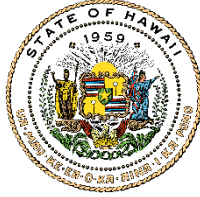


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | 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  
**WATER & LAND**

Tuesday, February 11, 2025  
10:00 AM

State Capitol, VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 411

In consideration of  
**HOUSE BILL 379, HOUSE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

House Bill 379, 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 study<sup>1</sup> 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.

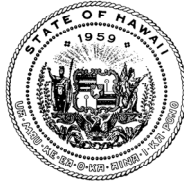
<sup>1</sup> Gove, J.M., Williams, G.J., Lecky, J. *et al.* Coral reefs benefit from reduced land–sea impacts under ocean warming. *Nature* **621**, 536–542 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06394-w>

**DAWN N.S. CHANG**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
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FIRST DEPUTY

**CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB0379 HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.**

REPRESENTATIVE MARK J. HASHEM, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 11, 2025; 10:00 am; Room Number: 411

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) acknowledges the intent of  
3 this measure and offers the following comments.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Management Division Wastewater Branch  
5 (EMD-WWB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

6 The Department concurs that decreasing or eliminating pollutants and protecting  
7 nearshore waters and the coral reef systems are very important. However, successful  
8 implementation of the measure may be subject to clarification of the following:

- 9 1. Which method should be used to determine whether the wastewater system is  
10 located 200 feet or less from a shoreline? The Department notes that:
- 11 • Shorelines are dynamic;
  - 12 • Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Chapter 11-62, Appendix D, Table II utilizes a  
13 “shoreline certification” to determine where the ocean starts;

- 1           • Shoreline certifications are typically obtained from the counties during the minor  
2           and major special management area (SMA) permit, minor shoreline structure  
3           permit, and shoreline setback variance processes;
- 4           • Department of Land and Natural Resources has Hawai'i Administrative Rules,  
5           Chapter 13-222, Shoreline Certifications; and
- 6           • The property owner may not be able to request a shoreline certification if the  
7           subject property is not adjacent to the shore.
- 8           2. What tools (e.g., geographic information system (GIS) layer) or professional services  
9           (e.g., licensed land surveyor) should be used to determine that the wastewater  
10          system is located at or below 1,500 feet above sea level?
- 11          3. What tools or professional services are available to determine that the substrate is  
12          less than 5,000 years old?
- 13          4. What tools should be used to determine that the soil has low nutrient holding  
14          capacity, low shrink and swell characteristics, and very fast water permeability? A  
15          search for the online Hawai'i soil atlas resulted in an unreachable site<sup>1</sup>.

16           The Department is researching other appropriate criteria to support this measure.

17   **Offered Amendments:** None.

18           Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://gis.ctahr.hawaii.edu/SoilAtlas>

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**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK**

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Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188  
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349  
Email: [cokcouncil@kauai.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@kauai.gov)

**Council Services Division**  
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209  
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 10, 2025

TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN  
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL  
ON  
HB 735, HD1, RELATING TO WASTEWATER  
AND  
HB 379, HD1, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT  
House Committee on Water & Land  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Tuesday, February 11, 2025  
10:00 a.m.  
Conference Room 411  
Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Hashem, Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 735, HD1, Relating to Wastewater and HB 379, HD1, Relating to the Environment. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of HB 735, HD1 and HB 379, HD1, which would greatly affect the Kaua'i community.

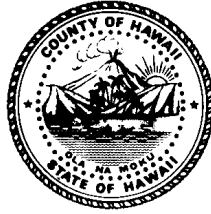
Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 735, HD1 and HB 379, HD1. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to [cokcouncil@kauai.gov](mailto:cokcouncil@kauai.gov).

Sincerely,

ADDISON BULOSAN  
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:ss

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



Phone: (808) 961-8828  
Fax: (808) 961-8912  
Email: [Heather.Kimball@hawaicounty.gov](mailto:Heather.Kimball@hawaicounty.gov)

## HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL

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

February 10, 2025

House Committee on Water and Land  
Honorable Representative Hashem, Chair

RE: **Support for HB 379**

Dear Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

As a member of the Hawai‘i County Council, I thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 379**, relating to individual wastewater systems and denitrification. This legislation would require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity.

In areas of the state with younger soils and near the shoreline, septic systems do not provide sufficient removal of nutrients to protect nearshore and groundwater resources (See 2023 Nature Article here: [Coral reefs benefit from reduced land–sea impacts under ocean warming | Nature](#)). Wastewater systems that include denitrification capacity can protect both the environment and human health.

There are two challenges with this proposal, how to easily identify the areas that denitrification should be required. This link: [https://health.hawaii.gov/wastewater/files/2015/09/OSDS\\_NI.pdf](https://health.hawaii.gov/wastewater/files/2015/09/OSDS_NI.pdf) provides the 2014 DOH report which identifies the high-risk areas for on-site wastewater disposal systems. Based on this report the following parameters are recommended as an **amendment** to this bill:

**1) Within 200 ft of shore**

**OR**

**2) In a watershed that contains volcanic substrate less than 10000 years old (according to USGS lava flow age map) AND Less than 1640ft (500m) in elevation AND Less than 5 miles from shore.**

The second issue is cost to the homeowner. Adding denitrification capacity will not cause a substantial increase in cost of building for homeowners, if DOH allows for a reduction in leach field size for systems with denitrification. There are now passive sewage disposal systems that

support denitrification for about the same cost as standard septic systems because they require a 40% smaller leach field.

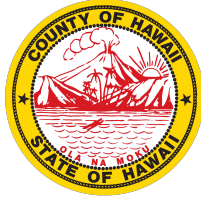
I urge that this committee support **HB379**. We are certain that continued collaboration and dialogue with the DOH will allow us to arrive at a program that will be successful in addressing this critical environmental and public health issue. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. If you would like to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Kimball".

HEATHER L. KIMBALL

**Michelle M. Galimba**  
Council District 6  
Portion N. S. Kona/Ka'ū /Volcano



Phone: (808) 323-4277

Cell: (808)430-4927

Fax: (808) 329-4786

Email: [Michelle.Galimba@hawaiicounty.gov](mailto:Michelle.Galimba@hawaiicounty.gov)

**HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL**

County of Hawai'i  
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A  
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

## **Strong Support for HB379 HD1 Relating to the Environment**

Aloha Committee Chairs Hashem and Lowen, and Committee Members:

As the Councilmember representing South Kona and especially the coastal waters near Miloli'i, I would like to express my strong support for requiring denitrification on all new construction in areas where the substrate does not adequately filter nitrogen and phosphorus before wastewater reaches the ocean. The coral reefs of the South Kona coast, as well as coastal waters and ecosystems around the state, are seeing rapid deterioration due to encroaching development and the unintended impact of inadequate filtration.

Our reefs are treasures and need to be protected.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Galimba".

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 11:08:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg Asner	Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science, Hilo	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As director and on behalf of the Hilo-based Center for Global Discovery and Conservation Science, we strongly support HB379 to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. We are part of the inter-agency team that published the major 2023 study clearly showing the negative impacts of untreated household and building sewage on coral reefs along the West Hawai'i island coastline. Our 2023 report was further based on the DOH-supported Whittier and El-Kadi (2014) report on sewage from individual and community disposal systems (not just cesspools, but also septic tanks with open leach fields). HB379 will greatly mitigate new (emphasis on "new") building impacts in critical coastal zone areas that will further harm coral reefs in the State of Hawai'i.

Critically, the proposed bill will not cause a substantial increase in cost of building for homeowners. There are now passive sewage disposal systems that support denitrification for about the same cost as standard septic systems. Examples include Eljen's GSF system and Infiltrator's Aerofin system. We do not represent either company.

Finally, working at the request of DOH via our government representatives, our technical team reconvened last week to calculate and present further guidance on the proposed law, thereby better defining where denitrification systems are most critically needed. The results are as follows for a recommended amendment to this bill:

1) Within 200 ft of shore

OR

2) In a watershed that contains volcanic substrate less than 10000 years old (according to USGS lava flow age map) AND Less than 1640ft (500m) in elevation AND Less than 5 miles from shore.

Greg Asner PhD

Director





**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 5:16:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
karen anderson	Puako for Reefs	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 requires newly installed or modified wastewater systems near shorelines or those that may pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity. Puako for Reefs is strongly in favor of this bill."

karen anderson, pfr board chair

# KAUHAKŌ 'OHANA ASSOCIATION

"Solutions *not* Complaints"

KOA

PO Box 38, Honaunau, HI. 96726

(808) 987-9149

[namamo@yahoo.com](mailto:namamo@yahoo.com)

Aloha no Kakou,

I am writing this testimony in support of HB 379 which requires newly built or modified waste water system include denitrification capacity.

Our families depend on the ocean for sustenance and the ability to pass on customary practices to our keiki. Our coral reefs and nearshore habitat provide the protein which we have harvested for generations. Lawai'a Pono is a Hawaiian value that ensures that there will be enough l'a, opihi, wana, ula, he'e to feed the next generation of 'ohana.

We do our share to malama our coral reefs, shoreline and nearshore habitat and ask that our government also kokua in protecting our natural resources for the people of Hawaii nei. Along with appropriate development, HB 379 is a good step in achieving our shared goals of ensuring that pollutants from wastewater treatment systems are minimized in its contamination of our coral reefs, shoreline, and nearshore habitats.

Please pass HB 379 for the benefit of all the people of Hawaii nei.

Mahalo,



Damien Kenison

Kauhakō 'Ohana Association

[ohana@kauhako.org](mailto:ohana@kauhako.org)



To: The Honorable Chairs Nicole Lowen and Mark Hashem, the Honorable Vice Chairs Amy Perruso and Rachele Lamosao, and Members of the Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Water and Land.

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

Re: **Hearing HB379 HD1 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Hearing: Tuesday February 11, 2025, 10:00 a.m., room 325

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Hashem, Vice Chairs Perruso and Rachele Lamosao, and Members of the Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Water and Land!

**The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB379 HD1!**

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. We **support protecting coral reefs and ocean water quality by requiring denitrification in areas where individual wastewater systems are like to pollute the reefs.**

In these times when corals are stressed by increasingly warmer and more acidic oceans, protecting the quality of the State's nearshore waters is important for ecosystem resilience and public health. **Clean nearshore waters that are free of pollutants, particularly nutrients, support coral reef systems that are critical to Hawaii's fisheries and protecting our shorelines.** A 2023 study published in the scientific journal Nature found that coral reefs protected from land-based pollutants, especially from wastewater pollutants, are better able to recover from ocean-warming events.

Because coral reefs are sensitive to pollution, upgrading wastewater systems to technologies that are reef safe is important. **Nutrient pollution discharged from wastewater systems acts as a fertilizer that stimulates algal blooms that can smother and kill coral reefs.** Wastewater

systems that are close to the shoreline or on lava flows have a disproportionate impact because there is less space for treatment than those farther from the coast.

**Our coral reefs would benefit if wastewater systems that are close to the coast or on lava flows have denitrification technology** (certified to meet the guidelines of the [National Sanitation Foundation](#) and [American National Standards Institute standard 245 for on-site residential wastewater treatment](#)) **to reduce nutrients that cause harmful algal blooms and limit coral larvae from settling and thriving.**

**This bill would require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near to the shoreline (within 200 feet), or likely to pollute groundwater, include denitrification capacity.**

**Please pass this bill to protect our coral reefs from wastewater nutrient pollution!**

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

February 11, 2025

**The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair**

House Committee on Water & Land  
State Capitol, Conference Room 411 & Videoconference

**RE: House Bill 379, HD1, Relating to the Environment**

**HEARING: Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawaii and its over 10,000 members. HAR provides **comments** on House Bill 379, HD1, which requires newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. Effective 7/1/3000.

HAR supports the goal of protecting our drinking water, streams, ground water, and ocean resources. However, for the average homeowner, determining whether they would need denitrification capacity when installing an individual wastewater system would be very challenging under this measure. A homeowner would need to determine if their property is situated within 200 feet of a shoreline. Or, determine if their property is at or below 1,500 feet above sea level; with substrate less than 5,000 years old; and soil exhibiting low nutrient retention, minimal shrinkage and swelling, and very fast permeability, as indicated by the Hawaii Soil Atlas.

Moreover, the cost to install denitrification capacity can be thousands of dollars which may be cost-prohibitive for homeowners. We have an existing mandate to convert 83,000 cesspools in the state to a DOH approved wastewater system by 2050 which is challenging for homeowners to meet due to high costs as well as other factors. The Cesspool Conversion Working Group conducted an affordability analysis<sup>1</sup> for homeowners. Based on the analysis, 97% of homeowners would be financially burdened by cesspool conversion costs. Equally concerning, even with a \$10,000 rebate 82% of homeowners would still be financially burdened. Costs will vary greatly depending on resources, labor, permitting delays, property terrain, and other variables. This measure will add further costs for homeowners who may need to convert to a DOH approved wastewater system that requires denitrification capacity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

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<sup>1</sup> Cesspool Conversion Working Group. (2022). *Final Report to the 2023 Regular Session Legislature*. State of Hawai'i Department of Health. <https://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/files/2022/12/Act-170-SLH-2019-Nov-2022.pdf>

# Hawai'i Ocean Legislative Task Force



February 11, 2025

Hawai'i State Legislature  
House Committee on Water and Land  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 379 HD1, Relating to the Environment

Aloha Chairs Hashem and Lowen, Vice Chairs Lamosao and Perusso, and Members of the Committees,

The Ocean Legislative Task Force, a coalition of over 100 individuals and organizations committed to protecting Hawai'i's marine ecosystems, supports HB 379 HD1, Relating to the Environment. This bill mandates that newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems located near the shoreline or those with the potential to pollute groundwater must incorporate denitrification capacity.

HB379 HD1 is essential for protecting Hawaii's nearshore waters and ensuring the long-term health of the state's marine ecosystem. Clean coastal waters are critical for preserving coral reefs and marine life, which are fundamental to the environment and local communities. By requiring denitrification capacity in newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems near the shoreline or in areas where pollution is likely, this bill helps prevent excess nitrogen from contaminating the water and harming marine ecosystems.

Proper wastewater management is necessary to prevent pollution from seeping into groundwater and reaching the ocean. Without denitrification measures, excess nitrogen can lead to water quality degradation, which negatively impacts marine habitats and aquatic species. HB379 HD1 establishes clear guidelines to ensure wastewater systems are designed to minimize environmental harm, helping to maintain the natural balance of Hawaii's coastal waters.

This legislation also promotes responsible development and sustainable land use. Hawaii's coastal communities rely on effective wastewater treatment to prevent pollution-related issues and maintain a healthy living environment. By implementing stricter requirements for wastewater systems in sensitive areas, this bill supports long-term environmental health while ensuring that individual wastewater systems do not contribute to preventable water pollution.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.

*The Ocean Legislative Task Force advocates for measures that promote funding for natural resource protection and restoration, ocean resources, coral reefs, subsistence fishing, and coastal resilience, and other priorities.*



Feb. 10, 2025

In Support of **HB379 Relating to the Environment**  
House Committees on Water & Land (WAL) and Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP)  
Hearing on Tue., Feb. 11, 2025, 9:00am, CR411

Aloha, Chairs Hashem & Lowen, Vice-Chairs Lamosao & Peruso and Committee Members:

On behalf of the non-profit WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations and our coalition of partners, I am writing in **support of HB379**. This bill would require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems (IWS) that are near the shoreline or likely to pollute groundwater near the coast need to include denitrification capacity. This bill is designed to reduce harm to threatened coral reefs and nearshore ecosystems that are already in decline..

Cesspool conversions can be costly, and we need to try to find ways to make upgrades more **affordable** while also making them **effective**. Traditional septic systems are much better than cesspools in treating harmful pathogens, but they don't treat nutrients like nitrogen as effectively as aerobic treatment units (ATU's) and other systems. Fortunately, there are new passive and nature-based individual wastewater systems that cost about the same as septic systems that reduce nitrogen and other nutrients and protect coral reefs and nearshore ecosystems.

Hawaii has more than 83,000 cesspools across the state, discharging 52 million gallons of raw sewage each day into Hawaii's waters. Along with threats to public health and drinking water resources, new research shows that polluted wastewater poses significant harm to coral reefs and the near-shore environment. The people of Hawaii need this law to make sure their wastewater systems aren't polluting the groundwater or nearby surface waters. Places like Puako in Hawaii County and Ma'alaea in Maui have lost most of their coral reefs. Degraded reefs are not only bad for the environment, but they are bad for tourism, the economy and the protection of the Islands from storms, floods, hurricanes and tsunamis.

WAI is an environmental non-profit dedicated to protecting our water resources by reducing sewage pollution from cesspools. We support more innovative, affordable, and eco-friendly solutions to wastewater management. Better sanitation systems protect public health and valuable natural resources like groundwater, streams, coral reefs and coastal areas.

Hawaii is struggling with serious sewage pollution, and the state has a mandate to make sure all cesspools are converted in the next two decades. This bill would require denitrification for newly installed systems near the coast and provide needed protections for our coral reefs when upgrading cesspools. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue and support of this bill.

Aloha,

*Stuart Coleman*

Stuart H. Coleman, Executive Director



**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
Supporting HB 379, HD1, Relating to the Environment.  
Committee on Water and Land  
February 11, 2025, 10:00 am**

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Hawai'i and Palmyra supports HB 379, HD1, which would require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity.

Science conducted by TNC and partners has shown that wastewater, particularly cesspools, are detrimental to the coral reefs which protect our coastlines and underpin our economy. Without clean coastal waters reef ecosystems are put at even greater risk in the face of growing global stressors including climate change.

Cesspools cause harm to water quality within adjacent groundwater, anchialine, coral reef systems and fisheries by introducing elevated amounts of organic nitrogen and phosphorus, pathogens, and other contaminants. Contaminants emitted from cesspools can harm aquatic ecosystems by encouraging excess algal and bacterial growth and can also pose a threat to human health. Our research in He'eia, Maunalua, Olowalu, Hana and South Kohala has shown direct evidence of cesspool contamination in streams and coastal waters using a variety of bioindicators and chemical signatures.

Our coral reefs are extremely sensitive to pollution. By upgrading cesspools to technologies that reduce overall non-point source pollution, we can reduce stress on our nearshore ecosystems. Importantly, wastewater systems that are close to the shoreline have a disproportionate impact on ecosystems because there is less space for treatment than those very far from the coast. These wastewater systems would benefit from having denitrification technology to reduce the flow of harmful nutrients to our coral reefs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 379, HD1.

---

*Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.*

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*Founders:* Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:38:43 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
robin knox	Water Quality Consulting, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Denitrification is the final step in removing nitrogen, a nutrient, from wastewater. The removal of nitrogen is essential to protecting coral reefs which need a low nutrient environment. Over enrichment of oceans waters and groundwater have resulted in massive invasive algae blooms, and shifts in water chemistry that degrade the coral skeletal structure. Even small wastewater treatment facilities near the ocean should be required to denitrify. All larger sewage treatment plants should be required to do as well without regard to location.

# Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC)

Counties of Kaua'i, Maui, Hawai'i, and City & County of Honolulu  
Website: [hawaiicounties.org](http://hawaiicounties.org) | Email: [hsac@hawaiicounties.org](mailto:hsac@hawaiicounties.org)



## Testimony of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties

### H.B. No. 379 HD1- Support

#### Relating to the Environment

House Committee on Water & Land

Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 10 a.m.

The Hawai'i State Association of Counties (HSAC) is a non-profit organization that represents the collective interests of Hawai'i's four counties: Kaua'i County, Maui County, County of Hawai'i, and the City and County of Honolulu. HSAC's membership includes the elected members of each county council, who work collaboratively to advocate for policies and programs that enhance the quality of life for our residents.

HSAC strongly supports HB379 HD1, which mandates that newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems near shorelines or in areas where they are likely to pollute groundwater include denitrification capacity.

Hawai'i's nearshore waters are vital to the health of our coral reef ecosystems, fisheries, and overall environmental resilience. A 2023 study published in *Nature* underscores the importance of reducing land-based pollutants—particularly wastewater contaminants—in protecting coral reefs and improving their ability to recover from ocean-warming events. By ensuring that wastewater systems in critical areas are equipped with denitrification capacity, this measure represents a proactive step toward reducing nitrogen pollution, safeguarding our marine environment, and protecting public health.

This bill takes a targeted and science-based approach by focusing on wastewater systems within 200 feet of shorelines and those located at lower elevations with highly permeable, young volcanic substrate. These areas are particularly susceptible to nitrogen leaching, which contributes to algal overgrowth and coral degradation. By aligning wastewater treatment standards with National Sanitation Foundation and American National Standards Institute guidelines, this legislation ensures that best practices are implemented to mitigate environmental harm.

HSAC recognizes the importance of collaboration between state and county governments in addressing wastewater pollution. This measure supports ongoing efforts to modernize wastewater infrastructure, reduce cesspool reliance, and promote sustainable development. We urge the committee's favorable consideration of this bill to help preserve Hawai'i's coastal resources for future generations.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:57:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hilary Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii resident who loves to snorkel, I strongly support requiring denitrification capacity in new and modified wastewater systems near shorelines because excess nitrogen from conventional systems is directly contributing to coral reef degradation and harmful algal blooms. This sensible requirement will help protect our marine ecosystems, coastal resources, and public health by reducing the amount of nitrogen pollution seeping into our groundwater and nearshore waters. The relatively modest additional cost of including denitrification technology during installation or modification is far outweighed by the environmental and economic benefits of preserving Hawaii's precious marine resources and water quality for future generations.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:55:22 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Heraldo Farrington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:24:40 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lena Wray	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. I strongly support this bill.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:51:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shalan Crysdale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:59:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The greatest danger to nearshore reefs is nitrogen compounds in human sewage that promote the growth of algae that overgrow the coral, killing it, and preventing settlement of new coral organisms. Simple septic systems do not remove these compounds, and are not an acceptable replacement for cesspools in critical neashore areas. Please pass HB379 to require denitrifying systems, but amend sec. 342D(1) to change the distance from the shoreline from 200 feet to at least 200 yards. Mahalo.



**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:16:02 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Davies	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I strongly support this bill. It is vital that we conserve our coral reefs!** House  
Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. This is so important.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:20:44 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Scott Crawford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Nutrients in Wastewater have a very negative impact to our reefs. As we convert cesspools to septic systems in nearshore locations, it is only a marginal improvement at great expense if denitrification capacity is also not included. It only makes sense to require denitrification.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:25:18 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gregory Keller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill. As a resident along the Kohala Coast, and an avid swimmer, paddle boarder, snorkeler and Scuba diver, I have watched our reef decline over the past 20 years. I support all steps to help this precious resource.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:36:47 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clive B Davies	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

*Barbara Bell*  
69-1536 Puako Beach Drive  
Kamuela, HI 96743  
[bbellster@gmail.com](mailto:bbellster@gmail.com)

Testimony on House Bill 379 HD1 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

TO: Water and Land Committee Chair, Mark Hashem  
Vice-Chair, Rachele Lamosao  
And all members of the committee

TO: Energy and Environmental Protection Committee Chair, Nicole  
Lowen  
Vice-Chair, Amy A. Perruso  
And all members of the committee

To all concerned:

I strongly support HB 379 HD 1 to add a requirement for denitrification capacity from all new and upgraded individual (onsite) wastewater systems. The systems that will be subject to this requirement are either near the shoreline or are near other bodies of water where groundwater can be polluted from wastewater.

There are so many issues in Hawaii regarding wastewater affecting our reefs, and near shore waters—this is a small BUT IMPORTANT step along the road. Please help our state to start moving in the right direction in regard to cleaner wastewater.

Mahalo nui loa for this chance to testify.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Bell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Bell

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:55:37 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Stahl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I work with NOAA, Milolii Makai Watch and Sea Shepperd, So having clean water for all out sea creatures is key, I strongly support Bill. aloha. Robert

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 12:20:04 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Castellano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill in order to protect our local reefs.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 12:49:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Uhley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of HB379 as it will help to reduce damage to the reefs by requiring denitrification systems for sewage disposal units of new construction in nearshore environments.



**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 12:53:50 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ericw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With regards to HB379 HD1 mandating denitrification processes added to new or being-improved, I am in support of this bill.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 12:56:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jerry Wroblewski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

JERRY WROBLEWSKI

68-1025 N KANIKU DR #205

Kamuela, Hi 96743

February 8, 2025

Testimony on House Bill 379 HD1 RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Hearing to be held February 11, 2025, 10 AM

Conference Room 411, State Capitol

TO: Water and Land Committee Chair, Mark Hashem

Vice-Chair, Rachele Lamosao

And all members of the committee

TO: Energy and Environmental Protection Committee Chair, Nicole Lowen

Vice-Chair, Amy A. Perruso

And all members of the committee

To all concerned:

I strongly support HB 379 HD 1 to add a requirement for denitrification capacity from all new and upgraded individual (onsite) wastewater systems. The systems that will be subject to this requirement are either near the shoreline or are near other bodies of water where groundwater can be polluted from wastewater.

There are so many issues in Hawai'i regarding wastewater affecting our reefs, and near shore waters—this is a small BUT IMPORTANT step along the road. Please help our state to start moving in the right direction in regard to cleaner wastewater.

Mahalo nui loa for this chance to testify.

Aloha,

Jerry Wroblewski

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 1:17:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 2:59:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Castellano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. As a homeowner on the shoreline and an avid ocean swimmer, **I strongly support this bill!**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:35:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicole Nores	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 4:32:48 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Gunshefski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a physician working in Kailua-Kona Hawaii\*, I strongly support HB379 , which mandates denitrification for wastewater systems in environmentally sensitive areas. Excess nitrogen from traditional wastewater systems seeps into our groundwater, contaminating drinking water and fueling harmful algal blooms that threaten marine ecosystems and public health. Elevated nitrate levels are linked to blue baby syndrome, thyroid disorders, and cancer risk. With rising sea levels and increasing coastal development, we must act now to safeguard water quality and protect our communities from preventable health hazards. HB379 is a critical investment in Hawaii’s environmental and public health for future generations.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 11:50:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dee Fulton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**



**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 5:23:43 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amy Stephens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. Our reef need protection from run off

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:30:52 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kelly sandulli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. I strongly support this bill.

Mahalo,

Kelly sandulli

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:49:08 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erin Kawakami	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill which makes it necessary for all new dwellings in an area that has potential to contaminate coastal environments to have a denitrification system in place.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:13:21 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. I strongly support this bill!

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:08:29 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Holman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:51:59 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Olson Karen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dave and Karen Olson strongly support this bill as important and way overdue. We appreciate your continued good work. Mahalo!!

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:39:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

**Regards,**

**Eric Edwards**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:59:56 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beth Goodwin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

Sincerely,

Beth



**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 2:00:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
JANIS L NORES	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

**Jan Nores**

**69-1921 Puako Beach Dr.**

**Kamuela, Hi 96743**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 5:54:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Vandamme	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please approve bill HB379 as it will greatly help to eliminate sewage from poisoning our ocean. With sewers not an option, unless communities install them themselves, our government needs to do everything within their power to help solve this huge problem. Every bit helps.

Mary Vandamme

Puako

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:11:01 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Selena Linde	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:16:22 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Fry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for **Hawaii House Bill HB379**, which requires newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

I urge you and your colleagues to **vote in favor of HB379** and advocate for its swift passage. This measure aligns with the values and needs of our state.

As a community member, I believe that HB379 is essential for protecting both our waters and our reefs. By enacting this bill, Hawaii can provide better support for residents and protect our environment.

Sincerely,

George Fry (808) 880 9211

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:45:37 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gary Borman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 requires newly installed or modified wastewater systems near shorelines or those that may pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity. I am strongly in favor of this bill.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:57:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sonja Rudie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 requires newly installed or modified wastewater systems near shorelines or those that may pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity. I am strongly in favor of this bill.

We must protect the Aina and our ocean! Puako and surrounding shorelines have suffered extreme pollution and are damaging for our health. When it rains, the water table becomes so high that sewage systems are leeching into the ocean. Bacteria found in the polluted water has contributed to multiple medical problems which put our children and families at risk.

Depression, grief, and anxiety over the loss of our ocean and its resources is on the rise. We must take swift action now! Please support the bill!

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:34:29 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mark Hashem, Vice Chair Rachele Lamosao, and members of the House Committee on Water and Land

I strongly support HB 379, which proposes requiring denitrification capacity in newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems near the shoreline or likely to pollute groundwater.

Please support this most important bill to help prevent further damage to our fragile reefs.

Mahalo

Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy

Kalaoa, North Kona, Hawaii Island

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:51:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jon House	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 requires newly installed or modified wastewater systems near shorelines or those that may pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity. I am strongly in favor of this bill.



**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:43:21 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Annie Mendoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to those of you who can make positive and smart things happen!

House Bill 379 requires newly installed or modified wastewater systems near shorelines or those that may pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity. The shoreline communities serve Hawaiian residents in many important ways. I am strongly in favor of this bill.

Mahalo! Annie Mendoza

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:55:14 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hunter Masaki	Mililani High School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Lowen, Chair

Representative Perruso, Vice Chair

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Thursday, Jan 30, 2025

9:00AM

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B No. 379

Aloha, Chair Chang and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Hunter Masaki and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of H.B No. 379**

Recent research of our offshore health reveals heavy damage to our coral reefs and the degradation of our marine ecosystems due to septic and cesspool pollution. Certain wastewater systems are risks to our groundwater and coastline shores by increasing levels of contaminants such as nitrogen and phosphorous. When these nutrients enter our water supplies, they can cause problems such as algal blooms, increased bacterial levels, etc. Increasing denitrification regulations for wastewater systems near the shoreline can prevent harmful minerals from contaminating our waters. Please consider requiring denitrification in order to preserve our marine ecosystems.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony in support of this bill.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:56:51 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Daniel Oka	Mililani High School	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Nicole Lowen, Chair

Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair

Monday, February 10, 2025 10:00AM, House conference room

Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.379

Aloha, Chair Lowen and Members of the House Committee,

My name is Daniel Oka and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.No. 379. the installment of wastewater systems residing by shorelines. Our coral reefs play a major role in Hawaii's health and protecting them is a very important matter. We can protect our waters by placing proper denitrification capacity which in turn will help reduce our pollution into waters and sustain our environment. Protecting our marine environments now is the first step in a successful future. If we don't implement solutions now then it'll only be stalling for time in the future. I anticipate the passing of H.B. No. 379 because it is required in order to build a more sustainable future. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Daniel Oka

Mililani High School

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:44:01 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mark Grassi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe strongly that the legislature consider and ultimately approve HB 379.

it is vital that we protect hawaiiis reefs

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:56:40 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tyler Wells	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. I strongly support this bill.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:15:22 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeff McConnel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support 379 HB

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:21:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jo Jennings	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"House Bill 379 requires newly installed or modified wastewater systems near shorelines or those that may pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity. I am strongly in favor of this bill."

Jo Jennings

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:30:55 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ebby Pinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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I strongly support this bill to protect our ocean and sea life.



**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:42:04 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julia Warner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 requires newly installed or modified waste water systems near shorlines or those that may pollute ground water to include denitrification capacities.

I am in favor of this bill.

Julia Warner

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:16:56 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Erickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 requires newly installed or modified wastewater systems near shorelines or those that may pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity. I am strongly in favor of this bill

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:40:04 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rich Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As I understand it, House Bill 379 requires newly installed or modified wastewater systems near shorelines or those that may pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity. This means this is a critically important bill that will help protect our threatened coral reef ecosystems. These systems provide food for families, protection from storms, and endless recreational opportunities. I therefore am strongly in favor of this bill. Thank you for considering this testimony. -Rich Wilson

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:17:48 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beth Thoma Robinson R(B) BIC	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TESTIMONY RE: House Bill 379, HD1 Relating to the Environment**

**HEARING: Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.**

Aloha Chairs Hashem and Lowen, Vice Chairs Lamasao and Perruso, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Beth Thoma Robinson R(B) - am a license real estate broker and Director of Conservation and Legacy Lands for Hawai'i Life.

**I am writing in SUPPORT of HB 379.**

Forty years ago I wrote my Ph.D. dissertation on an economic analysis of the costs and benefits of environmental protection. It is the responsibility of our elected representatives to care for the common good, even if the costs of doing so at times fall on a segment of individual citizens. I fully trust that measures can also be taken to support individual homeowners for whom this would be a hardship.

The costs of polluting our groundwater and nearshore waters are not only substantial, but potentially one of those tipping point issues for our island ecosystem. The State has already committed to remedy the problems created by the numbers of cesspools affecting our waters. Dentrification is a vital process to make sure the solution is a true solution.

Thank you for consideration of this testimony.

Beth Thoma Robinson

Hawi, Hawai'i

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:19:52 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jon Hall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 requires new or modified wastewater systems near shorelines or those that may pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity, which is critical to prevent further damage to our reefs. I am strongly in support of this bill because the reefs in our area, Paniau, Puako, are already showing damage, which will soon become irreversible. Please support!

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:23:26 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andy Sheinis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Legislature, I think this is pretty clear. We need to protect the environment, and we need to protect our oceans. If not for us for the Keiki. This bill requires new or modified wastewater systems that are near the shoreline to include denitrification. The land in the ocean are our most important resources, let's protect them Mahalo's.

Respectfully submitted  
Andrew Sheinis PhD

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:33:14 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alapaki Nahale-a	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. I support this bill.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:43:55 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Ostroski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I strongly support this bill!** I am a philanthropist and supporter of our ocean and coastline's health and the many organizations and leaders dedicated working to preserve, restore, and regenerate our marine habitat and biodiversity. HB379 is a critical step to the land mitigation necessary to save our coastlines and the many critical species of fish and coral, and perpetuate and sustain the benefits of a healthy and plentiful reef. The cultural, economic, human health, and environmental benefits are beyond measure.

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill!**

Mahalo nui loa,

Carrie Ostroski



**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:48:58 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
MARY MORRIS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"House Bill 379 requires newly installed or modified wastewater systems near shorelines or those that may pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity. I am strongly in favor of this bill."

On our island, the ocean and reef are being destroyed by cesspools and leaking septic tank systems. Puako reef is getting worse yearly.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:54:16 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Uhiwai Wall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 has the potential to reduce groundwater pollution from wastewater systems near the shoreline. I strongly support this bill.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:57:37 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes that all newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill** as it will prevent excessive loading of harmful nutrients in our groundwater and in our coral reefs.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:59:49 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

Thank you,

Cheryl Ka'uhane Lupenui

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:48:20 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Acree	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please please move this bill forward our reef (Puako) is all but dead and it is the responsibility of our powers that be to not let the near shore waters be polluted with human waste. Now is the time to act ( better late than never). Mahalo John Acree

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:49:42 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
M. Johannes Seidel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill that help to protect our reefs!

Representative Mark J. Hashmen, Chair  
Representative Rachele F. Lamosao, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

Tuesday, February 11th, 2025  
10:00AM, 411 via Videoconference  
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for HB379 HD1

Aloha Rep. Hashmen, Rep. Lamosao, and the Water and Land Committee,

My name is Sydney Iida, and I am a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in **support of HB379 HD1.**

I am testifying specifically for the denitrification part of this bill. Having clean shoreline water is not only important for aquatic life but also for public health. The release of nitrogen into surrounding shoreline waters may lead to eutrophication, causing significant ecological issues such as algae blooms- leading to oxygen depletion- threatening the health of shore fisheries and local reef ecosystems.

Additionally, wastewater systems without denitrification capacities risk contaminating groundwater sources and the release of harmful pathogens causing cholera, dysentery, and typhoid in humans. With our reefs already being in a critical state and in need of protection, having the denitrification process prevents further ecological damage.

A study at Puakō Island (August, 2020) found that sewage pollution is the largest factor to rapidly declining fish biomass, with sewage being suspected to cause coral bleaching, deterioration, disease, pharmaceuticals, and other harmful chemicals.

The short-term cost to install denitrifying systems are well worth it in order to prevent the long term damage caused from nitrification damaging shoreline ecosystems. I hope you will consider passing HB 379 because it is necessary for ensuring the health of our reef ecosystems, fisheries, and aina. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sydney Iida  
Mililani High School

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:52:55 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jamison Gove	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I strongly support House Bill 379** which proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity.



Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair  
Representative Rachele F. Lamosao, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Agriculture

Tuesday, February 11, 2025  
10:00AM, House conference room 411  
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.379

Aloha Chair Gates and Members of the House Committee, My name is Riley N. and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of HB379

I am taking my position in favor of HB379 because I, as a citizen of Hawaii, care about the environment and what measures there are to protect. By imposing denitrification, we can clean up our waters by releasing nitrogen into the atmosphere. However, this can only be possible by installing more or modifying wastewater systems to boost the process. Virginia Tech states that the denitrification process restores balance in the nitrogen cycle, meaning that these implementations would be beneficial to the environment.

Sincerely,  
Riley N.  
Mililani High School

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:57:00 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
E A Pinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. I strongly support this bill.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:04:52 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Theresa Fenton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"House Bill 379 requires newly installed or modified wastewater systems near shorelines or those that may pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity. I am strongly in favor of this bill."

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:09:50 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pat Allbee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. I strongly support this bill.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:09:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ariel Tells	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representative Hashem, Mark J.  
Representative Lamosa, rachele F.  
Water and Land Committee

Monday, February 10, 2025  
10:00 AM House Conference Room 411  
Hawaii State Capitol

Support of H.B. NO. 379- Denitrification Waterway Systems

Aloha, Representatives Mark Hasem and Rachele Lampas, including members of the Water and Land Committee,  
I am Ariel Tells, and I currently go to Mililani High School. I am here to represent the youth that live in Hawaii in support of the HB NO. 379 Denitrification Waterway System Bill.

This testimony is targeting directly for the part of the bill that mentions bettering ecosystem resilience. This part of the bill is important for the health of the coral reefs and the bio-life of the ocean. Contaminated groundwater can leak into the nearshore waters, disrupting the nitrogen and oxygen levels. The Hawaiian fisheries need the shorelines to be healthy so they can provide the islands with necessities and food. Representative Mark Hashem, with your goal to better the Hawaiian community for the keiki, this will be a good place to continue. The denitrification of the waterways will keep the Hawaiian fisheries going strong, which is an important factor to the keiki's health and spirit of community. Modifying the waterways is needed so these factors can be improved, directly bettering the Keiki's future in the long-term.

With this testimony, I hope you and the other members will consider the passing of bill H.B. NO. 379 since it will be a needed movement for the health of the near shore coral reefs and health of the Hawaiian community. Thank you for the time given to testify.

Sincerely,

Ariel Tells  
Mililani High School  
(808) 783-5421



**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:11:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Desmond Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Representative Mark Hashem, Chair**

**Representative Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair**

**House Committee on Water and Land**

**Monday, February 11, 2025**

**10:00 AM, House conference room 411**

**Hawaii State Capitol**

**Support for H.B. No.379**

**Aloha, Chair Hashem and Members of the House Committee on Water and Land,**

**My name is Desmond Ramos and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of H.B.379**

**I am testifying in support of this bill because I feel it is important for our agriculture and the overall health of the population to keep our water safe. My environmental science class has taught me that nitrogen from fertilizers and other sources of runoff that get into our oceans overstimulate algae and other bacterias in the water to multiply out of control. When they do multiply, they not only cover the surface of the water, but also take oxygen from other organisms that need it. With the surface level sunlight blocked, the temperature of the water starts to fluctuate and also keeps other plants from receiving the light that they**

**need to grow. This will likely result in more dying fish, and the worsening of touristy areas that are well known for clear waters.**

**When taking into account human health, excess amounts of chemicals in the water can impact chemical balance and cause problems that might be expensive or timely for an individual to treat.**

**I hope that you will consider further support for H.B. No. 379 because it is important to the health of not only human health, but also the health of the aquatic life that Hawaii is so well known for. Further destruction of lives, nature and our economy can help be avoided if better environmental regulations are considered. I thank you for the opportunity to provide my input and testify.**

**Sincerely,**

**Desmond Ramos**

**Mililani High School**



**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:14:02 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abigail Woodard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

Representative Nicole E. Lowen  
Representative Amy A. Perruso  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Representative Mark J. Hashem  
Representative Rachele F. Lamosao  
House Committee on Water & Land  
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi  
Representative Cory M. Chun  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Tuesday, February 11th, 2025  
10:00AM, House Conference Room 411  
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for HB379

Dear Lowen and Perruso of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Ashlyn Jackson and I am a junior currently attending Mililani High School. I am testifying **in support of HB379** to change or modify Hawaii's wastewater systems to have denitrification capacities.

Protecting Hawaii's shorelines and underground water by implementing preventative measures against accumulation of excess nitrogen will benefit the public and underwater ecosystems. Denitrification can help prevent harmful algal blooms which block out sunlight for underwater plants and deplete oxygen levels. This is especially worrying regarding coral reef systems, which are home to many diverse species and contribute annually to Hawaii's economy and tourism industry. According to a United States Geological Survey (Storlazzi et al., 2019), coral reefs provide \$836 million in prevented property and economic damages. Protecting coral reefs will also contribute to healthier and more resilient shorelines and habitats. Furthermore, public health will also be benefited as Hawaii heavily depends on its groundwater as a source of water for communities. Ensuring the access of clean and safe water is a responsibility of the government and should be a top priority.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you will take these thoughts into consideration when taking further steps. Any action taken to protect Hawaii's shorelines and groundwater sources will benefit both the people who live here and wild ecosystems for the present and the future.

Sincerely,

Ashlyn Jackson  
Mililani High School

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:20:20 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julia Grace Klinges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:20:22 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robin Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:23:33 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judy K Stevenson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 requires newly installed or modified wastewater systems near shorelines or those that may pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity. I am strongly in favor of this bill

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:30:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chadin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Tuesday, February 11, 2025**

**10:00 AM, House Conference Room 411**

**Video conference**

**Support for H.B. No. 379**

**Hello, Members of the Hawai'i State Association of Counties. My name is Chadin Kokubun, and I am a student of Mililani High school. I am testifying to support H.B. No. 379!**

**I am testifying to the point that nearshore waters must be protected. I am sure you are all aware that people love going to the beach to swim and just relax. It is a very big tourist attraction especially in Hawaii. Now if we were to protect the nearshore waters, it would be much safer to swim in, and not only that, but it would also be safer for the fishes and the marine life as well. If the nearshore waters were to be polluted, many individuals' health would decline, and if they were to go most days, say for surfing lessons, their health would decline at a rapid rate without them knowing. Also, we know that many fishes swim close to shore because fishers catch lots not far away from the shore, the fishes could contain contaminants from the polluted waters. Then once we catch them and eat them, we'd be eating the pollutants that the fish was carrying. If we want to keep our waters clean, as well as our food sources clean, we must protect nearshore waters from pollutants.**

**Overall, protecting our nearshore waters is completely important, mainly because our beaches are one of the most important aspects to Hawaii, and if we do not protect these**

**waters, our beaches will no longer be as clean or as safe as they once were. Thank you for this opportunity to share my opinion, and I do hope you consider passing H.B. No. 379!**

**Sincerely,**

**Chadin Kokubun**

**Mililani High School, Student**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:47:36 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Devan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**The Honourable Mark J. Hashem, Chair**

**The Honourable Rachele F. Lamosao, Vice Chair**

**Letter in Support of HB 379**

**Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and the House Committee on Water & Land,**

**Thank you for providing the opportunity to write testimony. This letter is in Support of HB 379. As a resident of Oahu and a beachgoer with family, this bill matters a considerable deal to me. When I go the beach with my 7 year old brother on the East Side, I often find myself wondering how polluted the water is, with beaches being in direct connection to outfall areas or sewage areas. This pollution causes high bacterial levels in the local area, putting tens of thousands of beachgoers and their families at risk of severe illness. With a denitrification system, algal blooms that suffocate our native marine wildlife could be reduced, and preserve our vulnerable ‘āina.**

**Sincerely,**

**Devan Gardner**



**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:48:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaitlyn Bitterman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Representative Mark Hashem, Chair**

**Representative Rachele Lamsao, Vice Chair**

**Water and Land Committee**

**Tuesday, February 11, 2025**

**10:00 AM, Conference Room 411**

**Hawaii State Capitol**

**Support for H.B. No.379**

**Aloha, Chair Hashem and Members of Water and Land Committee,**

**My name is Kaitlyn Bitterman and I am a student at Mililani High School, I am testifying in support of H.B.NO. 379.**

**I am testifying in support of HB379 - Denitrification and wastewater systems. I feel that it is vital to have denitrification treatment including individual wastewater systems to not only protect our shoreline, but human health, and the well being of the coral reefs in Hawaii. As technology advances, I believe it is only right that we use these advancements and our knowledge to add additional treatment options to waste water systems. If we act now we can prevent further pollution to our beautiful shorelines, because if we do not do something soon the beaches of Hawaii could be permanently damaged.**

**Thank you for your time, I hope you will consider passing H.B.NO. 379.**

**Respectfully,**

**Kaitlyn Bitterman**

**Mililani High School**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:56:46 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paisley Sagadraca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Representative Mark J. Hashem**

**Representative Rachele F. Lamosao**

**Tuesday, February 11th,**

**10:00AM, House Conference Room 411**

**Hawaii State Capitol**

**Support for HB379**

**Dear Representative Hashem and the the House Committee on Water & Land,**

**My name is Paisley Sagadraca and I am currently a junior at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of HB379. Thank you for pushing this bill. As a life-long resident of Hawaii, I find that protecting our island's shores and water is very important and that fighting against the buildup of nitrogen in our water systems is an important fight that we as residents need to participate in. Denitrification will greatly help fight against harmful algal blooms which can lead to the death of underwater plants by blocking sunlight and depleting oxygen levels. Algal blooms can be detrimental to many aquatic environments, especially coral reefs, which contain a lot of unique species. The effects can extend to Hawaii's human residents as well as we are heavily reliant on groundwater. I believe that the residents of Hawaii will greatly benefit from implementing denitrification capabilities in our wastewater systems. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope that my testimony will help in taking further steps to help our island and its inhabitants.**

**Sincerely,**

**Paisley Sagadraca**

Chairman Mark J. Hashem  
House of Water and Land

Tuesday, February 11, 2024  
10:00 am, House conference room 411  
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for H.B. No.379

Dear Chairman Mark J. Hashem of Water & Land,  
My name is Sophia Kusumoto and I am a Junior at Mililani High School. As a student in environmental science and a resident of O'ahu I am testifying for the **bill H.B. No.379**.

I am testifying for this bill as I believe it is very crucial to install new and improved individual water waste systems as water is something that is very special to our state. With water making up over 50% of our earth and with water completely surrounding our islands, the ability to focus on improving our water is something that should be prioritized. Water is something that runs from the tops of our mountains all the way down to our oceans (from the mauka to the kai). So with being able to prevent pollution near the shoreline and/or groundwater, it ensures safety towards not only humans, but also our marine life. With our island revolving around protecting our environment and ecosystems, being able to support this bill into action, allows that ability for safe and clean water to take place.

I hope you will consider this testimony to support the passing of H.B. No.379, as I believe that it is very important to prioritize our water. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sophia Kusumoto

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:17:53 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ute Bouchez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support House Bill 379 which proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity.

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:33:37 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtney Muraoka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Water and Land Committee

Representative Mark Hashem (Chair)

Representative Rachele Lamosao (Vice Chair)

Support for HB379

Aloha, Chair Hashem and members of the Water and Land Committee,

My name is Courtney Muraoka and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in **support of HB379.**

I fully support the purpose of adding these denitrification systems and the guidelines that will enforce them. I wholeheartedly believe that protection of our ocean and reef ecosystems are vital to the survival of several species. In addition, Hawaii is a place where several individuals go for fun, and maintaining their health, as well as animal health, is important to leave the island safe, yet enjoyable. It is important to protect the future generations and preserve the health of our ocean ecosystems, before the damage is irreversible. If something can be done now, it should be done. There are endless benefits with little damage to the people surrounding the area. Water quality will improve, meaning that several other species are able to thrive. In future cases too, if bodies of water ever go through severe warming events, these denitrification systems will better help species recover. Ultimately, the addition of these systems will be highly effective now and in the future, and will be important for protecting humans and the diverse amount of species that Hawai'i islands have to offer.

I am hopeful that you will consider passing **H.B. No. 379** because it is vital to protecting our oceans and keeping the islands healthy not just for our ancestors, but for future generations as well. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Courtney Muraoka

Mililani High School



**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:08:48 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sadie Yanagida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Chairperson Mark J. Hashem**

**House of Water and Land**

**Tuesday, February 11th, 2025**

**10:00 am, House Conference Room 411**

**Hawai'i State Capitol**

**In support of HB379**

**Greetings Chairperson Hashem and the House of Water and Land**

**My name is Sadie Yanagida and I am a high school junior at Mililani High School. This is a testimony in support of HB379.**

**I am testifying in support of the requirement to have individual wastewater systems installed near the radius of the shoreline to incorporate a denitrification capacity. A negative impact to our oceans from raised levels of nitrogen are algae blooms because of nutrient pollution. Not only do algae blooms have negative effects on the surrounding ecosystem, it has a negative impact on tourism and poses a health hazard for us. The action that this bill suggests is a crucial part of maintaining the healthy reef and marine ecosystems surrounding Hawai'i. The people of Hawai'i rely heavily on our beautiful ocean ecosystems for fishing, tourism, and activities . It is important for us to do our part and combat the current problem of runoff nitrogen going into our oceans.**

**I hope you take HB379 into consideration when considering the best choice of action into maintaining a healthy marine ecosystem. Thank you for the chance to testify for this bill.**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:25:57 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan Whitney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

Shoreline wastewater systems should have denitrification to remove nitrogen from the water and prevent it from entering the environment. Denitrification helps prevent groundwater pollution and damage to Hawaii's coral reefs. Too much nitrogen along reefs can cause algal blooms that are harmful to coral reef ecosystems. Requiring that new or modified wastewater systems near the shoreline meet the standard will help protect coral reefs from excessive nutrients.

Representative Hashem, Chair  
Representative Lamasao, Vice Chair  
Water and Land Committee

Tuesday, February 11th, 2025  
10:00AM, House Conference Room  
Hawaii State Capitol

Support for HB379

Hello, members of the Water and Land Committee

My name is Malia-Jae New and I am a student at Mililani High School. I am testifying in support of HB379.

HB379 requires, “newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity.” This change would attack the contributing health problems in swimmers and marine life. Wastewater gives disproportionate amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus into the water. Adding a denitrification capacity would limit microalgae growth that covers sunlight from reaching coral. A 2024 article made by the Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center details the effects that contaminated groundwater and infiltrated shorelines can have on the ecosystem. Effects such as contamination of drinking water sources by bacteria and viruses. Passing HB379 will allow for better public health of citizens and marine life.

I hope you will consider passing HB379 as the support would allow for better public health and protection of our shorelines. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Malia-Jae New  
Mililani High School

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:19:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonah Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chari Lowen and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for taking the time to take my piece into consideration.

I am addressing House bill 379. I completely support the intent and reason behind this act because it helps keep families like my friends who live by the beach safe. And when going to swim by their house I don't want to be swimming in nasty water that is polluted from other people's sewage. The whole persona of Hawai'i is our beautiful beaches so polluting that and killing off our coral reefs is like killing our identity and the crown jewel of our home. I hope that people read this and understand that I want to keep my home the way that it is.

Sincerely,

Jonah Mitchell

Feb 7, 2025

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:29:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donovan Collado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Feb 10, 2025

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the committees,

I write this letter **in support** of House Bill 379. I think that through the implementation of denitrification systems, we can preserve the cleanliness and liveliness of our waters. As you may know, nitrogen in the water is harmful to certain underwater organisms, many of which being the pride of Hawaiian tourism. These may be things like local fish, or coral. Not only this, but algal blooms can also be caused by the presence of nitrogen within sea water. If all of these die, tourists will be less inclined to come to see Hawai'i. Many businesses in Hawai'i depend on tourists for their main source of income. If we allow the tourism industry to fail due to something completely preventable, then it will be the shame of Hawai'i for as long as we record our actions. Thus, we must implement denitrification systems, no matter the cost.

Sincerely,

Donovan Collado

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:42:11 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rosemary Leen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 379 in order to prevent further reef damage by requiring denitrification systems for all sewage disposal units of new construction in nearshore environments. Excess nitrogen smothers reefs and other organisms living in reef habitats. Please help sustain Hawaii's beautiful reefs by supporting HB 379.

Mahalo Nui Loa

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:25:37 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Hopson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 379 proposes to require newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. **I strongly support this bill.**

**HB-379-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:54:55 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/11/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christian Enns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill