



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1078
RELATING TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL SPECIAL FUND**

REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ICHIYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Hearing Date: 2/9/2023

Room Number: CR 430

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Filing fees for Clean Water Act Section 402 National Pollutant Discharge
2 Elimination System permits and Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certifications
3 (WQC) will go to the newly created special fund instead of the general fund.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) strongly supports HB1078
5 which will create a supplementary funding source for the Department to implement and enforce
6 NPDES permits, WQCs, and variances. Establishing this special fund will dedicate the
7 approximately \$250,000 of filing fees collected annually through various filing fees to the
8 Department to manage, protect, and restore State water quality.

9 The State of Hawaii is responsible for managing, protecting, and restoring approximately
10 303 miles of recreational shoreline, 3,326 miles of rivers and streams, and 37 square miles of
11 bays and harbors – a total of 565 marine water bodies statewide, only 170 of which were
12 assessed from 2019 to 2021 (30%). Of the 170 assessed water bodies, 157 (92%) do not fully
13 attain water quality standards for one or more parameters.

14 As set forth in section 342D-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, fees collected are imposed to
15 cover the cost of issuing, implementing, and enforcing permits and variances, but such fees are
16 deposited to the general fund, requiring the Department to incorporate the cost of those
17 responsibilities in its annual budget request. Depositing these fees directly into a fund with a
18 dedicated purpose allows those moneys to be used by the Department to fund more
19 implementation and enforcement activities and generally be more responsive.

1 This proposal does not create new or increased filing fees imposed on applicants for
2 NPDES permits, WQCs, or variances, therefore, there is no increased financial impact to the
3 regulated community.

4 The Department strongly supports this bill to benefit the water quality of State waters and
5 to better protect public health.

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

7 **Offered Amendments:** None.