

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

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1691 HD1
RELATING TO CESSPOOLS**

REPRESENTATIVE KYLE T. YAMASHITA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 2/27/2024

Room Number: 308

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) acknowledges the intent of
- 3 this measure and offers comments. The Department concurs that decreasing or eliminating
- 4 pollutants and protecting nearshore waters and the coral reef systems are very important.
- 5 However, clarifications are required to provide the basis for the 200-foot setback from the
- 6 shoreline, provide the basis for the 1,500-foot above sea level and below zone, identify who will
- 7 determine whether the substrate is less than 5,000 years old, and identify who will determine
- 8 whether the soil has low nutrient holding capacity, low shrink and swell characteristics, and very
- 9 fast water permeability based on the Hawai'i Soil Atlas.
- 10 **Offered Amendments:** None.
- 11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.

By

Darren T. Lerner, PhD

Director, University of Hawai'i (UH) Sea Grant College Program
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

Thomas Giambelluca, PhD

Director, UH Water Resources Research Center

And

Michael Bruno, PhD

Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1691 HD1 – RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program and UH Water Resources Research Center appreciate the positive intent behind HB 1691 HD1 while also identifying areas where **improvements can be made through suggested considerations or amendments.**

The impact of nutrient discharge from wastewater systems on coral reefs can be significant and long-lasting. Thus, implementing measures to mitigate excess nitrogen through denitrification is crucial for enhancing reef resilience, especially considering the ongoing impacts of climate change on coastal ecosystems. HB 1691 proposes requiring individual wastewater systems identified as high risk to nearshore waters to incorporate denitrification capacity.

However, we urge careful consideration regarding specific requirements outlined in the bill. The stipulation regarding elevation thresholds, particularly the 1500 ft elevation delineation, seems arbitrary and could inadvertently encompass a disproportionately large fraction of Onsite Sewage Disposal Systems (OSDS) in the state. Given that a significant portion of Hawai'i's population resides below this elevation, we recommend a more nuanced approach based on a scientifically sound methodology. Additionally, the current soil characteristic requirements lack clarity, potentially leading to inconsistent interpretation and implementation of the law.

Moreover, it's important to note that the majority of the State's shorelines are experiencing erosion, which may impact the viability of new, stationary, and

costly systems within decades. While it's essential to mitigate harmful nutrients reaching shorelines from inadequate sewage treatment, implementing measures in this manner could add undesired complexity to sea-level rise-related management options, such as managed relocation.

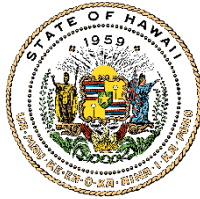
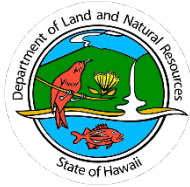
To address these concerns, we propose striking the criteria outlined in subsections 1) and 2), pertaining to shoreline location, elevation, substrate age, and soil characteristics. Instead, we recommend utilizing the "Priority 1 cesspools" identification from the University of Hawai'i's most recent cesspool hazard assessment and prioritization tool. While this tool was not specifically designed to identify areas that would benefit from additional denitrification capacity, it does consider fifteen site-specific risk factors that control the movement of pollution, reduce capacity, or otherwise affect the overall level of impact onsite sewage disposal has on the land and also the water quality nearby. These include proximity to drinking water sources, distance to streams and wetlands, and sea-level rise zones, among others. This adjustment maintains the bill's intent while addressing practical considerations.

However, we acknowledge that this tool only tangentially identifies areas that would benefit from additional denitrification. Therefore, we suggest recommending and potentially allocating funding to conduct a more focused analysis to develop evidence-based thresholds that strike a reasonable balance between cost and benefit. Such an analysis could involve compiling and consolidating percolation tests, estimating groundwater travel time, and other relevant factors.

Thank you for considering our input on this matter. We appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the legislative process.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
12:00 PM

State Capitol, VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1691, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

House Bill 1691, House Draft 1 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill.**

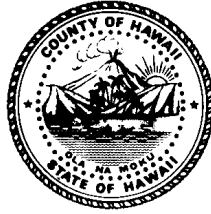
Clean nearshore waters are vital to both public health and the health of nearshore reefs and associated fisheries. Wastewater systems have the potential to pollute groundwater and nearshore waters by introducing elevated levels of contaminants such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and pathogens. A 2023 Hawai'i-based study¹ found that septic and cesspool pollution is a major driver of coral reef decline along the West Hawai'i coastline. When excess nutrients, such as nitrogen, from these wastewater systems enter nearshore waters, they stimulate the growth of algae, which can smother coral. Requiring denitrification capacity in wastewater systems that are near the shoreline or likely to pollute groundwater will reduce the amount of contaminants entering Hawai'i's nearshore waters and support more resilient coral reef ecosystems.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

¹ Gove, J.M., Williams, G.J., Lecky, J. *et al.* Coral reefs benefit from reduced land–sea impacts under ocean warming. *Nature* **621**, 536–542 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06394-w>

DAWN N. S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

HEATHER L. KIMBALL
COUNCIL CHAIR
Council District 1 (North Hilo,
Hāmākua, and portion of Waimea)



Phone: (808) 961-8828
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Email: Heather.Kimball@hawaicounty.gov

HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402.
Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

February 26, 2024

House Committee on Finance
Honorable Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair

RE: **Support for HB 1691_HD1**

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee on Finance:

As the Chair of the Hawai‘i County Council, I thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1691_HD1**, relating to the environment.

The study published in Nature in 2023 “Coral reefs benefit from reduced land–sea impacts under ocean warming”, clearly indicated that pollution from cesspools present a major threat to the wellbeing of our nearshore waters. Furthermore, it indicates that I certain substrates septic leech fields are no better than cesspools as far as releasing contaminants into the environment. HB1691_HD1 would require denitrification capacity for septic systems in these substrates, which would help reduce the nutrient released into nearshore waters.

HB1691_HD1 will result in no added costs to the state budget but will ultimately provide savings to the state in terms of avoided costs due to the protection reefs provide to shoreline communities and their importance to the state’s food systems and visitor industry.

In Milolii on Hawaii Island, home of the last Hawaiian fishing village and adjacent to the Community based subsistence fishing area, the substrate is a porous, young lava flow. Just above this area is a 900 lot subdivision with approximately 200 lots developed. This is an example of an area where HB1691_HD1 would apply. This bill gives us a chance to get ahead of the issue while this critical reef area is still in good condition.

I urge that this committee to continue move HB1691_HD1 through the legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. If you would like to discuss my knowledge of this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

HEATHER L. KIMBALL



To: The Honorable Chair Kyle Yamashita, the Honorable Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee.

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing HB1691 HD1 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Hearing: Tuesday, February 27, 2024, 12:00 p.m., room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Lisa Kitagawa, and Members of the Finance Committee.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean.

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1691 HD1!

Nutrient pollution from individual wastewater systems is harming our precious coral reefs and public health! Nutrients, particularly nitrogen, generally are not removed sufficiently by conventional septic systems. The release of **nutrients** from individual wastewater systems through groundwater and streams into the ocean causes algae growth, which can **smother the coral reefs that are essential to protecting our shorelines, nurturing our fisheries, preserving water quality, and**

enabling our lucrative recreational economy. Hawaii's coral reefs will die in warmer, more acidic, and rising oceans if we don't reduce nutrient pollution!

This bill recognizes that individual wastewater systems are especially harmful in certain locations, such as near to the shoreline or areas where they are likely to pollute groundwater. The bill would require denitrification capacity for **newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems located 200 feet or less from the shoreline** or at or below 1,500 altitude with poor soils, where the substrate is less than 5,000 years old, and the soils have low nutrient holding capacity, low shrink and swell characteristics, and very fast permeability based on the Hawaii Soil Atlas. In those areas, individual wastewater systems should have denitrifying capacity. The bill defines "denitrifying capacity" based on the National Sanitation Foundation and the American National Standards Institute nationally used "NSF/ANSI 245" standard for on-site residential wastewater treatment. This standard requires 50% reduction for total nitrogen. It is widely used to meet the growing demand for nutrient reduction in coastal areas and sensitive environments.

Please pass this bill to protect our coral reefs from nutrient pollution by requiring denitrifying capacity for newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems near the shore or in areas where they are likely to pollute groundwater!

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 6:15:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill!

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:48:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Culbertson	Big Island Reef Keepers hui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives!

We support HB1691 HD1.

Hawai'i County is where most porous lava rocks are found near the coastline. HB1691 HD1 focuses important efforts on the areas that are the most problematic for wastewater discharge into our reefs.

HB1691 HD1 focuses on much-needed new development to address our growing coastal pollution problems.

We must move quickly to pass good initiatives to mitigate coral collapse. This impacts our oxygen sources with phytoplanktoms, fishing, and tourism.

Mahalo,

R A Culbertson

Member, Big Island Reef Keepers hui

Honokaa

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:21:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Damien Kenison	Kauhako Ohana Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB 1691_HD1 – STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha no kakou,

I am writing this letter in strong support of House Bill 1691_HD I

I live in Ho’okena, South Kona, Hawaii Island. Our families rely on the ocean for sustenance and the ability to teach our keiki cultural practices, passed on to us by kupuna, depends on a healthy marine ecosystem. Our pristine South Kona coastline is being carved up for proposed developments which endangers our reef and nearshore waters.

The West Hawaii reef shelf system is a narrow habitat that is vulnerable to pollution and other stakeholder uses. The land above the shore is comprised of permeable a’u/pahoehoe which along with the many lava tubes, readily conducts waste to the ocean from developments, golf courses, and agriculture. The reef fish and other marine life along our coast are very susceptible to pollution.

We depend on our nearshore fisheries for moderate income and the ono to feed our 'ohana. This lifestyle of living off of the land and ocean is dependent upon a healthy habitat for our i’a including opihi, a’ama, ‘ōpelu.

HB 1691_HD1 will help to protect our way of life and culture by providing added safeguards for improved development practices that will protect our fragile, South Kona coastline. Please support this important measure for the well-being of our keiki and mo’opuna.

Ke Aloha Nunui,

Damien Kenison

Kauhakō ‘Ohana Association

26 February 2024

Today, as the president of the non-profit Hawaii Marine Education and Research Center which was created to support communities and our natural resources, I submit testimony in strong support of HB1691_HD1 to require new individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. Protecting our nearshore waters from land-based pollutants, particularly wastewater pollutants is critical for reef resilience, public health and community livelihoods. HB1691_HD1 will require a modest increase in processing of wastewater in new construction and new installations. HB1691_HD1 is not about cesspool conversion or past development. I support HB1691_HD1 bill for the following reasons:

- There is now ample data showing individual wastewater systems, both cesspools and septic tanks, with standard leach fields are harmful to the environment, particularly where substrates are porous.
- Hawai'i County is where most porous rock substrates are found near the coastline, so HB1691_HD1 focuses important effort on these specific areas known to be the most problematic for wastewater discharge into our reefs.
- There is now ample evidence showing individual wastewater systems, both cesspools and septic tanks, with standard leach fields are having detrimental impacts on our coastal ecosystems and coral reefs.
- There is now ample evidence showing that coral reefs that are protected from land-based pollutants, especially wastewater pollutants, are better able to recover from ocean warming events.
- There is now ample data showing that when installed in individual wastewater systems, denitrification significantly reduces the amount of nitrogen leaving the system.

Respectfully,



Robin Martin PhD
President, Hawaii Marine Education and Research Center

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:04:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yishan Wong	Terraformation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please accept this testimony in support of HB1691_HD1.

A [landmark 2023 study](#) found that septic and cesspool pollution is a major driver of coral reef decline along the West Hawai‘i coastline, by stimulating algae growth that smothers coral.

The most vulnerable areas for this type of pollution are reefs near to rocky coastal soils that fail to retain effluent from both septic tanks and cesspools.

This Bill will require that new buildings utilize denitrification technology in nearshore rocky soils, thereby greatly reducing future wastewater runoff onto our reefs.

This is a critical contribution to our collective effort to restore our coral reefs.

Hawai‘i County is where most porous rock substrates are found near the coastline, so HB1691_HD1 focuses important effort on these specific areas known to be the most problematic for wastewater discharge into our reefs.

HB1691_HD1 focuses on new development, which is essential for addressing our growing coastal pollution problems. This bill is not about cesspool conversion, which is covered in other bills and actions already underway.

Thank you.

- Yishan Wong



HB1691 HD1

Aloha Honorable Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our thousands of supporters, we kindly ask you to **support HB 1691 HD1.**

As the coral reefs surrounding Hawai'i face numerous threats due to human impact, we must be vigilant and proactive to ensure these vital ecosystems continue to survive.

We believe HB 1691 will take much needed action to alleviate the significant pressure and degradation experienced by reefs and coastal areas due to septic and cesspool pollution. We strongly urge you to support this measure. The reefs and biodiversity that call these ecosystems home depend on it.

Natalie Parra
Co-Founder at Keiko Conservation
Campaign Director at Oceanic Preservation Society



Feb. 26, 2024

In Support of **HB1691 HD1** Relating to Cesspools
House Committee on Finance (FIN)
Hearing on Feb. 27, 12:00pm, Rm. 308

Aloha, Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Ichiyama, 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 HB1691 HD1**. This bill would require individual wastewater systems (IWS) to do denitrification and reduce nutrient pollution in nearshore areas with pool soil health in order to protect declining coral reefs.

Hawaii has more than 83,000 cesspools across the state, discharging 52 million gallons of raw sewage each day into Hawaii's waters. That's similar to a massive sewage spill every day! Along with threats to public health and drinking water resources, new research in *Nature* shows that this polluted wastewater poses significant harm to coral reefs and the near-shore environment. The people of Hawaii need this law to protect coral reefs and make sure their wastewater systems aren't polluting the groundwater or nearby surface waters. This pollution threatens our environment, public health and our economy, damaging Hawaii's reputation as a world class destination with pristine waters.

As an amendment, we recommend that the denitrification follow the guidelines set by NSF 245, which requires that IWS do a minimum of 50% nitrogen reduction. This will be crucial in areas that are near the coast and where there is only porous volcanic rock and very little healthy soils. New research published last August in *Nature* shows that the wastewater nutrients from cesspools and septic systems near the coast are killing coral reefs. As I wrote in my article in [Hawaii Business Magazine](#), the decline of our coral reefs poses serious threats to Hawaii's near-shore ecosystem, the visitor industry, our economy and our natural protection against major storms and flooding events.

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. Our goal is to help find more innovative, affordable, and eco-friendly solutions to wastewater management and help homeowners with the conversion process. Better sanitation systems reduce sewage and nutrient pollution and make properties more valuable, while also protecting public health and valuable natural resources like groundwater, streams, coral reefs and coastal areas.

Hawaii is struggling with serious sewage pollution problems, and the state has a mandate to make sure all cesspools are converted in the next three decades. This bill will provide widely available technical solutions that will protect our coral reefs, our groundwater and our nearshore ecosystems. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue and support of this bill.

Aloha,
Stuart Coleman
Stuart H. Coleman, Executive Director



Restore the Commons

February 26, 2024

House Committee on Finance

HOUSE BILL 1892 and others – RELATING TO CESSPOOL CONVERSION, WASTE WATER, and ENVIRONMENT

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

HB1892 – RELATING TO CESSPOOL CONVERSION. This bill moves up the date of converting cesspools from 2050 to 2040, appropriates funds to develop a comprehensive public outreach strategy and to establish positions to implement the cesspool compliance pilot grant project established pursuant to Act 153 of SLH 2022.

HB2743 – RELATING TO WASTE WATER. Requires each county to develop and maintain a wastewater management plan; authorizes counties charge fees to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of cesspools, including the expansion of county sewer systems and the issuance of grants and low-interest loans to property owners.

HB2264 -- RELATING TO CESSPOOLS. Establishes a three-year new wastewater system demonstration and implementation pilot program at UH Sea Grant.

HB1691 -- RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT. Requires denitrification in newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline or likely to pollute groundwater.

Each of these bills contributes to resolving the perennial problem of polluting our nearshore waters, helping to restore traditional customary Hawaiian rights to practice stewardship of our fragile nearshore ecology and protect corals from extinction. As climate change threatens our ecological security, through warming seas, invasive species, and storm damage, it also threatens food security and infrastructure security. This is a very timely opportunity to build critical staff and programs to mitigate problems that are underway. While the costs exceed the general fund expenditure ceiling, the costs of **not** taking action now are far higher if our communities remain at the current level of risk. The situation is worsening, not improving.

Mahalo for providing the opportunity to address this matter,

/s/ Charley Ice

Planner, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (10 years) and Hydrologist, Commission on Water Resource Management (25 years), Retired;

Legislative Analyst, Office of Representative Mark Andrews (Kula), 1985 (pesticides)

Executive Secretary, Hawaii Office of Environmental Quality Control, 1984

Graduate intern at Department of Health Environmental Management, 1979;

Member, Statewide Wastewater Planning Advisory Committee under DoH, 1977-78;

Intern at Federal Water Pollution Control Administration, 1969

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 5:46:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 1691. Denitrification is the most important part of wastewater treatment with respect to protecting our coral reefs, upon which so much depends.

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 9:57:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and the members of the Finance Committee

I strongly support HB 1691 HD1, which requires newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems near the shoreline or likely to pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity.

Your decision today can help protect our fragile coral reefs.

I humbly ask that you support HB 1691.

Mahalo

Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy

Kalaoa Kona, Hawaii Island

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 2:51:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit written testimony in strong support of HB1691 to require individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. Numerous scientific studies illustrate the importance of local action when it comes to enhancing the resilience of coral reefs, with protection from land-based pollutants being crucial. By passing HB1691, the state has the power to make a positive local impact with reducing wastewater pollution, thus enabling current and future generations to benefit from the essential social, economic, and ecological services healthy coral reefs and coastal ecosystems provide.

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:52:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Urgently support HB1691_HD1!

Hawai'i County is where most porous lava rocks are found near the coastline. HB1691_HD1 focuses important efforts on the areas that are the most problematic for wastewater discharge into our reefs.

HB1691_HD1 focuses on much-needed new development to address our growing coastal pollution problems. This bill is not about cesspool conversion, which is covered in other bills and actions already underway.

We must move quickly to pass good initiatives to mitigate coral collapse. This impacts our oxygen sources with phytoplanktoms, fishing, and tourism.

Thank you,

Maki Morinoue
Holualoa, Hawai'i Island

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:35:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tlaloc tokuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i County is where most porous lava rocks are found near the coastline. HB1691_HD1 focuses important efforts on the areas that are the most problematic for wastewater discharge into our reefs.

HB1691_HD1 focuses on much-needed new development to address our growing coastal pollution problems. This bill is not about cesspool conversion, which is covered in other bills and actions already underway.

We must move quickly to pass good initiatives to mitigate coral collapse. This impacts our oxygen sources with phytoplanktoms, fishing, and tourism.

Thank you, tlaloc tokuda, Kailua Kona, HI 96740

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 3:40:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Jewell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB1691 HD1 this bill is critical to prevent further damage to our reefs as a result of new coastal development.

I ask that you pass this bill.

Jean Jewell

Holualoa 96725

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 4:44:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Stone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for receiving my testimony in strong support of HB1691. The health and future life of our reefs is so important.

with aloha,

Monica Stone, Kailua-Kona, 96740

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:23:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shenell Caldeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Urgently support HB1691_HD1!

Hawai‘i County is where most porous lava rocks are found near the coastline. HB1691_HD1 focuses important efforts on the areas that are the most problematic for wastewater discharge into our reefs.

HB1691_HD1 focuses on much-needed new development to address our growing coastal pollution problems. This bill is not about cesspool conversion, which is covered in other bills and actions already underway.

We must move quickly to pass good initiatives to mitigate coral collapse. This impacts our oxygen sources with phytoplanktoms, fishing, and tourism.

Thank you,

Jimi and Shenell Caldeira, Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 5:58:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary True	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I urgently support HB1691_HD1!

Hawai‘i County is where most porous lava rocks are found near the coastline. HB1691_HD1 focuses important efforts on the areas that are the most problematic for wastewater discharge into our reefs.

HB1691_HD1 focuses on much-needed new development to address our growing coastal pollution problems. This bill is not about cesspool conversion, which is covered in other bills and actions already underway.

We must move quickly to pass good initiatives to mitigate coral collapse. This impacts our oxygen sources with phytoplanktoms, fishing, and tourism.

Thanks for your attention, Mary True, Pepekeo, Hawaii Island

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:40:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Motter Anne Snell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Urgently support HB1691_HD1!

Hawai'i County is where most porous lava rocks are found near the coastline. HB1691_HD1 focuses important efforts on the areas that are the most problematic for wastewater discharge into our reefs.

HB1691_HD1 focuses on much-needed new development to address our growing coastal pollution problems. This bill is not about cesspool conversion, which is covered in other bills and actions already underway.

We must move quickly to pass good initiatives to mitigate coral collapse. This impacts our oxygen sources with phytoplanktoms, fishing, and tourism.

Thank you, Motter Anne Snell, Big Isalnd

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:45:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Douglas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Urgently support HB1691_HD1!

Hawai'i County is where most porous lava rocks are found near the coastline. HB1691_HD1 focuses important efforts on the areas that are the most problematic for wastewater discharge into our reefs.

HB1691_HD1 focuses on much-needed new development to address our growing coastal pollution problems. This bill is not about cesspool conversion, which is covered in other bills and actions already underway.

We must move quickly to pass good initiatives to mitigate coral collapse. This impacts our oxygen sources with phytoplanktoms, fishing, and tourism.

Thank you, Bob Douglas, Hilo

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:09:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Asner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strongly support HB1691_HD1. A 20 year interagency research study published in the international journal *Nature* in 2023 supports a critical need for legislation to require new development to utilize denitrification technology deemed vital to the reduction of pollutants to our nearshore water and coral reefs.

HB1691_HD1 ensures this for new development in rocky, porous ground near to shore, and it does so at no new cost to the State of Hawai‘i.

HB1691_HD1 is low-hanging fruit in the effort to curb pollution from new houses and other forms of development. The positive impacts of doing so outweigh the modest cost to developers and home builders.

Mahalo for your leadership,

Greg Asner

Resident of Miloli‘i, South Kona District, Hawai‘i Island

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Bill DeCosta
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Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 26, 2024

TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON
HB 1691, HD 1, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT
AND
HB 1759, HD 1, RELATING TO CESSPOOLS
AND
HB 2264, HD 1, RELATING TO CESSPOOLS
AND
HB 1892, HD 1, RELATING TO CESSPOOLS
House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 27, 2024
12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308
Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1691, HD 1, Relating to the Environment; HB 1759, HD 1, Relating to Cesspools; HB 2264, HD 1, Relating to Cesspools; and HB 1892, HD 1, Relating to Cesspools. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of HB 1691, HD 1; HB 1759, HD 1; HB 2264, HD 1; and HB 1892, HD 1, which would greatly affect the Kaua'i community.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1691, HD 1; HB 1759, HD 1; HB 2264, HD 1; and HB 1892, HD 1. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

ADDISON BULOSAN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:mn

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:23:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Hartmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am testifying to express my overwhelming support for HB1691_HD1.

Hawai‘i County is where the most porous lava rocks are found near the coastline. HB1691_HD1 focuses important efforts on the areas that are the most problematic for wastewater discharge into our reefs.

HB1691_HD1 also focuses on much-needed new development to address our growing coastal pollution problems. This bill is not about cesspool conversion, which is covered in other bills and actions already underway.

We must move quickly to pass good initiatives to mitigate coral collapse. This impacts our oxygen sources with phytoplanktoms, fishing, and tourism.

Mahalo nui,

Hannah Hartmann

Pāpa‘ikou, 96781

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:34:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I support HB1691_HD1! Hawai'i County is where most porous lava rocks are found near the coastline. HB1691_HD1 focuses important efforts on the areas that are the most problematic for wastewater discharge into our reefs.

HB1691_HD1 focuses on much-needed new development to address our growing coastal pollution problems. This bill is not about cesspool conversion, which is covered in other bills and actions already underway.

We must move quickly to pass good initiatives to mitigate coral collapse. This impacts our oxygen sources with phytoplanktoms, fishing, and tourism.

Mahalo,

Shannon M.

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:29:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Franny Kinslow Brewer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB1691_HD1. I live on the Big Island, where most porous lava rocks are found near the coastline. These area are most problematic for wastewater discharge into our reefs, whihc is a threat to our health and the survival of our marine species.

As I understand, this bill is not about cesspool conversion, which is covered in other bills and actions already underway. This bill focuses on future development - and as someone who lives in Puna and sees the impacts of the lack of forward planning a few decades down the line, I urge our legisalture not to make the smae mistakes that our planners here made in the 1950s and kick this issue down the road. Sensible decisions must be made now to facilitate a healthier future for our island.

Thank you for your consideration of thiis matter. Mahalo,

Franny Brewer, Puna HI

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:30:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kater	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to share that I absolutely support HB1691_HD1. As a long term West Hawai'i, Big Island resident, a mother, marine science educator, and waterwomen, I am writing to you to please ask you to vote in support of HB 1691_HD1.

Living here in West Hawai'i, I can attest that we hold some of the most biodiverse and healthy coral reefs in the state. We need the government to act now to do what we/they can to keep these reefs healthy and work to help the local communities to mitigate the current and future damage along our coastlines.

I would also like to add that being a Hawaii county resident this issue is very relevant to my livelihood and sense of place. The geographic structure and location of Hawai'i County applies to these two very important points regarding HB1691_HD1:

Hawai'i County is where most porous rock substrates are found near the coastline, so HB1691_HD1 focuses on the important effort on these specific areas known to be the most problematic for wastewater discharge into our coastlines and coral reefs.

HB1691_HD1 focuses on new development, which is essential for addressing our growing coastal pollution problems and growing populations. We have to start somewhere, we know better environmentally, so now we can do better, focusing on making sure new developments along the coastlines are structures in the best management practices possible for coral reefs.

What happens on the land happens to the sea as well! Support HB 1691_HD1.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Kater Hiney

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:06:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong support for this bill. Hawai'i County is where most porous rock substrates are found near the coastline, so HB1691_HD1 focuses important effort on these specific areas known to be the most problematic for wastewater discharge into our reefs.

HB1691_HD1 focuses on new development, which is essential for addressing our growing coastal pollution problems.

If we want to help safeguard coral reefs that protect Hawai'i's coastlines and coastal infrastructure, provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors, create habitat for important food fish and innumerable other benefits, waste water pollution must be addressed now.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Kathleen Clark

Holualoa, HI

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:22:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taha'a H. Kahele	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, members of the Finance Committee

My name is Taha 'a H. Kahele a resident of Miloli'i, Hi I write to you today to show in writing that I support HB1691. Here in Miloli'i we depend on the ocean and our reefs to help feed our families, for years our Kupuna have depended on the ocean and our reefs as a lifeline, our children swim in these waters not only is it important to keep the Aina clean but it is also our Kuleana to Malama the ocean by allowing this bill ton pass you contribute to this states history on preserving and caring for Hawai'i's natural environment but your contributing to preserving our Hawaiian peoples most valued and precious resources for the next generations to come.

For years our Kupuna had feared the days were the things that made Hawai'i to what it is and what it stands for would be lost. But now you have the choice to choose to care for Hawai'i or to abandon Hawai'i, not only will you abandon a group of islands, but you'll destroy is people its culture its environment and everything Hawai'i stands for. Think about your Integrity your decision is the key towards Hawai'i's better and brighter future.

The research shows that our reefs which we hold sacred are being poisoned by effluent. In Miloli'i the county has recently closed the parks bathroom which has been leaking effluent into nearby ponds many children have been sick from this I was part of MERC ASU water testing with Greg Asner and Robin Martin, and I can tell you that we need this bill, and we need it now.

If we want to keep our reefs clean and still be able to see them, we need to do something now before the situation it gets out of hand. So, I ask this committee with the upmost respect to consider this bill for approval to benefit all of Hawai'i and its people to preserve not it reef, waters, or environment but to preserve it as a way of life for it people. malama the ocean and the ocean will malama you.

Mahalo for your time and respect,

Sincerely,

Taha 'a H. Kahele

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 2:26:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasper	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in support of HB1691. Hawai'i County is underlain by the youngest and most permeable/porous bedrock in the state. The highly porous nature of the underlying bedrock results in untreated wastewater polluting our coastal waters.

HB1691 recognizes the underlying geology in Hawai'i County as well as recent studies linking wastewater effluent to higher rates of reef mortality along the western coast.

HB1691 focuses on regulating wastewater discharge in new development to limit coastal pollution. This is a great first step towards protecting and regenerating our coral reefs.

I support HB1691.

Jasper

HB-1691-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 3:47:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/27/2024 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kilihea Inaba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

This testimony is in support of HB1691.

I live Kaloko, Kona, on Hawai'i island. We have been facing an environmental crisis with the continual release of partially treated wastewater into a lavatube near the Kealakehe WWTP that is leaking almost 2 million gallons/ day into the ocean. It's absurd that this has not been fixed and that this is irreversibly affecting our marine life which also affects the health of our people here.

HB1691 will help to increase the processing of wastewater in new construction. What is happening with the release into the a tube that ends up in the ocean is illegal, but at the minimum this bill seeks to improve the quality of the processed wastewater.

Please understand how much this affects us all.

Mahalo,
Kilihea Inaba

Kaloko, Kona, Hawai'i