

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

599

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 13 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 379  
H.D. 2

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.B.  
No. 379, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; one member of the Kaua'i County Council; two members of the Hawai'i County Council; Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science; Puako for Reefs; Kauhakō 'Ohana Association; Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition; Hawai'i Ocean Legislative Task Force; WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations; The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra; Water Quality Consulting, Inc.; Hawai'i State Association of Counties; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Health and Hawai'i Association of REALTORS.

Your Committee finds that clean nearshore waters are vital to public health and the health of nearshore reefs and associate fisheries. Your Committee further finds that when excess

2025-1747 HB379 HD2 HSCR HMSO



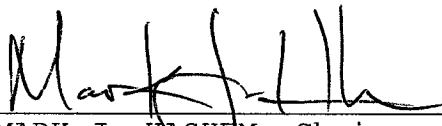
nutrients such as nitrogen enter nearshore waters from wastewater systems, they can stimulate the growth of algae, which can smother coral. Requiring newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems to include denitrification capacity, as proposed by this measure, will likely reduce the amount of pollutants entering Hawaii's nearshore waters, ensuring future generations can reap the benefits of healthy and resilient coral reef ecosystems.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Deleting the requirement that individual wastewater systems located at or below one thousand five hundred feet above sea level and subject to certain soil and substrate conditions have denitrification capacity; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 379, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 379, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Water & Land,

  
MARK J. HASHEM, Chair



HSC 599

Bill/Resolution No.: <b>HB 379 HDI</b>	Committee Referral: <b>EEP, WAL, CDC</b>	Date: <b>2-11-2025</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
WAL Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. HASHEM, Mark J. (C)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
2. LAMOSAO, Rachele F. (VC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
4. ICHIYAMA, Linda	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
5. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
6. MORIKAWA, Dee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
7. POEPOE, Mahina	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
8. WOODSON, Justin H.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
9. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
10. SOUZA, Kanani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
<b>TOTAL (10)</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee      Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office      Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				