



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SCR0130
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO TAKE ALL ACTION NECESSARY
TO REQUIRE A WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TO TEST SEWAGE
SLUDGE AND ANY OTHER RESIDUAL MATERIAL FOR THE PRESENCE OF
PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: March 25, 2024

Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) acknowledges the concerns
3 raised by this resolution and will take actions to encourage wastewater treatment plants to test
4 their sewage sludge, and as necessary reclaimed wastewater for irrigation purposes, for the
5 presence of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

6 The Department will take the recommendations of this resolution under advisement.

7 **Offered Amendments:** None.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

March 24, 2024

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hon. Mike Gabbard, Chair
Hon. Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
Hon. Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Hon. Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Re: SCR 130 SR 112 Requests Wastewater Treatment Plants to test for PFAS

Hearing: Monday, March 25, 2024, 1:00 p.m., Room 224 & videoconference

Position: Strong Support

Aloha, Chairs Gabbard and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and Aquino, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment and the Committee on Health and Human Services:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i comprises of over 7,500 politically active members of Hawai'i's majority political party. We strongly support urging the Department of Health to take all action necessary to require a wastewater treatment plant to test sewer sludge and any other residual material for the presence of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

Testing sewer sludge and other residual materials for the presence of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) is crucial for several reasons.

1. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT.** PFAS are environmentally persistent and can accumulate in the soil and water. This can lead to long-term contamination of the environment, affecting both wildlife and human populations.
2. **HUMAN HEALTH.** PFAS have been linked to a variety of health issues, including hepatic, cardiovascular, immune, reproductive, and developmental effects. Testing can help identify potential risks human health and inform necessary interventions.
3. **SOURCE IDENTIFICATION.** Testing will have identify the sources of PFAS contamination. For example, domestic activities such as home cleaning have been identified as a major source of certain PFAS.



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4. REGULATORY COMPLIANCE. The federal government has taken significant action to prevent PFAS release and expand PFAS cleanup and remediation. Testing can ensure compliance with these regulations and help safeguard human health and help protect the environment.
5. RISK MANAGEMENT. Testing can inform risk management strategies, such as the development of treatment processes to remove PFAS from wastewater and sludge.

Therefore, it's important for the Department of Health to take all necessary actions to require wastewater treatment plants to test sewage sludge and other residual materials for the presence of PFAS. This will help protect the environment and public health, and assure compliance with federal regulations.

On behalf of the Environmental Caucus, we thank you very much for your support of these resolutions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these important resolutions.

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Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus

SCR-130

Submitted on: 3/22/2024 10:56:57 AM

Testimony for HHS on 3/25/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to; URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO TAKE ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO REQUIRE A WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TO TEST SEWAGE SLUDGE AND ANY OTHER RESIDUAL MATERIAL FOR THE PRESENCE OF PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.