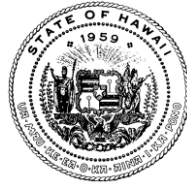


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KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII



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In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Testimony COMMENTING on HCR94  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PRIORITIZE TESTING AND  
RESEARCH OF BEACH SAND CONTAMINATION LEVELS AT POKAI BAY AND  
REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU DEPARTMENT OF  
PARKS AND RECREATION TO PRIORITIZE RENOVATIONS OF THE  
RESTROOM FACILITIES AT POKAI BAY**

REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ICHIYAMA, CHAIR,  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Hearing Date: 3/28/2023

Room Number: 430

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's  
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and  
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department understands the intent of this measure and  
5 respectfully offers the following comments regarding HCR94.

6 The Department currently monitors the water quality of Pokai Bay and prioritizes it as a  
7 Tier 1 beach which receives weekly water quality monitoring for the fecal indicator bacteria,  
8 enterococci. Between January 2019 and March 2023, the Department collected 192 water quality  
9 samples in Pokai Bay, of which 4 samples exceeded the Beach Action Value (BAV) of 130/100  
10 mL. In each of these instances, follow-up samples collected on the next working day did not  
11 exceed the BAV, indicating that there were no ongoing water quality issues in the bay.

12 The Department does not test sand for the presence of fecal indicator bacteria. There is no  
13 approved or proven reliable testing method, nor is there a threshold or action limit associated  
14 with health risks due to contact with sand. These parameters would need to be developed -- the  
15 Department does not have the resources to conduct this type of research.. Lacking this  
16 information, current procedures and actions cannot be reliably and defensibly applied to sand  
17 testing. Until a reliable test method is developed and a defensible standard or action threshold is

1 established for fecal indicator bacteria levels in sand, the Department is not able to carry out the  
2 same procedures and actions under the routine monitoring program.

3 The proposed resolution urges the Department to develop a plan to increase water  
4 circulation at Pokai Bay to improve water quality and mitigate environmental and health risks  
5 caused by pollution and contaminants in the water. The Department does not have the authority,  
6 resources, or expertise to alter or increase circulation in waterbodies. The Department is  
7 authorized to control land based point and nonpoint sources of water pollution.

8 **Offered Amendments:** The Department offers the amendments below.

9 On Page 2, Line 24:

10 WHEREAS, the Department of Health has the supplies to test seawater and occasionally  
11 tests the seawater in Pokai Bay specifically for fecal indicator bacteria, which decays at slower  
12 rates in the beach sand than in seawater; ~~[now, therefore,]~~and

13 WHEREAS, the Department of Health tests the waters of Pokai Bay for the fecal  
14 indicator bacteria, enterococci on a weekly basis and has found that of the 192 water samples  
15 collected between January 2019 and March 2023, four samples exceeded the action limit of  
16 130/100 mL; now, therefore,

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty—second Legislature  
18 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
19 Health is urged to continue to prioritize testing ~~[and research]~~ of fecal indicator bacteria levels  
20 and any other pollutants of the ~~[beach sand at]~~ waters of Pokai Bay; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is urged to make testing  
22 and research of fecal indicator bacteria levels and any other pollutants in ~~[beach sand at]~~ Pokai  
23 Bay a priority of the Department’s non-point source pollution program; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is urged to ~~[develop a plan~~  
25 ~~to increase water circulation at Pokai Bay to improve water quality and mitigate environmental~~  
26 ~~and health risks caused by pollution and contaminants in the water; and]~~

27 ~~[BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to~~  
28 ~~collaborate with other appropriate state and county agencies to develop the plan to increase~~  
29 ~~water circulation; and]~~ address land based point and nonpoint sources of water pollution into  
30 Pokai Bay.

1           ~~[BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to submit a~~  
2 ~~report of its collaborative activities, including significant findings, cost estimates, and any~~  
3 ~~proposed legislation to increase water circulation at Pokai Bay, to the Legislature no later than~~  
4 ~~twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and]~~

5           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that [based upon the Department of Health's testing and  
6 research of fecal indicator bacteria in the beach sand at Pokai Bay,] the City and County of  
7 Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation is requested to prioritize renovations of the  
8 restroom facilities at Pokai Bay; and  
9 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**HCR-94**

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 9:17:23 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this testimony.

Mahalo!