

SCR-130-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 6:18:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!



AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

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April 9 , 2024

TO: Chair Lowen & Members of the EEP Committee

RE: SCR 130 SD1 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO TAKE ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO REQUIRE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS TO TEST SEWAGE SLUDGE AND ANY OTHER RESIDUAL MATERIAL FOR THE PRESENCE OF PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

Support for hearing on April 11

Americans for Democratic Action is an organization founded in the 1940s by leading supporters of the New Deal and led by Patsy Mink in the 1970s. We are devoted to the promotion of progressive public policies.

We support this resolution as it would test sewage for PFAS chemicals.

Here is what the cautious EPA has on its website about PFAS:

- PFAS are widely used, long lasting chemicals, components of which break down very slowly over time.
- Because of their widespread use and their persistence in the environment, many PFAS are found in the blood of people and animals all over the world and are present at low levels in a variety of food products and in the environment.
- PFAS are found in water, air, fish, and soil at locations across the nation and the globe.
- Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment may be linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals.

While we really should be banning these chemicals, the first step is to do more testing to know more about what is out there. Therefore we support this resolution.

Thank you for your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

John Bickel
President



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

April 11, 2024

To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Hon. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Hon. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

Re: SCR 130 SD 1 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO TAKE ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO REQUIRE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS TO TEST SEWAGE SLUDGE AND ANY OTHER RESIDUAL MATERIAL FOR THE PRESENCE OF PERFLUOROALKYL AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES.

Hearing: Thursday, April 11, 2024, 9:00 a.m., Room 325 & videoconference

Position: Strong support

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee:

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.
4. REGULATORY COMPLIANCE. The federal government has taken significant action to prevent PFAS release and expand PFAS cleanup and remediation. Testing



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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 resolution. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important resolution.

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Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus

SCR-130-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 8:40:28 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.