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# 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 that are free of  
4 pollutants support 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 protected from land-based  
7 pollutants, especially from wastewater pollutants, are better  
8 able to recover from ocean-warming events.

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



"§342D- Individual wastewater systems; denitrification capacity. (a) Each individual wastewater system that is newly installed or modified shall have denitrification capacity if:

(1) The wastewater system is located two hundred feet or less from a shoreline; or

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

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

(B) The soil has low nutrient holding capacity, low shrink and swell characteristics, and very fast permeability, based on the Hawaii soil atlas.

(b) For the purposes of this section, "denitrification capacity" means being certified to meet the guidelines of the National Sanitation Foundation and American National Standards Institute standard 245 for on-site residential wastewater treatment."

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



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

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Nedhi K. Mahajan*

By Request

JAN 16 2025



# H.B. NO. 379

**Report Title:**

Hawaii State Association of Counties Package; Environment;  
Individual Wastewater Systems; Nearshore Waters; Denitrification  
Capacity

**Description:**

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

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

