
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that protecting the
2 State's nearshore waters is important for ecosystem resilience
3 and public health. Clean nearshore waters, free of pollutants,
4 help support the coral reef systems that are critical to
5 Hawaii's fisheries. A 2023 study published in the scientific
6 journal Nature found that coral reefs that are protected from
7 land-based pollutants, especially wastewater pollutants, are
8 better able to recover from ocean warming events.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require
10 individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or
11 likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification
12 capacity.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 342D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately
15 designated and to read as follows:



1 "§342D- Individual wastewater systems; denitrification
 2 capacity. Each individual wastewater system shall have
 3 denitrification capacity if:

4 (1) The wastewater system is located fifty feet or less
 5 from a shoreline; or

6 (2) The wastewater system is located at or below one
 7 thousand five hundred feet below sea level and:

8 (A) The substrate is less than five thousand years
 9 old; and

10 (B) The soil has low nutrient holding capacity, low
 11 shrink and swell characteristics, and very fast
 12 water permeability, based on the Hawaii Soil
 13 Atlas."

14 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

16

INTRODUCED BY: Nicole E. Lowen BR

JAN 17 2024



H.B. NO. 1691

Report Title:

Environment; Individual Wastewater Systems; Nearshore Waters;
Denitrification Capacity; Required

Description:

Requires individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity.

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