



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB0969
RELATING TO WASTE OR DISPOSAL FACILITIES.**

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

January 30, 2025, 9:00 AM, Conference Room 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (Department) offers the following comments.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Management Division (EMD) provides the
4 following testimony on behalf of the Department.

5 This measure proposes to prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of a
6 waste or disposal facility including a municipal solid waste or construction demolition waste
7 landfill unit or component from land that is above a significant aquifer.

8 All aquifers are significant to the environment. Aquifers provide source water for
9 domestic uses, agricultural irrigation, industrial uses, cultural practices, and also provide
10 environmental habitat through springs and wetlands. Our aquifers may also affect water quality
11 along the coastline.

12 If this measure passes, new landfills or landfill expansions will be prohibited in the state
13 as there is no practical land under which a significant aquifer lies. However, properly designed
14 landfills are still required as part of our overall waste management system to manage our waste
15 and protect public health. Landfills are necessary because they provide a designated, controlled

1 area for solid waste that cannot be recycled, helping to prevent environmental contamination
2 and protect public health.

3 **Offered Amendments:** None

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

SOLID WASTE DIVISION

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

TROY K. TANIGAWA, P.E., ACTING COUNTY ENGINEER

BOYD GAYAGAS, DEPUTY COUNTY ENGINEER



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
REIKO MATSUYAMA, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Testimony of Allison Fraley

Solid Waste Division Chief

County of Kaua'i
Department of Public Works

Before the
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, January 30, 2025
9:00 am
Via Conference Room 309 and Videoconference

In consideration of
House Bill 969
Relating to Waste or Disposal Facilities

Honorable Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

The County of Kaua'i Department of Public Works **opposes** House Bill 969, which prohibits the construction, modification, or expansion of any waste or disposal facility on land above a significant aquifer, as determined by the Department of Health.

We understand the importance of clean and safe drinking water for Hawai'i residents. We are not opposed to restricting the construction of waste disposal facilities that could impact the availability of clean drinking water for our residents. However, the bill's current language is unclear on what the definition of "significant aquifer" is and could be interpreted to prohibit any modifications or expansions of existing landfills in the state as all land in Hawai'i overlays an aquifer of some type. A blanket restriction on construction, modification, or expansion of existing and proposed landfills over an aquifer, significant or otherwise, would further limit the already heavily restricted options for siting a fully lined and regulated landfill required to manage municipal waste safely.

Despite Kaua'i County's extensive efforts to provide opportunities for recycling, reuse, and minimization of landfill waste, the generation of municipal solid waste is an unavoidable reality in our County as well as the State of Hawai'i. Safe disposal of this waste is necessary, and the current landfill capacity is significantly limited. Therefore, additional capacity will be needed, and this bill could limit any options for building this capacity. Please note that modern landfill design allows for the construction of landfill facilities with geological and hydrological factors in mind to be constructed and operated without detriment to the public.

The County of Kaua'i has spent decades seeking a new landfill site. Limited land availability and increased restrictions for landfill siting have made this work increasingly challenging. Waste disposal facilities are not optional, and facilities like landfills that can safely manage waste must be available to the public. We urge the committee to consider the impacts that the broad, ambiguous language in this bill would have on all existing landfills in the state and possible future landfill siting options.

We respectfully request that you defer House Bill 969.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
KA 'OIHANA WAI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER
MANAKIA A ME KAHU WILIKI

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January 30, 2025

The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Lowen and Members:

Subject: House Bill 969: Relating to Waste or Disposal Facilities

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports House Bill (HB) 969. This bill proposes to prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of any waste or disposal facility on land that is near or above a significant aquifer as determined by the Department of Health (DOH).

The BWS is opposed to any proposed waste or disposal facility to be placed over O'ahu's sole source aquifer, where the island's drinking water is not protected. Historically, the BWS had to treat the drinking water for pesticides and herbicides used in the pineapple plantations. Forty years later, the BWS is still treating for some of these contaminants.

In Article VII of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu ("City") 1973 (Revised 2017 Edition), as amended, Section 7-105(j)(2) states the BWS shall "prescribe and enforce rules and regulations having the force and effect of law to carry out the provisions of this article of the charter, including the prevention of waste and pollution of water." Thus, in 1982, the BWS Board adopted Resolution No. 502, amending its Rules and Regulations by defining and establishing a "No Pass Zone" and outlined an appeals procedure from decisions of the BWS Manager. The No Pass Zone was established to protect O'ahu's drinking water from underground sources of contamination and there is a compelling basis upon which to expect that a landfill

The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair
and Members
January 30, 2025
Page 2

situated over the aquifer may impact the quality and/or quantity of the water resources used or expected to be used as drinking water.

Safeguarding O'ahu's water supply from source of potential contamination is not a matter of discretion; it is constitutionally mandated. The Hawai'i Constitution guarantees that "[a]ll public natural resources are held in trust for the benefit of the people" and directs the State, and by extension the BWS, "to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawai'i's water resources for the benefit of its people." Haw. Const. art, XI, §§ 1, 7. As the largest municipal drinking water utility in Hawai'i, the BWS has a constitutional public trust responsibility to protect the water resources it manages and to preserve the rights of present and future generations of Hawai'i.

The No Pass Zone was derived from the review of geologic maps and borings that define the areas of thick caprock around O'ahu. The caprock serves as a barrier to prevent surface contamination from reaching the underlying geology. Since O'ahu's groundwater is hydrogeologically connected and groundwater is always moving, contamination in one part of the aquifer can spread to and impact other parts of the aquifer. The groundwater flow can be unpredictable and can move relatively quickly (greater than ten feet per day in some instances). Contamination from landfill leachate poses a considerable risk to both O'ahu's groundwater aquifer and drinking water resources. If such contamination were to occur, it could – as was the case for Red Hill – eventually cause the BWS to shut down its water supply wells in the vicinity of the source of contamination at the landfill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 969.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Y. W. Lau', is positioned above the printed name.

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA LAWELawe KAIĀPUNI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

1000 ULU'ŌHI'A STREET, SUITE 308 • KAPOLEI, HAWAII 96707
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



ROGER BABCOCK, JR., Ph.D., P.E.
DIRECTOR
PO'O

MICHAEL O'KEEFE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

IN REPLY REFER TO:
WAS 25-12

January 29, 2025

The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Lowen and Vice Chair Perruso:

SUBJECT: House Bill 969 - Relating to Waste or Disposal Facilities

The City and County of Honolulu's (City) Department of Environmental Services (ENV) submits the following comments on HB 969, Relating to Waste or Disposal Facilities.

In accordance with ENV's Special Use Permit for the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSL), which provides that the WGSL shall close no later than March 2, 2028, and shall not accept any form of waste after March 2, 2028, on December 10, 2024, ENV identified an area northwest of Wahiawa as the site of the City's next landfill. The identified site is above an aquifer. ENV named this site because, after extensive evaluation of all possible alternative sites, it was determined to be one of the only legally available and feasible options. The only legally available and feasible options are above aquifers. Mayor Blangiardi has also stated that the City's next landfill will not be on the Leeward Coast.

By way of background, in 2020, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed SB 2386 SD 2 HD 2, known as Act 73, which placed several restrictions on where a landfill could be located. Act 73 prohibits landfills from being located within one-half mile of residential, school or hospital property lines, or within a conservation district. In addition to Act 73, state law restricts landfills in tsunami evacuation zones and federal law prohibits landfills from being located within 10,000 feet of an airport. Combined, these restrictions drastically reduce the number of feasible sites for a landfill to a few small areas above Oahu's aquifers. Additionally, following extensive discussions between 2023 and 2024, the Navy informed the City it was unable to offer federal land for a City landfill, including land on the Waipi'o Peninsula that the City had previously identified as a viable landfill site.

The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair
The Honorable Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
January 29, 2025
Page 2

It is important to note that if HB 969 were to become law and locating a landfill above an aquifer were legally prohibited, given the restrictions imposed by Act 73, other state and federal laws, decisions and orders and permits, the City and ENV would be left with no legally permissible and feasible options to site a landfill on Oahu without further action to change existing legal limitations on siting an alternative landfill to WGS� outside the aquifer.

If HB 969 were to become law, the state could amend Act 73 to reduce or eliminate several of its restrictions in order to make potential landfill sites available. Alternatively, if HB 969 were to become law and Act 73 was not amended, the City would have no choice but to pursue a legally prohibited expansion at WGS�.

Should you have further questions, please contact me at (808) 768-3486.

Sincerely,

For Roger Babcock, Jr., Ph.D., P.E.
Director Designate



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

January 28, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB969: Relating to Waste or Disposal Facilities

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

We, Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick, are testifying on behalf of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii in strong support of HB969, which aims to prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of any waste or disposal facility on land that is near or above a significant aquifer as determined by the Department of Health.

Key Points of Support:

1. **Protecting Water Resources:** HB969 is crucial for safeguarding Hawaii's precious water resources. Significant aquifers are vital for providing clean drinking water to our communities. By prohibiting waste or disposal facilities near these aquifers, we can prevent contamination and ensure the long-term sustainability of our water supply.
2. **Environmental Protection:** The bill will help protect Hawaii's unique ecosystems and natural habitats from the harmful effects of waste disposal. Contaminants from waste facilities can leach into the soil and water, posing a threat to wildlife and plant species. HB969 will mitigate these risks and promote environmental conservation.
3. **Public Health:** Ensuring that waste or disposal facilities are not located near significant aquifers is essential for protecting public health. Contaminated water sources can lead to serious health issues, including waterborne diseases and long-term health problems. This bill will help prevent such risks and promote the well-being of Hawaii's residents.
4. **Sustainable Development:** HB969 aligns with Hawaii's commitment to sustainable development and responsible land use. By carefully regulating the location of waste facilities, we can balance the needs of development with the imperative to protect our natural resources and public health.
5. **Community Support:** The bill reflects the concerns and priorities of Hawaii's communities, who have consistently advocated for stronger protections for their water resources. Passing HB969 will demonstrate the legislature's commitment to listening to and addressing the needs of its constituents.

In conclusion, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports HB969 and urges the committee to pass this important legislation. By prohibiting waste or

disposal facilities near significant aquifers, we can ensure a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable future for Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this critical bill.

Sincerely,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii



Mike Biechler
Chair
North Shore Law Offices

Carol Philips
Vice-Chair
North Shore Surf Girls

Marcia Murphy
Treasurer
Pacific One Mortgage

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Recording Secretary
Corcoran Properties

Lamont Brown
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Maya's Tapas and Wine

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Director
Tita Ei Nei Productions

Dave Fuga
Director
KT Protection Systems

Erica Lehmkuhl
Director
Seaside Realty

Bill Martin
Director
Island X Hawai'i

Thomas Naylor
Director
Ke Nui Kitchen

Mary Wood
Director
Resident

Michael Sweetman
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66-434 Kamehameha Hwy
Haleiwa, HI 96712
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info@gonorthshore.org / www.gonorthshore.org

Testimony in Strong Support of HB969
Relating to the Protection of Hawai'i's Aquifers

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Hawai'i State Legislature - State Capitol
9:00 AM, Thursday January 30, 2025 RM 325,

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

My name is Carol Philips, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the **North Shore Chamber of Commerce** in strong support of **HB969**, which seeks to protect Hawai'i's aquifers for current and future generations.

1. Importance of Aquifers to the North Shore Economy and Community

Our local economy on the North Shore depends on a robust and reliable water supply. From small businesses and family-run farms to world-class visitor attractions, a stable source of clean freshwater underpins the livelihoods of our members. Aquifers supply the majority of our drinking water, support agriculture and ecotourism, and sustain cultural practices that shape the unique identity of our community.

2. Fulfilling Our Kuleana to Future Generations

At the North Shore Chamber of Commerce, we strive to promote responsible economic development that aligns with our shared values. Ensuring the long-term health of our aquifers reflects our *kuleana*—our responsibility—to protect the natural resources that future generations of residents and businesses will depend upon. By passing HB969, we can safeguard freshwater availability and preserve the authentic character of our region.

3. Critical Threats to Aquifer Sustainability

- **Over-Pumping and Saltwater Intrusion:** Excessive withdrawals risk contaminating our water supply with saltwater, impacting both residents and local industries that rely on fresh water.
- **Contamination:** Agricultural runoff, urban development, and industrial activities can introduce pollutants that degrade water quality and harm public health.
- **Climate Impacts:** Changing rainfall patterns, rising temperatures, and increasing drought conditions threaten the natural recharge process of our aquifers.

*The North Shore Chamber of Commerce is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization,
Federal Tax ID# 99-0265444*



Mike Biechler
Chair
North Shore Law Offices

Carol Philips
Vice-Chair
North Shore Surf Girls

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Resident

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4. Economic and Cultural Ramifications

Clean and abundant water is essential for tourism, agriculture, and the many small businesses that define the North Shore. Protecting our aquifers ensures that local farms can thrive, that visitor experiences remain memorable and authentic, and that the cultural and environmental treasures of our community remain intact. When our water sources suffer, so do the many families and entrepreneurs who depend on this resource for their livelihoods.

5. Why HB969 Matters

By strengthening safeguards around aquifer management, HB969 ensures that we balance economic growth with environmental stewardship. This measure proposes critical strategies—such as stricter monitoring, enhanced watershed management, and collaborative oversight—that will help protect our water resources, maintain our unique local character, and enable businesses to operate sustainably.

The North Shore Chamber of Commerce strongly urges the passage of **HB969** to protect Hawai'i's aquifers, preserve our community's well-being, and uphold our commitment to responsibly steward our natural resources. We appreciate your thoughtful consideration of this measure and your dedication to a prosperous and sustainable future for Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify, and we look forward to working with you to ensure the continued vitality of our state's most precious resource.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Philips
VP, North Shore Chamber of Commerce



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

January 30, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON HB 969
RELATING TO WASTE OR DISPOSAL FACILITIES

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 969, which prohibits the construction, modification, or expansion of any waste or disposal facility on land that is near or above a significant aquifer as determined by the Department of Health.

HFB recognizes the need for future landfill locations; however, we have serious concerns about future waste or disposal facilities being sited on lands that provide groundwater for agriculture, drinking water, irrigation, and domestic, commercial, and industrial needs.

While waste and disposal facilities are necessary, their location must be carefully considered to avoid unintended environmental and public health consequences. Waste sites near significant aquifers pose a serious risk of leachate infiltration, which could introduce harmful pollutants into our drinking water and agricultural irrigation systems. HB 969 ensures that critical water resources remain protected from these potential threats.

Water is the lifeblood of Hawai'i's agricultural industry and essential to the health and well-being of our communities. Our farmers and ranchers depend on clean and reliable water sources to sustain their operations and ensure food security for our state. Hawai'i's aquifers provide a primary source of drinking water and agricultural irrigation, making their protection a top priority. Once an aquifer is compromised, the damage is often irreversible, threatening not only agriculture but also public health, ecosystems, and Hawai'i's long-term sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and for your continued support of Hawai'i's agricultural community.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

January 30, 2025

9:00 AM

Conference Room 325

In **SUPPORT** of **HB969**: RELATING TO WASTE OR DISPOSAL FACILITIES

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** HB969, which will help to keep us from failing in our kuleana to safeguard our precious and limited drinking water aquifers from irreparable contamination.

Deciding where to place a landfill, particularly in an island setting such as ours, will always be a difficult choice. No matter what location is selected, a landfill will inevitably create a range of painful burdens based on the location selected. However, as this measure recognizes, siting a landfill over one of our precious and pure drinking water aquifers is by far the worst choice that can be made.

For example, the proposed new landfill for O'ahu will store extremely toxic ash containing heavy metals, cancer-causing PFAS "forever chemicals," and other compounds not easily broken down through incineration, such as PCBs, asbestos, and others. This ash, when combined with rainwater, will create millions of gallons of toxic "leachate" per year. While the City and County of Honolulu administration has assured the public that this leachate will be continually pumped out, transported, and treated at a wastewater facility, it is next to impossible to prevent leachate leakage; the EPA itself has concluded that all landfills inevitably leak.

Any released leachate from this proposed landfill, whether through chronic small leaks and/or sudden mass discharges due to fire, flooding, human error, deferred maintenance, or other causes, will slowly but surely percolate into the underlying groundwater table, eventually foreclosing another source of water that our children and grandchildren will need more than ever before.

Accordingly, by siting a landfill over one of O'ahu's remaining precious and pure drinking water aquifers, the City will accordingly all but guarantee another "Red Hill" situation if not for O'ahu residents today, then for our future generations. Clearly, this must not be allowed to happen.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club strongly supports this measure, as a means to ensure that landfills now and in the future are never to be placed in a location on any island that will threaten the water security of future generations.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

As a final note, with respect to the situation on O'ahu, the Sierra Club notes that there are other potential options, with and without legislative action, for a new landfill that would not burden West O'ahu with the intergenerational harms associated with Waimānalo Gulch and the PVT Integrated Solid Waste Management Facility. These options could include petitioning the Land Use Commission to redistrict potential sites, such as golf courses, rejected from consideration due to their location in the conservation district. Alternatively, prevailing upon the Navy to reconsider allowing the City to use its lands – especially after it has caused the current water crisis for O'ahu – could also provide another option. These and other potential remedies merit further exploration, given the potentially existential impacts that would arise from the City's currently proposed landfill site.

With the ongoing Red Hill water crisis still unfolding, we must remember the importance of protecting our remaining clean water sources throughout the islands, if we wish to do right by our children, grandchildren, and all future generations. As our climate continues to destabilize and water and other natural resources become ever more scarce, we have a heightened kuleana to safeguard what resources we still have, to provide our islands' future residents and communities with the best chance of a hopeful existence that we can give them. HB969 is one step to ensuring that we do not fail in this existential duty.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club urges Committee to **PASS** HB969. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



IATSE LOCAL 665

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Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i
Regular Session of 2025
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Testimony by IATSE 665
January 30th, 2025

HB969 - Relating to Waste or Disposal Facilities.

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, International Trustee and president of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **Local 665 strongly supports HB969.**

Local 665 supports prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urges more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate may significantly increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources.

We have already seen the irreparable damage that insufficient maintenance and the degradation of outdated material can cause to our aquifers as we experienced with the Red Hill fuel facility. On behalf of our members, and the communities in which they reside across the state, we implore you to do everything in your power to safeguard these vital and irreplaceable resources.

IATSE 665 strongly supports HB969. We hope your committee will do the same.
Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

Tuia'ana Scanlan
International Trustee
President, IATSE 665
(he/him/his)

January 29, 2025

To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Re: HB 969 to Prohibit Siting Landfills over Aquifer

Hearing: Thursday, January 30, 2025, 9:00 am, Conf Room 325 & video

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection. The Health Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports** HB 969, which would prohibit the construction or operation of a landfill facility over a significant aquifer.

This bill is absolutely essential for the protection of drinking water on O'ahu and, we expect, on other islands as well. We observed the recent testimony of the leadership of the City and County of Honolulu attempting to persuade the public that plastic liners would protect the aquifer from the proposed landfill in the Wahiawa area. Their testimony was completely unpersuasive.

The United States as a whole, including Hawai'i, is a waste-oriented society. We do far too little to control the massive amounts of waste that we generate. We have got to get it under control. Especially on our very small and precious islands. We must rethink what we are doing as a society, as a community.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

/s/ Alan B. Burdick, Chair

Burdick808@gmail.com 808-927-1500



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Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the House Energy & Environmental Protection Committee,

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB969.**

This bill directly addresses the urgent need to protect our invaluable water resources. For farmers who rely heavily on clean and uncontaminated water for crop irrigation, livestock sustenance, and overall farm health, preserving the purity of these aquifers is of paramount importance. Contamination risks from waste facilities can lead to detrimental impacts on soil quality and farming productivity, threatening both the economic viability of agricultural enterprises and the health of local ecosystems.

Moreover, ensuring that waste management does not compromise aquifers aligns with broader environmental stewardship and sustainability goals by preserving the delicate balance inherent in Hawaii's unique ecosystems. Placing restrictions on waste and disposal facility locations demonstrates a conscientious approach towards land-use planning, prioritizing long-term environmental resilience over short-term industrial gains. This legislative action can act as a model for proactive environmental governance, supporting both the agricultural community's need for reliable water sources and the broader population's desire to maintain natural resource integrity for future generations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin
Advocacy Director
Hawai'i Farmers Union

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:32:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| HCN Warrington | Kupuna for the Moopuna | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Kupuna for the Moopuna is in support of HB969 to safeguard our drinking water today and for generations to come. Mahalo.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:18:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Susan B Roberts Emery | Green Party of Hawai'i | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

Green Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB969** which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities on land above significant aquifers.

This bill is crucial for protecting our vital groundwater resources. Our aquifers are irreplaceable sources of freshwater that sustain our communities and 'āina. Once contaminated, these water sources can be permanently damaged, putting public health and our environment at risk.

Protecting our water is about protecting our health, our environment, and the future of everyone who calls Hawai'i home.

We urge you to **PASS HB969**.

Mahalo nui,

Green Party of Hawai'i

Susan RobertsEmery

Co chair GPH

Paauilo

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 12:41:54 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Melinda Healani Sonoda-Pale | Ka Lahui Hawai'i | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 969

Before the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

January 30, 2025

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

The people of Hawai'i have seen what happens when we fail to protect our water. **Red Hill is still poisoning families**, and now the City is proposing another **reckless** decision—putting a landfill **right above a drinking water aquifer in Wahiawā**.

This site goes **against expert recommendations**, ignores the **No-Pass Line** set by the Board of Water Supply, and threatens **prime agricultural land** that should be used to feed our communities. **Toxic leachate will leak—it's not a matter of if, but when**. With heavy rains in Wahiawā, this landfill could become another disaster waiting to happen.

We cannot keep making the same mistakes. **HB 969 is a necessary step to protect our water, food security, and future generations**. We need **real solutions** to our waste problem—recycling, composting, and reducing trash—not more landfills in places that put our communities at risk.

Pass HB 969 and put our people and 'āina first.

Mahalo.

Healani Sonoda-Pale

Ka Lāhui Hawai'i

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 8:43:03 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| John & Rita Shockley | Free Access Coalition | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports HB969. Any threat to the island's free access to our precious water source needs to be protected from contamination.



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS
LOCAL UNION 1260
EMPOWERING THE PACIFIC

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025, House Committee on Energy and Environment

HEARING DATE: Thursday, January 30, 2025

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Committee Room 325

RE: House Bill 969 Related to Waste or Disposal Facilities- IN SUPPORT

Aloha Honorable Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perusso, and Committee Members;

The International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1260 (IBEW 1260) would like to offer the following testimony in SUPPORT to House Bill 969.

IBEW 1260, is comprised of approximately 3,000 members throughout Hawaii and Guam and consists of a diverse and highly-skilled workforce that supports the electric utility infrastructure across our state as well as government service contracts and broadcasting. It's our duty to serve and to protect the well-being of our members, but beyond that, it is incumbent upon all of us to serve and protect the well-being of our island home.

HB969 prohibits the construction, modification, or expansion of any waste or disposal facility on land that is near or above a significant aquifer as determined by the Department of Health.

Water like energy, is a critical aspect of society that we must protect. Studies have indicated that despite advanced technology in landfill management, liners may over time become compromised and leak its harmful components into the ground upon which the landfill sits.¹ IBEW 1260 supported recently adopted Honolulu City Council Resolution 25-3, which reaffirmed Resolution 03-09, FD1, adopted on April 16, 2003, that Municipal Solid Waste landfills should not be located in proximity to the city's underground drinking water sources.²

Siting a landfill over a water source or aquifer is extremely irresponsible and the risk of impacting future generations access to this precious resource far outweighs any perceived benefit. We should take note and learn from recent above-ground water contamination events. The impact to underground water resources should a leachate leak event occur over an aquifer is virtually irreversible.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ The Norman Landfill Environmental Research Site: What Happens to the Waste in Landfills? By Scott C. Christenson and Isabelle M. Cozzarelli; U.S. Geological Survey; August 2003; <https://pubs.usgs.gov/fs/fs-040-03/pdf/fs-040-03.pdf>

² Honolulu City Council; Resolution 25-003, CD1; January 29, 2025; <https://hnlldoc.ehawaii.gov/hnlldoc/measure/3168>

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:45:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Banner Fanene | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha -

I support HB969. A'OLE LANDFILLS of any kind. We owe it to our Children to pass on to them clean safe drinking water.

For Our Keiki!

Mahalo

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:48:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Lynn Otaguro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers.

Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate may significantly increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources. In this way, the placement of the landwaste site will be forever and any damage to our critical water resource will be forever, too.

I ask that you protect our water and with that our communities and people. Please support this bill.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:48:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| carol lee kamekona | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in support of hb969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate may significantly increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources.

Water is our finite Natural resource. Contrary to what many say and/or believe, we do not have an endless supply. Therefore, we must protect all our water sources and establish and maintain ways to capture what little rainwater we can.

OLA I KA WAI!

carol lee kamekona

kahului, maui

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:53:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Nikos Leverenz | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members:

I strongly support this measure. The integrity of Oahu's 24 aquifers is of paramount concern to the life of this land and those who inhabit it.

That said, the Legislature should revisit prior restrictions placed into statute that would expand the options available to the City and County of Honolulu.

One also hopes that the U.S. military would reconsider its posture regarding land in central Oahu that may be fit for purpose under current laws and regulations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:17:13 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Joseph Francher | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate may significantly increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources. For the sake of our children and their children we cannot allow the loss of our limited freshwater systems.

Mahalo for supporting the health of our communities.

Joseph Francher

Wahiawa

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:19:46 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| cheryl burghardt | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate may significantly increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources.

Our islands are at a crucial turning point from so many factors. One of the biggest is our water. We are already close to the point of no return on the protection of our groundwater aquifers. It is important that we take serious action before it is too late. Everything we do now is one more positive step to protection. It's time we look at why we need more landfills, why there is so much waste and why there are not better solutions than impacting the only water sources we have. It will be too late at some point and those generations will wonder why we did not do more.

Mahalo for supporting the health of our communities.
Cheryl Burghardt, Kou, Oahu

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 5:02:58 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Kayla Marie | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this measure. The construction of a landfill near a water source poses a significant risk the health and safety of our communities.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 5:03:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Donna P. Van Osdol | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in support of HB969! I live in the Wahiawa area, and I think the decision to put our next landfill over an aquifer a nefarious action and utterly despicable. This bill will, hopefully, ensure that another area can be found.

Did we not learn anything from the fallout received because of the Red Hill fuel tankers?

Thank you for allowing me to testify in SUPPORT of this bill.

Donna Van Osdol

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. No preventative measure can guarantee no contamination, forever. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities are designed to create leachate from new. They degrade over time and landfill leachate continues to increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources for us and for future generations. On this island, we have a wealth of natural potable water. As responsible stewards of this great resource, we CANNOT risk its viability for future generations; and we shouldn't trade it for short term or near-sighted gains. There is NO substitute for pure water.

Mahalo for supporting the health of our people and communities.

Michelle, Mililani

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 5:25:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| JOANNA MOREHEAD | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in strong support of HB969, which seeks to prohibit the placement of waste or disposal facilities above or near critical freshwater sources. Our water, food supply, and communities must not be compromised for the sake of convenience or profit.

Hawai‘i’s freshwater aquifers are not just a natural resource—they are a lifeline. Contamination from landfill leachate, which contains toxic chemicals, heavy metals, and microplastics, poses an irreversible threat to drinking water, agriculture, and marine ecosystems. Once an aquifer is polluted, the damage can take decades or even centuries to undo, if recovery is possible at all.

We have already seen the devastating consequences of water contamination in Hawai‘i. The Red Hill fuel leak crisis demonstrated how even a single incident can put thousands of lives at risk, forcing families to rely on bottled water and displacing entire communities. We cannot afford to repeat past mistakes by allowing waste facilities near our most vital freshwater sources.

Moreover, placing waste sites near aquifers disproportionately impacts Native Hawaiian communities, rural residents, and small farmers who depend on clean water for their livelihoods. Environmental justice must be at the forefront of our decision-making, ensuring that vulnerable communities are not burdened with the long-term risks of toxic exposure.

I urge you to take decisive action to protect our water for future generations. The cost of inaction is simply too high.

Mahalo for prioritizing the health and well-being of our communities.

Joanna Morehead, Waialua, HI 96791

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:01:45 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Bill Quinlan | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

We must not allow above aquifers

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:58:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Kay Fukuda | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate may significantly increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:00:50 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Sherry Heiser | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I wish to support HB 969 to protect our precious aquifer.

Why It Matters:

- Our underground drinking water sources are vital to our community's health, environment, and local economy.
- Siting a landfill near these water resources threatens both current and future generations.
- By supporting HB969 I reinforce my commitment to sustainable solutions that protect our island home.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my input, Sherry Heiser

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:05:40 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Boyd Ready | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha, Lawmakers,

Yes, keep landfills away from any possible aquifer contamination. Increase and improve the incinerator's power production. Improve the existing landfill for longer life. Then continue with product life cycle changes to reduce waste, focusing on the largest volume of waste that can't be burned for power.

Mahalo,

Boyd Ready

Haleiwa

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:24:09 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Logan | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

- Our underground drinking water sources are vital to our community's health, environment, and local economy.
 - Siting a landfill near these water resources threatens both current and future generations.
 - I am supporting HB969 to reinforce my commitment to sustainable solutions that protect our island home.
- Mahalo,
- Barbara

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:33:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Keke Manera | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support HB969 and you should too! We already had a disaster/crisis with the Navy leaking jet fuel, AFFF & PFAS as well as PAH (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons carcinogens) into the aquifer here in Hawai'i. How incredibly incompetent the military can be! They claim they're here to protect us??? PFFFTT 🙄

WE DEFINITELY DON'T NEED ANYMORE WASTE, TOXINS and 'ŌPALA - including "facilities" near or above our aquifer!!!

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!!! 🛑🚫!!!!!!

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:35:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Deborah King | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Deborah and I am in strong support of HB969, Prohibits the construction, modification, or expansion of any waste or disposal facility on land near or above a significant aquifer, as determined by the Department of Health. Our aquifers are the literal lifelines of our islands, providing clean water for our families today and for future generations. With our sole source South O‘ahu aquifer already compromised by the Red Hill Facility’s decades’ worth of fuel spills, risking further contamination of yet another drinking water source is unthinkable. Whether it is jet fuel or landfill leachate, storing toxic chemicals above drinking water is a terrible idea. Protecting our water is about protecting our health, our environment, and the future of everyone who calls O‘ahu home.

I lived in Casal di Principe, Italy while stationed as a dependent with the United States Government. I lived in an area that tested for water contamination and I have lived many years with health problems due to ingesting and bathing in poisonous water. I want our Kupuna, our Keiki and our residents and visitors to enjoy clean water so I urge you to pass HB969 and ensure that our aquifer, our island, and our future generations are safeguarded from avoidable and irreversible harm.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo, Deborah W. King

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:44:33 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Michele Mitsumori | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate may significantly increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources.

I have lived in areas where the water is not potable, where I had to wash my hair with bottled water. Our water is a gift and the foundation of life, and we should do everything we can to preserve it, now and for future generations.

Mahalo for supporting the health of our communities,

Michele Mitsumori, Hilo

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:50:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Caitlin Kryss | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate may significantly increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources.

Mahalo for supporting the health of our communities.

Caitlin Kryss, Mountain View

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:18:32 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Laura E Morihara | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in agreement with HB 969. Our precious water resources must be protected for the health of our communities and local agriculture. I oppose a landfill in Wahiawa over the aquifer. thank you.

Laura Morihara

95 Nakeke Pl, Wahiawa, HI 96786

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:15:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Roselani Oga | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate may significantly increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources.

Water is life so why would we want to take any chances in contaminating our water supply? Once the water is contaminated it can't be undone. So PLEASE support HB969 and keep our water safe for all of us and for our future generations.

Mahalo.....Roselani Oga

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:20:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Linaray | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha to all who it may concern,

I am here to share my vote in support HB969. I support fighting against the placement & building of a waste or disposal facility above or near ANY freshwater sources our groundwater aquifers. Witnessing what happen with the redhill situation, the mistakes that are made smile be the greatest ravings that clean WATER sustains the land, the agriculture, our food, the ocean, and most of all, own health. There is no going back from a mistake of tainting our aquifer and this is why I'm against the building and placent of a waste or disposal facility being so close to water that we desperately need to protect for now & our future.

Mahalo,

LinaRay Ughoc (Whitmore Village, Wahiawa)

Chair Nicole Lowen
Vice Chair Amy Perruso

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Thursday, January 30, 2025
9:00 AM

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 969 RELATING
TO WASTE OR DISPOSAL FACILITIES**

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, Members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Jun Shin and I am testifying as an individual in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB969**, Relating to Waste or Disposal Facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. All landfills will leak sooner or later and if placed above the aquifer, we will risk compromising our water again.

We can avoid the mistakes that were made when they put fuel tanks above our aquifer. We can have a more democratic, community driven process that takes us forward. It is true that we need to figure out a better way of taking care of waste in an island society with finite resources, but Hawai'i's people can absolutely work together to do that while protecting and preserving our groundwater and natural resources for generations to come.

Please **PASS** House Bill 969 out of your committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Jun Shin,
State House District 23 | State Senate District 12
Cell: 808-255-6663
Email: junshinbusiness729@gmail.com

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:33:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Roanne Abe | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support protecting our aquifers. As we have learned through the Red Hill Fuel leakage, compromising a significant aquifer can have widespread effects on the island. Our underground drinking water sources are vital to our community's health, environment, and local economy. Operating a landfill near or on these water resources threatens our current and future water supply.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:45:40 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Gregory Misakian | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate may significantly increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources.

Gregory Misakian

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:52:17 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Dr. Betty Ickes | Individual | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

28 January 2025

Malo ni and Talofa Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

We are residents of Wahiawa. We've raised our children here, and now see our 10 grandchildren and great-grandchild thriving in the community we have called home for 60 years. Their continued health and well-being and that of their generations, are why **we write to testify in support of HB 969**, which will prohibit the placement of a waste disposal facility above or near Hawai'i's freshwater sources.

In the 1940s, the United States Navy's decision to build the fuel storage facility at Kapūkākī (Red Hill), above a freshwater source, was ill-defined, short-term, and unsustainable. The facility was built with 1940s with state-of-the art technology. Seventy-years on, in 2021, the people of Hawai'i suffered from the public health and environmental disaster caused by jet fuel that leaked from the Red Hill fuel tanks into the drinking water system of Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. Approximately 93,000 people were exposed to the jet-fuel contaminated water for over a week, many were hospitalized; 4,000 families were displaced from their homes for months because of the contaminated water system.

From the Red Hill crisis, we, as a people, state, and government are now well aware that it is self-assured hubris to think that today's state-of-the-art "landfill liner" technology will forever contain a landfill's toxic leachate. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate will significantly increase over the long term. Let us not ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources nor ignore what we learned from the horrors of the Red Hill crisis.

Therefore, we support prohibiting the placement of waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources. We further ask for more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Hawai'i's freshwater sources must be protected.

Mahalo for supporting the health of our communities.

Warren and Betty Ickes

884 Lemi Street / Wahiawa, HI 96786

ickes@hawaii.edu

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 6:28:16 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Lynn J Ishii | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support HB 969 for the future generations of Hawai'i. If you have learned anything from the Red Hill fuel tank spills, you know that protective linings are not permanent and there will be inevitable toxic leaks that will permeate into our precious fresh water aquifer. Please, think long-term. Think of how not passing HB 969 will affect the wellbeing your mo-opuna.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 6:37:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Robert Souza | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha all,

Ka Wai Ola: Water, the gift of life.

I am in support of this measure.

While engineering solutions can be created to mitigate hazards, they are not 100% foolproof.

Example: Some years back, during a heavy rain event, WGS� overtopped its collection system, causing runoff to enter the ocean near Ko Olina.

So yes, the liner system did not fail YET.

Creating a dual liner system is a great concept. How do plan on maintaining it? Essentially once the liner is breached, there is not a lot that can be done to mitigate liquid waste from migrating into the aquifer.

If the landfill gets flooded and its system is overwhelmed by water, whatever spills out will also pollute the nearby streams.

We need to do better for now and into the future.

Mahalo

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:40:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Doreen Akamine | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,
I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate may significantly increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources.

It seems logical that being on an island with very limited natural resources, that we would want to preserve whatever we can and assure its availability for the future.

Mahalo for supporting the health of our communities.

Doreen Akamine, Pearl City

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:23:06 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Nani Brown | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Nani Brown. I am a mother and Wahiawa resident that finds this bill critical to preserving our precious ag land and water resources.

Mahalo.

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Specifically, I am for protecting the two aquifers below the proposed Wahiawā landfill location. After the Red Hill ecological disaster, Oahu residents have lost the Aiea well. This closed well tested positive for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons as recently as August 2024. Allowing the placement of a landfill above our freshwater source puts our aquifers in jeopardy. It is a known fact liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities are susceptible to earthquakes, flooding and other natural disasters. Additionally the liner will degrade over time and landfill leachate may significantly increase over the long term. The Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility was built to the highest technological standards of the 1940's. It took almost 80 years for the containers to fail. Ignoring the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources would leave our keiki with a fallow wasteland unable to produce food and potentially two more irreparable aquifers. Banning landfills within the Board of Water Supply's no pass zone per the Department of Health's recommendations is a no brainer. Our water is held in a public trust and must be protected in perpetuity.

Mahalo for supporting the health and wholeness of our communities.

Charissa Gilmore Duff, Wahiawā

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:01:04 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| karolle t. bidgood | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I **strongly support** HB969 and encourage you to do so as well. We should all do whatever is possible to avoid situations like "Red Hill" that could affect our precious water supply.

Mahalo,

Karolle Bidgood

Kahaluu, HI

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:13:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Alana Borsa | Individual | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

My name is Alana Borsa,

I am testifying in support of HB696 relating to waste disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste disposal facility above or near any fresh water sources critical for drinking water or agricultural lands. I support protecting our groundwater aquifers. The proposed liners claimed to collect leachate are not adequate to mitigate any risk. We should not be willing to take any risks with our fresh drinking water or water for our agriculture.

Mahalo for protecting the health of our citizens and communities,

Alana Borsa

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:17:59 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Alesa 'Ainalani Kneubuhl | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Alesa 'Āinalani Kneubuhl,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste disposal facility above or near any fresh water sources critical for drinking water. I support protecting our groundwater aquifers. The proposed liners claimed to collect leachate are not adequate to mitigate any risk. We should not be willing to take any risks with our fresh drinking water.

Mahalo for supporting the health of our citizens and communities,

Alesa Ainalani Kneubuhl

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:22:50 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Danielle Lee | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Mahalo to the legislators fighting for our water and the health of future generations. Being a north shore resident and someone who enjoys the north shore's clean beaches, surfing, and swimming in the ocean, it would be devastating to have a landfill built near a vital water source.

I watched the EEP/AEN Joint Info Briefing on Tue Jan 7, 2025 on YouTube to understand more about why the currently proposed site is where it is. I appreciate the hard work the agencies tasked to propose the site did to find a solution within the current laws and rules. However, it is still unacceptable and I support this new bill HB969 to push to find another alternative site.

It worries me how the current site is also at a higher elevated part of the island, that experiences a lot more rain, and even with the extensive protective leachate barrier systems in place, there would be inevitable opportunities for harmful toxins, including forever chemicals like PFAS, to leak down to the ocean and the water aquifer and permanently damage our beautiful ocean and reefs.

We must respect the indigenous knowledge and concept of mauka to makai to ensure future generations to continue thriving. Mahalo and ALOHA.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:57:07 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Linda Lyerly | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support HB 969. We need this bill. Mahalo

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:03:20 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Helmut Kae | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste disposal facilities. Fresh water is a limited resource, especially for an Island community such as ours, and it should be protected at all levels to ensure that we always have access to it. Anything that can leach any type of contaminant into our water supply should not be placed anywhere near an aquifer, even if "adequate" control measures are implemented. The recent Red Hill issue is a clear example of what can happen, and losing any aquifers would be potentially devastating.

Mahalo for taking the time to read this testimony,

Helmut

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:03:56 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| SharLyn Foo | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha, I fully support this bill,

we cannot endanger anything for landfill

mahalo

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:36:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Bo Breda | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

My name is Bo Breda and I **strongly support HB969** which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities on land above significant aquifers.

This bill is crucial for protecting our vital groundwater resources. Our aquifers are irreplaceable sources of freshwater that sustain our communities and ‘āina. Once contaminated, these water sources can be permanently damaged, putting public health and our environment at risk.

Protecting our water is about protecting our health, our environment, and the future of everyone who calls Hawai‘i home.

I urge you to **PASS HB969**.

Sincerely,
Bo Breda

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:38:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Peter Wilson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

My name is Peter Wilson and I **strongly support HB969** which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities on land above significant aquifers.

This bill is crucial for protecting our vital groundwater resources. Our aquifers are irreplaceable sources of freshwater that sustain our communities and ‘āina. Once contaminated, these water sources can be permanently damaged, putting public health and our environment at risk.

Protecting our water is about protecting our health, our environment, and the future of everyone who calls Hawai‘i home.

I urge you to **PASS HB969**.

Sincerely,
Peter Wilson

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:44:29 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaleiheana-a-Pohaku Stormcrow | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

My name is Kaleiheana Stormcrow and I **strongly support HB969** which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities on land above significant aquifers.

This bill is crucial for protecting our vital groundwater resources. Our aquifers are irreplaceable sources of freshwater that sustain our communities and ‘āina. Once contaminated, these water sources can be permanently damaged, putting public health and our environment at risk.

Protecting our water is about protecting our health, our environment, and the future of everyone who calls Hawai‘i home.

I urge you to **PASS HB969**.

Sincerely,
Kaleiheana Stormcrow

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:47:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Protecting our water is about protecting our health, our environment, and the future of everyone who calls Hawaii home.

I urge you to **PASS HB969**.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:00:50 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Jacqueline S. Ambrose | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

YES to - Prohibits the construction, modification, or expansion of any waste or disposal facility on land that is near or above a significant aquifer as determined by the Department of Health

HB-969

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

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Patricia Blair | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:44:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Sharde Freitas | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

My name is Sharde Freitas and I **strongly support HB969** which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities on land above significant aquifers.

This bill is crucial for protecting our vital groundwater resources. Our aquifers are irreplaceable sources of freshwater that sustain our communities and ‘āina. Once contaminated, these water sources can be permanently damaged, putting public health and our environment at risk.

Protecting our water is about protecting our health, our environment, and the future of everyone who calls Hawai‘i home.

I urge you to **PASS HB969**.

Sincerely,
Sharde Freitas

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:02:41 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Eric Ching | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

My name is Eric Ching and I tentatively support HB969 which would prohibit the siting of waste and disposal facilities on land above our aquifer. My support is tentative because this bill does not go far enough. In addition to protecting our fresh water supply by preventing landfills from polluting our water supply, the bill should be amended to increase the size of the buffer zone around such facilities from 1/2 mile to a distance of one mile from schools, hospitals, residences, and conservation districts.

Protecting our fresh water supply, our homes, schools, hospitals, and natural environments is critical to the health and wellbeing of our communities now and in the future.

Please amend HB969 to increase the buffer zone to one mile around any landfill.

Mahalo,

Eric Ching

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:06:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Andrew Grandinetti | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

y name is Andrew Grandinetti, and am a retired UH Public Health faculty member. I **strongly support HB969** which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities on land above significant aquifers.

This bill is crucial for protecting our vital groundwater resources. The recent contamination of the Red Hill (Aliamanu) aquifer highlighted how our aquifers are irreplaceable sources of freshwater that sustain our communities and ‘āina. Once contaminated, these water sources can be permanently damaged, putting public health and our environment at risk.

Protecting our water is about protecting our health, our environment, and the future of everyone who calls Hawai‘i home.

I urge you to **PASS HB969**.

Sincerely,
Andrew Grandinetti, PhD

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:08:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Matthew Gurewitsch | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

My name is Matthew Gurewitsch, and I **strongly support HB969** which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities on land above significant aquifers.

Water is the the basis of all life on our planet. Protecting our drinking water isn't a luxury. It's indispensable.

HB969 is crucial for protecting our vital groundwater resources. Our aquifers are irreplaceable sources of freshwater that sustain our communities and ‘āina. Once contaminated, these water sources can be permanently damaged, putting public health and our environment at risk.

Protecting our water is about protecting our health, our environment, and the future of everyone who calls Hawai‘i home.

I urge you to **PASS HB969**.

Sincerely,
Matthew Gurewitsch

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:30:12 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Lei Fisher | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill as a parent, Native Hawaiian, and north shore resident. Please heed the mistakes of the Red Hill crisis and pass this bill to protect our precious & fragile water sources.

Mahalo nui loa.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 4:30:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Diane Ware | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

My name is Diane Ware and I **strongly support HB969** which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities on land above significant aquifers.

This bill is crucial for protecting our vital groundwater resources. Our aquifers are irreplaceable sources of freshwater that sustain our communities and ‘āina. Once contaminated, these water sources can be permanently damaged, putting public health and our environment at risk.

Protecting our water is about protecting our health, our environment, and the future of everyone who calls Hawai‘i home.

I urge you to **PASS HB969**.

Malama 'aina/wai,

Volcano HI 96785

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 4:41:17 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Kori Oros | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate may significantly increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natural resources.

I hope that we have learned from Red Hill.... City Engineers may be clever, but let's not chance em.

Mahalo for supporting the health of our communities,

Kori Oros - North Shore Resident

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:04:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Noel Shaw | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Protect our water for future generations!!! Ola I ka wai no landfill above our water shed!

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:35:25 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| ANDREW ISODA | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

My name is Andrew Isoda and I **strongly support HB969** which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities on land above significant aquifers.

This bill is crucial for protecting our vital groundwater resources. Our aquifers are irreplaceable sources of freshwater that sustain our communities and ‘āina. Once contaminated, these water sources can be permanently damaged, putting public health and our environment at risk.

Protecting our water is about protecting our health, our environment, and the future of everyone who calls Hawai‘i home.

I urge you to **PASS HB969**.

Sincerely,
Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 6:01:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Deborah Pence | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

pass hb 969.

sincerely , Deborah Pence

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 6:25:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Denise Boisvert | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To be blunt, it is hard to believe that this bill is even needed!!!

There is no logical reason why anyone would want a landfill over a major aquifer; let alone, think it would be safe over the future decades.

There have been too many very questionable (read: ridiculously idiotic) decisions made over the past dozens of decades here in Hawaii that have had devastating results to the environment and native species.

Let's not give future generations the opportunity to wonder, "What the heck were they thinking???"

Please pass this bill. Mahalo.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:00:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Kim Jorgensen | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please pass HB969.

Those saying that a landfill over an aquifer will always be safe are talking with their fingers crossed behind their backs.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:06:14 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Nanea Lo | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Hello Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

Aloha, my name is Nanea Lo, and I am writing in **strong support of HB969**, which seeks to prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities above aquifers that are essential to our islands' water security and future generations.

As a **Kanaka Maoli and a lineal descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom**, I recognize the deep kuleana we all share in protecting our wai, which is the foundation of life in our islands. Our aquifers are not just sources of water; they are sacred and irreplaceable resources that sustain our people, lands, and ecosystems. We must act now to ensure their protection for generations to come.

By preventing landfills—facilities that inevitably leak—from being sited over our most precious drinking water sources, HB969 ensures that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. Contaminated water threatens not only human health but also the ability of our communities to thrive and exist in harmony with our environment. Protecting our aquifers is a matter of justice, sustainability, and our collective responsibility.

I urge you to **PASS HB969** to uphold our responsibility as stewards of these islands and to ensure that our wai remains clean, abundant, and protected.

**Me ke aloha ‘āina,
Nanea Lo
Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826
Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Commission Member
Board Member, Hawai‘i Workers Center**

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:20:36 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Andrea Woods | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The Red Hill leak proved that what is thought to be safely designed can become faulty. We cannot risk our water source to potential degradation, especially since there are alternative options for siting the landfill.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:27:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Madison Owens | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Madison Owens and I strongly support HB969, which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities above aquifers that are critical to the water security of our islands' future generations.

We all share a collective responsibility to protect our islands' vital water resources. The incredibly pure aquifers our islands have been blessed with are irreplaceable, and absolutely critical to sustaining our communities and providing for all aspects of our lives. We must therefore do what we can to protect these aquifers, so that they can continue to support life in these islands, now and for the generations to come.

By preventing the siting of landfills - which will all inevitably leak - over our precious drinking water aquifers, this measure will help to prevent us from failing in our generational responsibility to safeguard our wai, and the very foundation of life in our islands.

I urge you to PASS HB969.

Ola i ka wai,

Madison Owens

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:42:35 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Patrice Choy | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in full suport of HB969. It is of utmost importance to protect out precious drinking water resources for generations to come. Mahalo/.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:59:24 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Ashley Albores | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Ashley,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste disposal facility above or near any fresh water sources critical for drinking water. I support protecting our groundwater aquifers. The proposed liners claimed to collect leachate are not adequate to mitigate any risk. We should not be willing to take any risks with our fresh drinking water.

Mahalo for supporting the health of our citizens and communities,

Ashley Albores

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:02:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Beppie Shapiro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Following on the heels of the Red Hill disaster, it's astonishing that this bill is necessary, but it obviously is.

Please pass it.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:35:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Ashley Nishihara | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Ashley Nishihara and I strongly support HB969, which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities above aquifers that are critical to the water security of our islands' future generations.

We all share a collective responsibility to protect our islands' vital water resources. The incredibly pure aquifers our islands have been blessed with are irreplaceable, and absolutely critical to sustaining our communities and providing for all aspects of our lives. We must therefore do what we can to protect these aquifers, so that they can continue to support life in these islands, now and for the generations to come.

By preventing the siting of landfills - which will all inevitably leak - over our precious drinking water aquifers, this measure will help to prevent us from failing in our generational responsibility to safeguard our wai, and the very foundation of life in our islands.

I urge you to PASS HB969.

Ola i ka wai,

Ashley Nishihara

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:59:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Katherine Fryer | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB969, which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities on land above significant aquifers.

This bill is crucial for protecting our vital groundwater resources. Our aquifers are irreplaceable sources of freshwater that can be permanently damaged by contaminants, putting public health and our environment at risk.

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Perusso and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mariko Quinn and I am testifying in strong support of HB 969, Relating to Waste or Disposal Facilities.

The Red Hill crisis forced us here in Hawai‘i to recognize the fragility of our water systems. We were forced to grapple with the realization that the impact of contamination of the aquifer, whether it be from PFA’s or jet fuel- could forever change the lives of the people of Hawai‘i for years to come. O‘ahu’s sole source aquifer supplies hundreds of thousands of people with clean drinking water, and is a critical source of life that continues to be under threat from the Red Hill facility. Further endangering our clean water would be incredibly ill advised and disregards the education, advocacy and struggle of people in Hawai‘i over the last several years.

While I understand that this is not remotely the same issue, and that we must select a location for a landfill, it is imperative that we avoid the mistakes- and learn the lessons- that Red Hill presented. At the time of Red Hill’s construction, there was no government oversight to the military’s decision to construct fuel tanks so close to our aquifer. Given the understanding of the precarious and dangerous situation that arose, there is a clear opportunity here to avoid the risk of making the same mistake. It is well understood that landfills often leak overtime, which is accelerated with rainwater contributing to the degradation of the liner. Landfills are a forever commitment, and the impacts from them only increase over time. Therefore, any type of risk that the landfill could leak into the aquifer is one that is far too big for Hawai‘i to take on.

Working proactively, as this bill seeks to do, to protect the aquifer from any potential contamination that may arise from a landfill is crucial to the health of our ‘āina and community. I urge you to pass HB 969 out of this committee.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Mariko Quinn

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:28:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Aiko Yamashiro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I unequivocally support this bill's intent to protect our fresh water and natural resources and to prioritize long-term needs over short-term problems. We need to take responsibility to care for what is most important for the health and well-being of our beloved island and future generations.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:31:44 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Hayley Suliven | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Hayley and I strongly support HB969, which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities above aquifers that are critical to the water security of our islands' future generations.

We all share a collective responsibility to protect our islands' vital water resources. The incredibly pure aquifers our islands have been blessed with are irreplaceable, and absolutely critical to sustaining our communities and providing for all aspects of our lives. We must therefore do what we can to protect these aquifers, so that they can continue to support life in these islands, now and for the generations to come.

By preventing the siting of landfills - which will all inevitably leak - over our precious drinking water aquifers, this measure will help to prevent us from failing in our generational responsibility to safeguard our wai, and the very foundation of life in our islands.

I urge you to PASS HB969.

Ola i ka wai,

Hayley Suliven

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:13:11 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Sarah Moore | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Sarah Moore and I strongly support HB969, which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities above aquifers that are critical to the water security of our islands' future generations.

We all share a collective responsibility to protect our islands' vital water resources. The incredibly pure aquifers our islands have been blessed with are irreplaceable, and absolutely critical to sustaining our communities and providing for all aspects of our lives. We must therefore do what we can to protect these aquifers, so that they can continue to support life in these islands, now and for the generations to come.

By preventing the siting of landfills - which will all inevitably leak - over our precious drinking water aquifers, this measure will help to prevent us from failing in our generational responsibility to safeguard our wai, and the very foundation of life in our islands.

*I urge you to **PASS HB969**.*

Ola i ka wai,

Sarah Christine Moore

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 1:40:49 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Lynda Nishihara | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Lynda Nishihara and I strongly support HB969, which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities above aquifers that are critical to the water security of our islands' future generations.

We all share a collective responsibility to protect our islands' vital water resources. The incredibly pure aquifers our islands have been blessed with are irreplaceable, and absolutely critical to sustaining our communities and providing for all aspects of our lives. We must therefore do what we can to protect these aquifers, so that they can continue to support life in these islands, now and for the generations to come.

By preventing the siting of landfills - which will all inevitably leak - over our precious drinking water aquifers, this measure will help to prevent us from failing in our generational responsibility to safeguard our wai, and the very foundation of life in our islands.

I urge you to PASS HB969.

Ola i ka wai,

Lynda Nishihara

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 4:15:50 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Lukika Schutte | Individual | Oppose | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in support of HB969 relating to waste or disposal facilities. I support prohibiting the placement of a waste or disposal facility above or near critical freshwater sources and urge more robust protection of our groundwater aquifers. Liner systems used for waste and disposal facilities will degrade over time and landfill leachate may signifify increase over the long term. We cannot ignore the potential impacts that leachate could have on our groundwater sources and natrual resources.

This is important, not only for this generation, but for the many, many, many generations to come.

Mahalo for supporting the health of our communities.

Lukika Schutte, Wahiawa, HI.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 7:11:25 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Nara Takakawa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Nara Takakawa, and I was shocked to hear in the news that the mayor chose a site for the new landfill above an aquifer. I am glad that legislators are taking action! Therefore, I strongly support HB969, which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities above aquifers that are critical to the water security of our islands' future generations.

We all share a collective responsibility to protect our islands' vital water resources. The incredibly pure aquifers our islands have been blessed with are irreplaceable, and absolutely critical to sustaining our communities and providing for all aspects of our lives. We must therefore do what we can to protect these aquifers, so that they can continue to support life in these islands, now and for the generations to come.

By preventing the siting of landfills - which will all inevitably leak - over our precious drinking water aquifers, this measure will help to prevent us from failing in our generational responsibility to safeguard our wai, and the very foundation of life in our islands.

I urge you to PASS HB969.

*Ola i ka wai,
Nara Takakawa*

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 7:48:19 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Gina Ciaccio | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Water is life, and we need to protect our precious aquifers. Learning about this bill from wise community members has opened my eyes to how detrimental the proposed landfill would be to our water source. We must safeguard our community and island, not just for ourselves but for generations to come. I love and need water. My neighbors love and need water. Your family loves and needs water.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 10:56:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| lois berger | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection.

My name is Lois Berger and I strongly support HB969, which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities above aquifers that are critical to the water security of our islands' future generations. There is only one sole aquifer for all of Oahu as designated by the EPA and it is very precious.

We all share a collective responsibility to protect our islands' vial water resources. The incredibly pure aquifers our islands have been blessed with are irreplaceable, and absolutely critical to sustaining our communities and providing for all aspects of our lives. We must therefore do what we can to protect this aquifer so they can continue to support life in these islands and our lifestyle now and for the generations to come.

By preventing the siting of landfills - which will all inevitably leak, despite the best intentions and promises - over our precious drinking water aquifer(s), this measure will help to prevent us from failing in our generational responsibility to safeguard our wai, and the foundation of life in our islands.

I urge you to **PASS HB969.**

Ola i ka wai

Protect Our Aquifer!

Lois Berger

Randy Iwase
95-711 Iewanuu Street
Mililani, Hawaii 96789
January 2025

Aloha, Member of the Hawai'i State House of Representatives:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of legislation which would prohibit locating waste disposal facilities for hazardous waste or solid waste (herein "landfills") near or above a significant aquifer or on Class A & B agricultural land.

I understand that the City is proposing to locate a major landfill on prime agriculture land north of Wahiawa. I further understand that the site selected is presently in active cultivation and is near or over a significant aquifer.

The Central Oahu/North Shore region is fully aware of the fragility of preserving and protecting our precious water resources and prime ag lands:

1. From a 2023 report prepared by the Department of Health (DOH) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) entitled "Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Monitoring Project in Hawaii Drinking Water" (DOH report):
 - a. In 1977, Del Monte pineapple reported a spill of approximately 495 gallons of ethylene dibromide (EDB). The area was about 50 feet away from Del Monte's domestic water well. The well site supplied more than 600 residents at the Kunia Camp.
 - b. On April 24, 1980, the well was retested and DOH ordered Del Monte to stop using the well as a source of potable water for Kunia Camp.
 - c. The Del Monte spill site became a Superfund Site.
2. In 1982, DOH withdrew pesticide-contaminated milk products from Oahu grocery shelves and school cafeterias because the milk supply had abnormal levels of heptachlor due to inadvertently including contaminated "green chop" in the green chop fed to cows.
3. In 1982, the pesticide DBCP was found in a Mililani well. DOH closed several wells.

I understand that the City has argued that the proposed landfill does not pose a threat to the water system because it will have landfill liners. The recent Red Hill crisis is a present-day, real-time example that there are no permanent fail-safe systems to prevent contamination of our aquifers and water systems from landfills sited near or above our precious aquifers.

Importantly, the DOH Report listed landfills as a potential sources of PFAS contamination.

With this history and background, the City chose as their landfill site, an area over a major aquifer and on prime ag land. In the words of the inimitable Charlie Brown, "GOOD GRIEF!"

Our State imposes on all of us a Constitutional, statutory, and moral obligation to protect and preserve our precious drinking water and our ever-dwindling prime ag land.

1. Among the mandates in Article XI, Section 1 of our State Constitution is to protect our land and water "in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State."
2. Article XI, Section 3 of our Constitution mandates that the State "conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency, and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands."

We fail to meet our responsibilities if we site a landfill on prime ag lands, especially taking an area that is being actively cultivated.

We fail to meet our responsibilities to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the people of our State if we site a landfill near or over a significant aquifer, jeopardizing the purity of the water we all need to drink to sustain life.

I beseech you to please pass all necessary measures to protect and preserve our aquifers and prime ag lands.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Iwase". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

RANDY IWASE

Former State Senator
Former City Councilmember

cc: Members of the Hawai'i State Senate
Members of the Hawai'i House of Representatives
Members of the Honolulu City Council

Aloha Chair Lowen and Committee members,

I support HB 969 RELATING TO WASTE OR DISPOSAL FACILITIES.

I support this bill because we need to keep our water supply safe and maintain a high level of standards in providing clean water to the people of Hawai'i. A polluted aquifer can lead to significant health risks caused by contaminants in the water such as biological contaminants (e.g., manure and septic systems), and industrial pollutants (e.g., pesticides, petroleum products, and industrial solvents), which can threaten our water supply and its quality.

Currently, we are faced with an aquifer (Red Hill) that has been contaminated and caused many to become gravely ill. We can't sacrifice our health and safety just to find a spot to dump trash. With the advancement in technology, Hawai'i should be able to tap into resources and current technologies such as artificial intelligence and robotics, biodegradable and compostable materials and energy recovery methods that offer new ways to manage waste more effectively and efficiently without sacrificing the environment and people's health.

Thank you,

Teri K. Savaiinaea

District 45, Wai'anae resident

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 3:09:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Hideki Kimukai | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

My name is Hideki Kimukai and I strongly support HB969, which would prohibit the construction, modification, or expansion of waste and disposal facilities above aquifers that are critical to the water security of our islands' future generations.

We all share a collective responsibility to protect our islands' vital water resources. The incredibly pure aquifers our islands have been blessed with are irreplaceable, and absolutely critical to sustaining our communities and providing for all aspects of our lives. We must therefore do what we can to protect these aquifers, so that they can continue to support life in these islands, now and for the generations to come.

By preventing the siting of landfills - which will all inevitably leak - over our precious drinking water aquifers, this measure will help to prevent us from failing in our generational responsibility to safeguard our wai, and the very foundation of life in our islands.

*I urge you to **PASS HB969.***

Ola I ka Wai

Hideki Kimukai

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 3:50:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| kalena Charlene Holani | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Im in 100% support of this bill. Water is life. Fresh water is non negotiable and this bill helps assure our only sources are safer.

HB-969

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 5:27:39 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Michael Koster | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My family **strongly supports HB969** because we prefer to drink water that is not contaminated or poisoned. This bill would prohibit waste and disposal facilities on land above significant aquifers - a common sense measure to protect our critical aquifers from permanent damage.