



**TESTIMONY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

**March 19, 2024**

HR189/HCR209 URGING EVERY STATE AGENCY THAT MONITORS ENVIRONMENTAL TOXINS AND POLLUTANTS TO FOLLOW CERTAIN PROCEDURAL AND SUBSTANTIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MODIFICATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION LEVELS.

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe and esteemed Members of the Committee,

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports HR189/HCR209 urging every state agency that monitors environmental toxins and pollutants to follow certain procedural and substantive requirements for the establishment and modifications of environmental action levels.

Our Party Platform states under "Environment and Energy":

*"We believe that all people have the right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment. We believe that the preservation of our natural environment and its ecological well being is essential to ensuring a safe, healthy, bountiful life for future generations in Hawai'i. We support policies that create a more sustainable society. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of native ecosystems."*

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

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# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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March 17, 2024

To: House Committee on Water and Land  
Hon. Linda Ichiyama, Chair  
Hon. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Re: HCR 209, HR189 relating to ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION LEVELS  
Hearing: Tuesday, March 19, 2024, 9:30 a.m., Room 430 & videoconference  
Position: Strong support

Aloha, Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i comprises some 7,500 politically active members of Hawai'i's majority political party. We strongly support this proposed resolution, which requests the Department of Health to place procedural standards on the administrative establishment and modification of "environmental action levels" (EALs) of polluting chemicals in Hawai'i's environment. (The higher the EAL, the more pollution goes unchecked.)

It is astonishing to realize that, for decades, Hawai'i's administrative authorities, primarily the State Department of Health, have revised the EALs on many toxic chemicals, invariably by weakening them by raising the EALs, at the request of polluting entities without actual outreach in giving public notice, without statements to the public of justifications, and without identification of any scientific basis for their administrative actions that have invariably relaxed enforcement standards. (DOH may well provide such information on its website, but this is not outreach. DOH could establish an email list for individuals and organizations that want advance notification of proposed changes in EALs.)

This resolution would urge the Department of Health to provide more robust advance public notice and outreach when the DOH is proposing changes in EALs, ask DOH to provide scientific evidence of its reasoning, provide justification for why it is in the public interest to make a change, and allow the public to present evidence in hearings.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important resolution.

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Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus

**HR-189**

Submitted on: 3/17/2024 11:12:59 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

**HR-189**

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:57:37 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/19/2024 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT!