

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2322 SD1
RELATING TO WATER QUALITY**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ICHIYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Hearing Date: 03/14/2024

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None if offered amendments are accepted.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports the intent of this measure and offers the
3 following comments and amendments.

4 The Department does not believe it would be feasible to conduct brown water testing at
5 all regularly monitored beaches (Tier 1 and Tier 2 beaches¹). Since Tier1 beaches are the most
6 heavily used by the public, it would be appropriate for this measure to only apply to Tier 1
7 beaches. Further, there may be instances when clean water branch personnel are either
8 unavailable or unable to monitor all affected Tier 1 beaches. As such, the Department is offering
9 amendments to clarify that this measure will not apply under that limited circumstance in
10 addition to the exclusion of monitoring during hazardous conditions. Provided that all these
11 amendments are made, the Department believes an appropriation is not necessary to implement
12 the measure.

13 The Department will need time to amend its Hawaii Beach Monitoring Program
14 document to incorporate the changes required by this measure. As required by the federal
15 Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act, amendments to the
16 Hawaii Beach Monitoring Program require public participation, including a 30-day public

¹ <https://health.hawaii.gov/cwb/beach-monitoring-program/#Current-Beach-Monitoring-Program-Document>; List of Tier 1 Beaches at PDF Page 21-22; List of Tier 2 Beaches at PDF Page 22-25.

1 comment period. As such, the Department suggests amending the effective date of the measure
2 to July 31, 2025.

3 **Offered Amendments:**

4 The Department respectfully suggests the following amendments to the proposed
5 measure. Additions appear as underlined, and deletions appear as strikeouts.

6 SECTION 1(a)(1), Page 1, Lines 2 – 9: “Require the clean water branch of its
7 environmental management division to continue ~~testing water quality as part of the Hawaii beach~~
8 ~~monitoring program during brown water advisories, while adhering to their regular beach~~
9 ~~sampling schedule; provided that no water sample shall be collected by clean water branch~~
10 ~~personnel until any hazardous conditions at affected beaches have subsided; and sampling of~~
11 Tier 1 beaches as part of the Hawaii Beach Monitoring Program during brown water advisories,
12 following their regular beach sampling schedule; provided that supplies and staff are available
13 for sample collection and analysis and that no sample shall be collected by clean water branch
14 personnel until any hazardous conditions at affected beaches have subsided; and”

15 SECTION 2, Page 2, Lines 1 - 15: Delete in its entirety.

16 SECTION 3, Page 2, Lines 16 – 19: Delete in its entirety.

17 SECTION 4, Page 3, Lines 1 - 2: This Act shall take effect on ~~December 31, 2050~~
18 July 31, 2025.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



3/12/2024
EEP/WAL Committees
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Lowen, Chair Ichiyama, and members of the House Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Water and Land Committees,

Position: Support SB2322 - Improving statewide coastal water quality monitoring program with suggested amendments

The Surfrider Foundation STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB2322 that requires the Department of Health's Clean Water Branch (CWB) to continue its regular coastal water quality monitoring program during Brown Water Advisories. We have discussed and support the DOH CWB's proposed amendments below. We believe that these amendments support the original intention of this bill, while also removing appropriations or the need for additional personnel/costs.

We are extremely grateful for DOH CWB's support of this bill and their willingness to find a solution that works both for the state and the community. SB2322 is a win-win for our community members and does not require any additional funding in an already stretched budget session.

Please AMEND SB2322 as suggested by DOH CWB and as follows to remove appropriations, clarify regular testing of Tier 1 beaches, and set implementation date as July 31, 2025:

SECTION 1(a)(1), Page 1, Lines 2 – 9: “Require the clean water branch of its environmental management division to continue ~~testing water quality as part of the Hawaii beach monitoring program during brown water advisories, while adhering to their regular beach sampling schedule; provided that no water sample shall be collected by clean water branch personnel until any hazardous conditions at affected beaches have subsided; and~~ sampling of Tier 1 beaches as part of the Hawaii Beach Monitoring Program during brown water advisories, following their regular beach sampling schedule; provided that supplies and staff are available for sample collection and analysis and that no sample shall be collected by clean water branch personnel until any hazardous conditions at affected beaches have subsided; and”

SECTION 2, Page 2, Lines 1 - 15: Delete in its entirety.

SECTION 3, Page 2, Lines 16 – 19: Delete in its entirety.

SECTION 4, Page 3, Lines 1 - 2: This Act shall take effect on ~~December 31, 2050~~
July 31, 2025.

With these amendments, SB 2322 will NOT require any additional costs or personnel to implement. These sites and samples have already been budgeted for in DOH's annual funding from the federal BEACH Act funds. SB2322 simply requires the CWB to maintain its regularly scheduled sampling at Tier 1 beaches, and to pull samples at their regularly scheduled sites regardless if the water is clear or brown.

SB 2322 will not increase DOH costs or personnel

1. The bill does **not** increase the number of sites monitored by CWB nor the number of times that sites must be monitored.
2. The bill does **not** require CWB to specifically test beaches under BWA nor conduct additional testing outside of its regularly monitored Tier 1 beaches.

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:

- **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. Alternatively, some beaches will not have high bacteria readings, but will remain under Brown Water Advisories for sometimes weeks on end. **This practice impacts the ability of our community members to make informed decisions about where it is safe to get in the water.**
- 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.
- 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.”**
- **In some cases the HDOH has left Brown Water Advisories in place for a month or more - even if beaches meet state health standards.** During this time, HDOH will not sample the ocean water. In January 2024, for example, the HDOH issued a [Brown Water Advisory](#) for the entire island of Maui and did not sample for three weeks (from January 4-January 22). The Surfrider Maui Chapter’s BWTF volunteers sampled 33 sites across Maui on January 10 and January 11 - in the middle of the HDOH’s three week Brown Water Advisory (see map below). The results from our BWTF sampling indicated that while certain beaches did register high bacteria readings, there were a number of beaches (indicated by green points) that met state health standards. Without testing during brown water events, it is unknown which locations monitored by the Department of Health experience pollution spikes during heavy rains and those that continue to meet state health standards. This gap in knowledge impacts the ability of community members and ocean goers to make informed decisions on where and when it is safe for them and their families to get into the water.

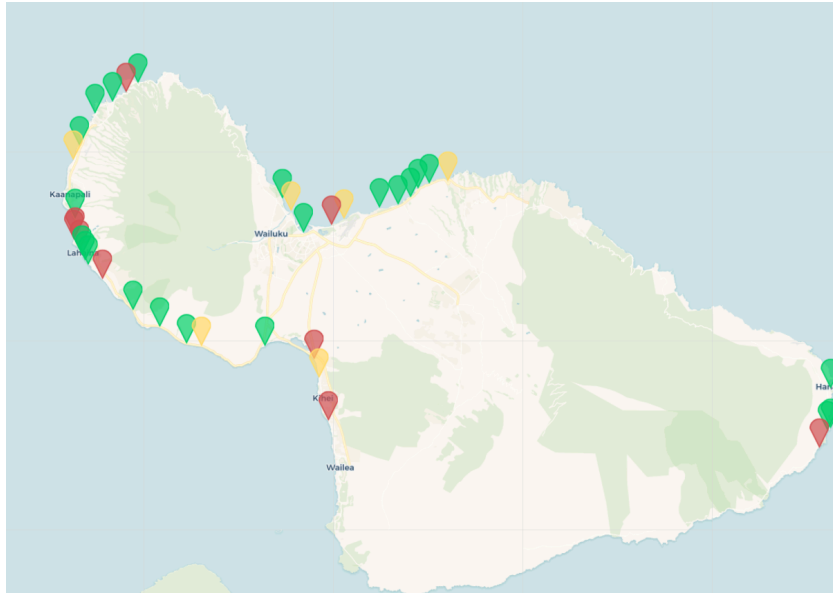
The mission of the Department of Health Clean Water Branch is to *“protect the public health of residents and tourists who enjoy playing in and around Hawaii’s coastal and inland water resources.”* By continuing to sample beaches during Brown Water Advisories at Tier 1 beaches, the DOH CWB would ensure that it is meeting their mission statement and providing our community with the data and tools needed to know where it is safe to enjoy the ocean.

In Hawai'i, Surfrider Foundation has worked extensively with the DOH 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. In addition, and attached to our testimony, is a sign-on letter from **23 local organizations** urging your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lauren Blicley".

Lauren Blicley
Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation



Map 1. Enterococcus results from Surfrider Foundation Maui Chapter sampling on January 10 and 11, 2024. This sampling was conducted during a DOH Brown Water Advisory that lasted from January 9-January 22, 2024. During this time, the DOH did not sample Maui beaches for 3 weeks.

Sample No	Location	Location Name	Island	Date	Time	Ent Qualifier	Enterococci	CP Qualifier	Chloridium	Comments	
EW11212303	000307	Kapiolani Park	Oahu	12/12/2023	9:56 AM	02.3	<	0001	sunny, light wind, few beach goers, surfers (25+), 1-2 ft waves		Select
RC11212302	303603	Waiananalo Beach Pt. 2	Oahu	12/12/2023	9:39 AM	02.3	<	0001	partly cloudy, windy, choppy waves, murky, low tide, organics		Select
RC11212301	303604	Waiananalo State Park Pt. 2	Oahu	12/12/2023	9:23 AM	02.3	<	0001	mostly sunny, windy, choppy waves, greenish color, low tide, few beachgoers		Select
RC11292306	000169	Mokuleia Shoreline	Oahu	11/29/2023					No sample taken - Island wide BWA		Select
RC11292302	000218	Chum Reef	Oahu	11/29/2023					No sample taken - Island wide BWA		Select
RC11292303	000246	Lanikea	Oahu	11/29/2023					No sample taken - Island wide BWA		Select
RC11292305	000247	Haleiwa Alii Beach Park	Oahu	11/29/2023					No sample taken - Island wide BWA		Select
RC11292301	000113	Kapauloa Beach	Oahu	11/29/2023					No sample taken - Island wide BWA		Select
RC11292304	308504	Puena Point	Oahu	11/29/2023					No sample taken - Island wide BWA		Select
RC11212302	000194	Lanikai Beach Shoreline	Oahu	11/21/2023					No sample taken - BWA due to heavy rain		Select
RC11212305	000200	Sandy Beach Pt. 1	Oahu	11/21/2023					No sample taken - BWA due to heavy rain		Select
RC11212306	000201	Hanalei Beach Park	Oahu	11/21/2023					No sample taken - BWA due to heavy rain		Select
RC11212304	000216	Makapuu	Oahu	11/21/2023					No sample taken - BWA due to heavy rain		Select
EW11212303	000222	Ala Moana Lagoon	Oahu	11/21/2023	9:53 AM	02.3	<	0001	partly cloudy, light wind, swimmers (15+), beach goers (20+), fish		Select
EW11212307	000228	Sans Souci	Oahu	11/21/2023	11:35 AM	30	<	0001	partly cloudy, light wind, swimmers (25+), beach goers (100+)		Select
EW11212305	000238	Moana Beach, Waikiki	Oahu	11/21/2023	10:59 AM	02.3	<	0001	mostly cloudy, light wind, swimmers (200+), beach goers (250+), surfers (100+), 2-3 ft waves		Select
RC11212301	303421	Kaliha Beach Park Pt. 2	Oahu	11/21/2023					No sample taken - BWA due to heavy rain		Select
RC11212303	303603	Waiananalo Beach Pt. 2	Oahu	11/21/2023					No sample taken - BWA due to heavy rain		Select
EW11212301	304903	Ala Moana Park, Center Pt. 2	Oahu	11/21/2023	9:15 AM	10	<	0001	cloudy, light wind, swimmers(5+), beach goers(5+), surfers(10+), 3-4 ft waves, algae, slightly murky		Select
EW11212302	304904	Ala Moana Park, D.H. Pt. 2	Oahu	11/21/2023	9:27 AM	02.3	<	0001	cloudy, light wind, swimmers (25+), beach goers (150+), few surfers, 3-4 ft waves, fish		Select
EW11212304	304905	Kahanamoku Beach, Waikiki Pt. 2	Oahu	11/21/2023	10:28 AM	02.3	<	0001	mostly cloudy, light wind, swimmers (100+), beach goers (150+)		Select
EW11212306	304906	Kuhio Beach, Waikiki Pt. 2	Oahu	11/21/2023	11:15 AM	10	<	0001	partly cloudy, light wind, swimmers (75+), beach goers (100+)		Select
RC11202301	000185	Makaha Beach	Oahu	11/20/2023	10:04 AM	10		01.0	overcast, light wind, high tide, large waves, ~15 surfers		Select
RC11202304	000187	Nanahuli Beach Park	Oahu	11/20/2023	10:59 AM	10		07.0	cloudy, windy, large shorebreak, 3 swimmers		Select
RC11202302	000224	Pokai Bay	Oahu	11/20/2023	10:25 AM	02.3		03.0	overcast, moderate wind, high tide, 4 boat in bay		Select
RC11202306	000252	Kobola, Lagoon 1	Oahu	11/20/2023	9:07 AM	02.3		03.0	overcast, light wind, high tide, murky, 30+ swimmers, jellyfish		Select
RC11202305	000309	Kahe	Oahu	11/20/2023	9:30 AM	02.3		18.0	overcast, high tide, large waves, no swimmers, 2 boats		Select
RC11202303	307002	Mali Beach Park Pt. 2	Oahu	11/20/2023	10:40 AM	02.3		17.0	overcast, windy, high tide, no swimmers, large shorebreak		Select
TM1152301	000152	Ala Moana Park, Ewa	Oahu	11/15/2023	9:19 AM	20		04.0	3 swimmers, overcast, light wind, recent rain		Select
RC1152303	000172	Waimea Bay Shoreline	Oahu	11/15/2023	10:22 AM	02.3	<	01.0	partly cloudy, very windy, large shorebreak, river not flowing		Select

Table 1. Enterococcus results from the Department of Health's CWB water quality sampling 11/21/23 and 11/29/23 when no monitoring was conducted at Tier 1 beaches because of wet conditions. We do not know if these samples would have met or exceeded state standards.



Image 1. Example of Surfrider staff collecting enterococcus bacteria samples during a Brown Water Advisory on January 10, 2024 off of West Maui using protective waders and an extension pole.

March 12, 2024
HOUSE EEP/WAL COMMITTEES
In SUPPORT of SB2322: Relating to the Environment

Aloha kākou Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

We, the **23 undersigned organizations**, write to express our support for SB23322 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 and lacks data collection during wet weather.

SB2322 is a critical step towards improving water quality monitoring in coastal recreational waters in Hawai'i and will ensure that the public is adequately informed about where it is safe to get in the water.

We ask you to support this bill that will require DOH to continue its water quality testing program at Tier 1 beaches 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.

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 SB2322 and the improvements to beach water quality monitoring that will protect the public health of all our communities.

Sincerely,

Organizations





Mar. 12, 2024

In Strong Support of **SB2322 SD1** Relating to Water Quality
House Committees on Energy & Environment (EEP) and Water & Land (WAL)
Hearing on March 14, 8:30am, Rm. 235

Aloha, Chairs Lowen & Ichiyama, Vice-Chairs Cochran & Poepoe, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the non-profit WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations and the Cesspool Legislative Task Force, I am writing in **strong support of SB2322 SD1**. This bill would protect water quality by making sure that the Dept. Of Health's Clean Water Branch (CWB) tests during Brown Water Advisories (BWA's). Currently, Hawaii is one of the only states that suspends water quality monitoring during and after rain events, and this creates an inconsistent record and insufficient data about the health and safety of our waters.

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 describe the pollution levels and health risks during these conditions; if a local or visitor is sickened or dies due to poor water quality and lack of proper notification, the state could be liable.
- As a result, water quality statistics communicated by the CWB beach monitoring program do not give an accurate picture of water quality conditions at Hawaii's beaches, and certainly not during wet weather conditions when public health is most likely to be threatened.
- EPA Region 9 made this recommendation: *"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.

Hawaii has more than 83,000 cesspools across the state, discharging 52 million gallons of raw sewage each day into Hawaii's waters, and this pollution only increases during rain events. The people of Hawaii and visitors need better water quality monitoring to make sure the pollution from wastewater systems and storm water runoff doesn't pose serious health risks to nearby surface waters where people of all ages and health conditions swim, surf, dive, fish and recreate every day.

WAI is an environmental non-profit dedicated to protecting our drinking water, groundwater and near-shore ecosystems by reducing sewage pollution from cesspools and failing septic systems. Better sanitation systems and water quality monitoring are needed to protect our people. Hawaii is struggling with serious water pollution problems, and the state needs to make sure it is following the proper water quality monitoring protocol to ensure the health and safety of our people and millions of visitors. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue and support of this bill.

Aloha,

Stuart Coleman

Stuart H. Coleman, Executive Director

SB-2322-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 2:19:19 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mara Dias	Surfrider Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Surfrider Foundation strongly supports SB2322 that requires the Department of Health’s Clean Water Branch (DOH) to continue its regular coastal water quality monitoring program during Brown Water Advisories and we ask the Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land to please also offer your support for this bill.

We support the amendments proposed by the Department of Health to limit the scope of this bill to Tier 1 beaches and defining a start date of July 31, 2025 to allow the Clean Water Branch time to update their program agreement with EPA following protocols for public notice and input. We believe these amendments support the original intention of this bill, while also removing appropriations or the need for additional personnel or costs.

We are extremely grateful for DOH’s support of this bill and their willingness to find a solution that works both for the state and the community. SB2322 is a win-win for our community members and does not require any additional funding in an already stretched budget session.

With these amendments, SB 2322 will NOT require any additional costs or personnel to implement. These sites and samples have already been budgeted for in DOH’s annual funding from the federal BEACH Act funds. SB2322 simply requires the CWB to maintain its regularly scheduled sampling at Tier 1 beaches, and to pull samples at their regularly scheduled sites regardless if the water is clear or brown.

Please AMEND SB2322 as suggested by DOH CWB to clarify regular testing of Tier 1 beaches, set implementation date as July 31, 2025 and remove appropriations. SB 2322 will not increase DOH costs or personnel.

This bill proposes needed improvements in how public health is protected during wet weather when it is most likely to be at risk. Through my role overseeing Blue Water Task Force volunteer water testing programs run by Surfrider Chapters across the country, I've had the opportunity to understand how beach water quality monitoring programs run by state and county health departments operate in many different coastal states. I am not aware of any other state suspending all testing during Brown Water or Rain Advisories unless the water or weather conditions are extremely hazardous as you would expect during a hurricane or other large coastal storm. Typically, pre-emptive rain advisories are also only active without actual bacteria test

results for 24-72 hours, and then health departments will either rescind or keep the advisories active depending on the results of their sampling. By issuing Brown Water Advisories and keeping them active for weeks at a time and not doing any actual testing during that period, DOH is really failing to meet their obligation to protect public health as beach goers and other ocean recreationists don't really heed the advisories, especially when they know it has been days or weeks since the rain.

Public understanding of the health risk of swimming in brown water would definitely be enhanced if there was actual data to back the advisories up. By not testing, HDOH is also limiting recreational opportunities needlessly in many instances and this is bad not only for our communities and people who love to swim, surf or relax in the water, but also the tourism-based businesses that depend on access to clean coastal waters.

Please support SB 2322 with proposed amendments offered by DOH. It is a win-win for our community and does not add any additional burdens or costs to the DOH.

SB-2322-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 4:18:27 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GWEN YOUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear all,

Please support bill SB2322. As a resident, environmental conservation volunteer, and active water woman, I am storngly concerned with the quality of our water.

We should require the state’s water quality monitoring program to sample beaches during clean and brown water conditions. Without this, we have no way to know what is happening during rains / brown water conditions,. Therefore, we do not know when it is safe to enter the water and even more improtantly, do not have the vital information needed to find locations of frequent contamination and address the causes!

Accurate data, independent of bias due to testing only during normal, non incliment weather situations, is a minimal responsibility by our state to our residents and also to our 'aina and to all life (as we all dependent on the health of the ocean for our own health).

Mahalo nui loa,
Gwen Young

SB-2322-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2024 6:45:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this bill!

Lisa Bishop

Hawaii Resident, Homeowner, Taxpayer, and Voter

SB-2322-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 12:29:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2322 SD1. This bill really is a no-brainer. Without testing during brown water events, it is unknown which locations monitored by DOH 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. Please pass this very important measure! Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2322-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 9:32:55 AM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Amato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a water quality scientist, a resident, and a father, I support SB2322. DOH should be required to test during brown water events. Not doing so puts the health of our people at risk because there is no information on how polluted the water is and when it is safe to go back in the water. The current method of not sampling during brown water events also skews the state's water data, which gives a false sense that Hawai'i's water is great when there are times it is not. Sampling during these scheduled sample dates will not add any additional burden to the DOH. Please support SB2322. Mahalo -Daniel Amato, PhD

SB-2322-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 1:28:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
arleen velasco	Surfrider Foundation - I am the chair of the Oahu Chapter	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is extremely important for the public to know how polluted our waters are before and after a storm event. A blanket statement about brown water is not serving the public good.

SB-2322-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2024 5:02:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Cochran, and Members of the Energy & Environmental Protection Committee:

I am in strong support of SB 2322 as it directs the Department of Health to improve the Clean Water Branch's (CWB) water quality monitoring and public notification program by requiring the Department of Health to continue its regularly scheduled water quality monitoring during Brown Water Advisories.

I have been in and out of Hawaii's Ocean waters diving and swimming for over 50 years. Currently ocean users are put at greater risk and the identification and enactment of needed pollution mitigation efforts are delayed.

SB 2322 promotes the health of the local community by ensuring the public can make more informed decisions about where and when it is safe for their families to get in the water.

Thank you for your continued support of this important legislation to ensure safer use of our superb ocean resources.

Dan Gardner

Honolulu, HI - daniel.dano.gardner@gmail.com