's beaches, and certainly not during wet weather conditions when public health is most likely to be threatened.
- EPA Region 9 has made this recommendation to the CWB: *"Establishing a protocol to test in Brown Water Advisories would provide much better and accurate data in regards to the water quality."*
- Testing during BWA's could help lift those advisories sooner, minimizing the disruption to people's enjoyment of Hawaii's beautiful beaches and coastal environment, especially for tourism and water sports activity companies that cannot operate due to liability issues.

Oversight of Environmental Management Division

The vacant Environmental Management Division (EMD) Chief Staff position should be filled as soon as possible for optimal oversight and implementation of the various Division programs.



An oversight advisory board should also be created to provide oversight and guidance to the Environmental Management Division (EMD). A similar board was active in the past, but it has not convened in over 10 years. This board could provide much needed guidance to the EMD and Clean Water Branch to ensure a responsible balance of scientific integrity, public health protection and due diligence are applied to all the clean water permitting and monitoring programs that they run, as well as any special research or pollution investigations that they undertake.

Mahalo for your leadership on this issue and consideration of this bill. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Aloha,
Stuart Coleman
Stuart H. Coleman

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 4:49:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support SB 350 as it works to correct a very broken and unjust system which could have drastic health and resource impacts if allowed to continue. Being from a coastal community that uses the ocean almost daily, I believe strongly that this bill will help elevate necessary actions and conversations to occur, ensuring that all communities are provided with the most up to date and accurate data, as well as work with respective entities to correct ongoing issues. I SUPPORT SB350 and urge you to make necessary changes.

Mahalo,
Kimeona Kane

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/4/2021 6:25:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Chavez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/5/2021 9:12:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Will Caron	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha committee members,

I strongly support SB350, 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.

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!

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 11:21:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Michael Gabbard, Chair,

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, and Members of the

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Ted Bohlen

Re: Hearing **SB350 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Wednesday February 17, 2021, 1:00 p.m., by videoconference

Position: **OPPOSE SB350.**

While I appreciate the bill's intent to improve the operations of DOH's Environmental Management Division, this legislation would be contrary to that goal. The bill would be particularly counter-productive in this year's financial situation.

1. Making DOH hire an EMD Director this year would involve a substantial salary plus benefits that, without additional funding, would take away from programs given the fixed budget.
2. DOH only has a few people monitoring water quality in the whole state, with no additional funding prospects. So, requiring monitoring during brown water advisories (when the water is already known to exceed limits), similarly, would wastefully take away from other monitoring. A solution would be to fund additional monitoring positions.
3. DOH's Clean Water Branch was audited recently by an EPA consultant; an LRB review of EMD would not be productive.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/7/2021 7:32:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo and I'm a Kanaka Maoli and lifelong resident of my ancestral homelands. Hawaii's oceans are home to rich ecosystems, are the source of work and sustenance for many of our local communities, and deserve to be protected. Let's protect the waters all around us, not only the tourist hotspots.

Please vote in support of this bill.

me ke aloha 'Ä• ina,

Nanea Lo

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 7:27:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kalena Charlene Holani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this! It is morally, ethically, and justly our human rights as a society to assure our water quality is monitored, and made clearly know if there is any possibility of contamination for we live off of our waters. Our children are raised on our waters. How can we fix something as a community if we have no idea it needs fixing. Use our tax paying dollers justly.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 6:22:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Scott McCubbins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support bill SB350

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 7:16:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Weinman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I'd like to testify in support of SB350, as someone who loves the ocean and as a surfer. I believe that our community will be safer and healthier with this legislation in place. A lack of monitoring at local beaches, and failure to post signs during BWAs puts the public health at risk.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 8:17:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaitlyn Jacobs	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is not asking for a lot, simply to continue testing protocols during brown water events, and make sure to test at all tiered beaches. Tier 1 beaches are located primarily in tourist heavy areas, leaving the local beaches and residents who frequently enjoy the water susceptible to high levels of bacteria and no formal way of knowing when levels are high. This bill is a huge step forward in the fight for environmental justice, and would mean a lot to the residents and locals of Hawai'i.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 2:17:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Dinner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The ocean is arguably the essence of Hawaii and the thought that are waters are seriously and frequently polluted, is beyond disterssing to those of us swim or surf, whether visitor or resident. This bill is a step in the right direction. However, we need more than monitoring. We need strong and substantive action to clean our beached, both in water quality and on the sand.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:36:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
L. Osterer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need this bill passed for both residents and tourists, and it should apply to local beach water quality as well as popular destinations. Monitoring should be added after heavy rain storms and brown water events. Signs should be posted whenever bacteria levels rise above recommended levels. Cooperation should be fostered with Surfrider and other environmental organizations to ensure public protection and immediate information dissemination.

Thank you for your interest. L. Osterer, Kauai resident

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 4:11:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Reynolds	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Protecting and sustaining the beautiful coastline and beaches must be a top priority. This bill will bring much-needed attention and funding to do so. I thoroughly benefit from the Surfrider Foundation water tests, as it reminds me how fragile our ecosystem is, and how easily we pollute it. As a result of water testing and beach cleanups, I am more aware of my impact on the environment and more carefully consider my behavior. This bill will take the next step, taking some of the pressure off volunteers and putting it into the hands of all Hawaiian taxpayers. Thank you for working to protect our land and waters.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 11:59:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert@bamboomoonvideo.com	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

aloha - I support SB350. Our inland waterways are polluted. All of them. This is a public health and safety hazard. I hear about skin and ear issues afetr swimming. Some people are aware of that but many are not. Non-government organization Surfrider does a good job of testing and communicating results but the State of Hawai`i does not. Some people receive email notifications (I do) but most do not, most probably are not aware that that is even a possibility. SB 350 will help correct at least a few of the shortcomings.

Thank you for your considerations.

Robert A Zelkovsky, DC

Kaua`i resident 46 years

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 12:09:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Billett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a wonderful bill and I support it 100%. It will ensure that the ocean water quality is tested and monitored at our local beaches, it will post a health warning when there is a brown water advisory, it will protect public health and the public's right to know if the waters are clean enough to swim in.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 9:35:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyler Olsen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This needs to pass

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 1:02:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Luff	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Clean ocean water is as important as clean fresh water And ocean water doesn't know the difference between local and tourist beaches, they should all be monitored.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 11:14:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yulia Muzychenko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need to make sure the water near our beaches is healthy and clean. Please support this bill

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 11:29:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes!

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 12:03:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith Perino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 12:22:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators,

Yes, we need to know about the water quality and the DOH should be on it. However, here on Kauai the pollution is often in the red zone at many of our rivers and beaches, and it is because of SurfRider that we are informed about this and not the DOH.

Mahalo for your support of this bill.

Sherry Pollock

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 12:38:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phillip Bustamante	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Need to keep water clean! See lots of chemicals and trash in the ocean.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 1:42:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is something that should have been done long ago. We shouldn't rely on non-profits to do this important work for us.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 3:01:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Weiss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill requiring the Clean Water Branch to test our ocean waters, which in times of heavy runoff can contain a wide variety of contaminants.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 3:25:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shanna Dean	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I agree that water quality at our local beaches should be monitored by DOH. Too often my family swims through brown foam lapping at the shore line to access the water. We need to know where this pollution comes from and do something about it.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 4:36:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strongly support!

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 7:17:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill that will protect public health and the public's right to know if coastal waters are clean and safe. Please pass this very important legislation.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/14/2021 9:59:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Our group strongly supports the continued monitoring by DOH of water quality of our local beaches. Lack of monitoring means a lack of knowledge of conditions which can threaten ecosystems and humans and leave our state bereft in preventing and controlling breaches in water quality.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

for Surfrider Foundation's Kona Kai Ea chapter

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 6:55:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hi Joan Gannon here to ask you to please vote for SB350. This bill ensures that water quality @local beaches is monitored by DOH. This is very important for our health. Please please pass.

thank you

Joan Gannon

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 7:33:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michal Fentin Stover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB350. Public safety requires that DOH determine and publicize water quality at our beaches, especially during brown water conditions. I also support the environmental justice provisions of the bill. Thank you.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 9:13:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 9:57:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Forest Frizzell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee,

I stand in full support of this bill.

Mahalo,

Forest

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 10:05:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am very concerned about frequent pollution of our waters and reef ecosystem. It seems continuous and often fecal pathogens make it unsafe to swim. The beaches must be monitored frequently and posted when violations or closed. Tourists should be warned about possible violations before they arrive. They come here for our 'pristine waters' which are not. I am Leary of swimming/snorkeling anywhere.

Mahalo,

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 10:55:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strong support!

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 11:14:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara L. George	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT! Unbelievable that this is not being done already!

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 11:43:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael deYcaza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 11:46:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl J. Berg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED.

Stop solely testing tourist beaches that almost never exceed standards.

Test instead where local keiki play and local canoe clubs launch, at river mouths.

Make CWB monitoring program science based, not politically based.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 11:56:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly support SB350

Growing up here I had a friend contract Hepatitis from one of our beaches due to humane pollution. Currently through personal infections I had at the beach and listening to surfers, that by the time the warnings for high bacteria levels are out, it has been high for some time or it takes a while for DOH to retest to ensure bacteria levels are once again at safe levels.

This tells me there is not enough testing. My uncle's leg was amputated due to a vicious flesh eating bacteria contracted from our beach. His roommate at Life Care also lost his leg for the same reasons.

Areas with Condos and golf courses near (2 miles or less) our ocean seemed to be the most problematic.

Not only do we need to have frequent DOH testing of our ocean water quality, we need land development rules that protect our land to sea relationships to ensure the cleaning and filtering of rain and county waters.

Thank you

Maki

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:06:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Meredith Buck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB350 and would love for the DOH to stay better aware on water health & cleanliness.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:27:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anna Severson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I grew up on Maui and can see the difference in my own lifetime when I go spearfishing or snorkeling - we need to keep our oceans clean - please kokua

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 12:53:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Rudd	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass SB 350 to continue all efforts for clean water. THANK U

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 2:21:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Setsuko Morinoue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly support SB350!

Growing up here I had a friend contract Hepatitis from one of our beaches due to humane pollution. Currently through personal infections I had at the beach and listening to surfers, that by the time the warnings for high bacteria levels are out, it has been high for some time or it takes a while for DOH to retest to ensure bacteria levels are once again at safe levels.

This tells me there is not enough testing. My uncle's leg was amputated due to a vicious flesh eating bacteria contracted from our beach. His roommate at Life Care also lost his leg for the same reasons.

Areas with Condos and golf courses near (2 miles or less) our ocean seemed to be the most problematic.

Not only do we need to have frequent DOH testing of our ocean water quality, we need land development rules that protect our land to sea relationships to ensure the cleaning and filtering of rain and county waters.

Thank you,

Setsuko Morinoue

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 2:45:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eileen K Nanni	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senate Representatives,

I strongly support SB350

Growing up here I had a friend contract Hepatitis from one of our beaches due to humane pollution. Currently through news from personal friends, that by the time the warnings for high bacteria levels are out, it has been at a high level for some time or it takes a while for DOH to retest to ensure bacteria levels are once again at safe levels.

This is a red flag to me that there is not enough testing being done. My relative through marriage had his leg amputated due to a vicious flesh eating bacteria contracted at one of our local Kona beaches. His roommate at Life Care also lost his leg for the same reasons.

Areas with Condos and golf courses near to one another, 2 miles or less, close to our ocean seemed to be the most problematic.

Not only do we need to have frequent DOH testing of our ocean water quality, we need land development rules that protect our land to sea relationships to ensure the cleaning and filtering of rain and county waters.

Thank you very much,

Eileen Kiyoko Nanni

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 3:55:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB350

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 7:57:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharon Levine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Water quality is very important for all of us. We must be aware of the water quality for all the people living in Hawaii.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/15/2021 10:26:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill protects an essential need for us in Hawaii-- clean, safe water quality at local beaches. Please support this bill.

Mahalo,
Elizabeth Hansen,
Hakalau HI 96710

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 8:15:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
helen raine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and am surprised that this work is not already being carried out by the DOH. We all know that there are some major water quality issues at Hawaiian beaches and the infections that we sometimes get when swimming bear testimony to that. Poor water quality affects all of us, as well as native species. This bill helps us to get a handle on the situation by insisting that data is collected.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 8:44:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill and believe environment justice is essential for a sustainable and working democracy. Ensuring clean water during brown water advisories is essential for public health.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 9:53:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janet Pappas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

Can the hiring of the environmental management division chief staff position be sped up (i.e., earlier than Oct. 1, 2021)? The sooner we have someone looking at the many issues involved, the better, and another hurricane season will have nearly passed by then.

Thank you.

Jan Pappas

Aiea, Hawaii

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 10:11:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Samantha Berberich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As an avid diver I always worry about how long I should stay out of the water after a storm. It would be nice to know it's being monitored.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 5:18:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Battles	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB 350

Mahalo

William Battles

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 5:39:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Budnick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The public has a right to clean water and notification of brown water alerts posted at beaches, water quality testing at all public beaches and keep the public informed of the health risks of contaminated ocean waters. Thank you for your time!

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/16/2021 8:06:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Wiedner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bills as a s, ocean swimmer and overall ocean love.

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 12:44:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Amato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please Support SB350. We need more testing of our coastal waters. Cesspools and other OSDS are a real threat to our public and reef health. Thank you

SB-350

Submitted on: 2/17/2021 10:19:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/17/2021 1:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

A clean ocean is very important for everyone!