



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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Testimony COMMENTING on SB1154
RELATING TO HEALTH
SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing Date: 1/31/2025, Time: 1:50 PM and Room Number: 224

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.
- 2 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments on this measure.
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The SLD Division provides the following testimony on behalf of the
- 4 Department.
- 5 The bill proposes establishment and operation of a laboratory by JABSOM capable of testing for
- 6 diseases (1) (A), which “shall receive and analyze samples submitted by any person...” However,
- 7 laboratory testing of human samples for the purpose of diagnosing diseases is already
- 8 performed by the State Laboratories Division (DLD). The range of diseases testing evolves over
- 9 time and uses carefully standardized and regulate methods. SLD testing is part of a healthcare
- 10 system which includes the participation of a licensed healthcare provider to establish potential
- 11 diagnoses based on clinical symptoms and history, as well as results of physical examination. A
- 12 similar situation exists with regard to environmental toxins in samples of air, water, soil, or
- 13 other samples:
 - 14 • The Department of Health State Laboratories Division tests environmental and food
 - 15 samples for toxins in collaboration with environmental programs and using standardized
 - 16 methods approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). SLD tests for
 - 17 pesticides, heavy metals, fecal contaminants, indicators of food spoilage, and other
 - 18 toxins (soon to include PFAS “forever chemicals”).

- 1 • If any person can submit samples that they reasonably believe contain environmental
2 toxins, the range of testing would be very broad, requiring a very large range of
3 instruments, protocols, trained staff, and validated accurate methods. Currently
4 available testing by SLD is in support of environmental programs which evaluate risks
5 and request and support a defined range of testing for the most prevalent and
6 dangerous toxic substances. This bill mandates an unlimited range of testing which
7 would likely be impossible to establish and maintain.
- 8 • The bill calls for testing of samples which any person believes “contains environmental
9 toxins in violation of applicable law”. The EPA and State regulations have established
10 standards for acceptable levels of specific known and hazardous toxins in food and
11 water. Where standards exist, testing is already available at SLD for the more prevalent
12 and hazardous toxins.

13

14 **Offered Amendments:** None

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



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
S.B. NO. 1154, RELATING TO HEALTH.

BEFORE THE:
SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

DATE: Friday, January 31, 2025 **TIME:** 1:50 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Candace J. Park, Deputy Attorney General

Chairs Kim and Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to require the University of Hawai'i to construct, establish, and operate a disease and environmental toxins testing laboratory to test samples submitted by the public for diseases; water, air, and soil quality; and other high complexity testing. The bill authorizes the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds for this purpose.

Article X, section 6, of the Hawai'i Constitution gives the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i "exclusive jurisdiction over the internal structure, management, and operation of the university." Section 6 further provides: "This section shall not limit the power of the legislature to enact laws of statewide concern. The legislature shall have the exclusive jurisdiction to identify laws of statewide concern." If the Committee decides to pass this bill, we recommend an amendment that adds a statement identifying this bill as a law of statewide concern.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education and
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Friday, January 31, 2025 at 1:50 p.m.

By

T. Samuel Shomaker, Dean
John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1154 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 1154 which requires the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to construct, establish and operate a disease and environmental toxins testing laboratory to test samples submitted by the public for diseases; water, air and soil quality; and complex testing.

JABSOM appreciates the intent of SB 1154 and understands the urgency of having the ability to test samples of environmental toxins locally rather than sending samples to the Continental United States. However, JABSOM is not suited for constructing, establishing and operating a toxins testing laboratory. The principal components of JABSOM's mission are to educate current and future healthcare professionals and leaders, deliver high-quality healthcare, and conduct research and translate discoveries into practice. The type of work envisioned in this bill may be better performed by the Department of Health which has in place an existing State Laboratories Division.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



HUI O HO'OHONUA

Community 501(c)3 Operating in `Ewa, O`ahu

HOH808.org

EXECUTIVE OFFICE DOCUMENT

Date: January 29, 2025

COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SUBJ: Senate Bill 1154. RELATING TO HEALTH.

Requires the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine to construct, establish, and operate a disease and environmental toxins testing laboratory to test samples submitted by the public for diseases; water, air, and soil quality; and complex testing. Requires a report to the Legislature. Authorizes the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds. Appropriates funds.

DATE: Friday, January 31, 2025

TIME: 1:50 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 224

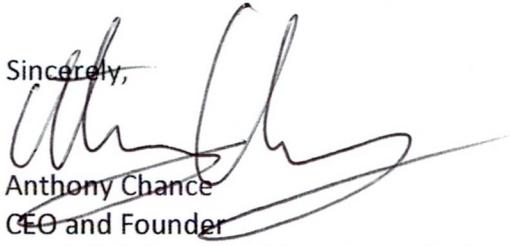
From: Anthony Chance, CEO and Founder of Hui O Ho'ohonua.

I am writing this Letter of Support for Senate Bill 1154. Currently our State does not have the resources to test our own soil and water. Every sample must be sourced out and sent to the mainland for testing, Hawaii is long overdue to have our own testing lab. However, Hawaii does not have a shortage of highly qualified professionals to maintain and operate this lab.

With the current cutting of Federal food programs, now more than ever Hawaii needs to be self sustaining to be able to feed all citizens that call Hawaii Home. Our organization Hui O Ho'ohonua has created our newest program HOH808 Farms to meet those exact needs. However, we are unable to produce the food needed to feed the community if we do not know what type of soil and water we are cultivating. Once we know what the soils and water contains, our farming staff will be able to mitigate any concerns getting the land back to producing food feeding tens of thousands of the local community.

Most of our projects are student-led and will be able to develop an educational pipeline from K through Grad school, And who better to have the lab resources than the University Of Hawaii School of Medicine. All of us can work together as a team developing Hawaii's students to develop skillsets that will get their hands dirty setting Hawaii up for countless thriving generations.

Sincerely,



Anthony Chance

CEO and Founder

Hui O Ho'ohonua (HOH808) 501(c)(3)

PO Box 970711

Waipahu, HI 96797

808-628-0937

<http://www.hoh808.org/>

Est. 2015

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
Galatians 6:9

"HOH808, choosing Ninaveh over the Great Fish since 2015" Anthony Chance



Testifier's Name: Kayla Aguado

Regarding **SB1154** - UH; JABSOM; Disease and Environmental Toxins Testing Laboratory; Report; CIP; GO Bonds; Appropriation

Committees: Higher Education/Agriculture and Environment, Ways and Means

Date: January 28, 2025

Aloha Senators Kim, Kidani, Gabbard, and Richards,

My name is Kayla Aguado and I am a young environmental professional with first-hand experience of the difficulties of environmental testing in Hawaii. I strongly urge your support for SB1154 that seeks to find a local, certified environmental toxins laboratory in the State of Hawaii to benefit the health and well-being of our land and its people. This bill has the power to allow for accessible real-time data that could help to prevent risk of exposures to harmful toxins in the soil, water, air, and much more.

As someone who has worked day to day in the field collecting soil, water, and air samples, I know how important those samples are. Any issues after sample collection, whether it is due to issues with the chain-of-custody to the shipping of the samples and even mistakes caused by mainland laboratories, means resampling and the thousands of dollars lost to the client only seeking answers. The turnaround time (TAT) for samples shipped from Hawaii could further be exacerbated by other large mainland sampling efforts (e.g. Superfund sites) that delay TAT by several months.

Establishing a fully staffed facility equipped with the ability to conduct compliance and experimental testing is what will allow Hawaii a step further into becoming self-sufficient, STEM-focused, and ready in the event of disasters or emergencies. Investing in a disease and environmental toxins testing laboratory will not only bring back money to the local economy but means investing in the education of future scientists. I support the allocation of this effort to the University of Hawaii's John A. Burns School of Medicine to build and operate this laboratory as a critical partner with the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony and your consideration of these matters and solutions for SB1154 is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Kayla Aguado



January 29, 2025

To: Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senator Michelle Kidani, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Hawai'i State Legislature

Re: SB 1154 [to Construct, Establish, and Operate an Environmental Toxins Laboratory]

Hearing: Friday, January 31, 2025, 1:50 pm, Conference Room 224 & video

Position: **Strong Support**

Aloha, Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Members of the Senate Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment. The Health Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports** SB 1154. It would provide for the construction and operation of an independent environmental toxins laboratory within the State. This bill is essential to ensure that environmental toxins can be independently examined much more quickly than happens under current conditions, and that results are provided quickly to the public without interference.

Currently, samples of environmental toxins, such as most conspicuously from the Navy's Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility, are usually collected by the Navy itself, without samples being shared by – for example the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (the only government organization whom the general public trusts in these matters). The Navy sends the samples off to a mainland laboratory, receives the results and decides when to share the results with the public, if ever at all.

As those of you who have been following the back-and-forth know, the Navy has been in a long battle with the representatives of the public on the committee that is supposed to be overseeing the defueling, closure, and clean-up of the Red Hill facility. In the view of environmental advocates, the Navy has not been acting in good faith. It has refused to answer nearly 200 important and serious questions submitted by the public representatives, and it has refused for more than a year to participate in the three-way meetings between the Navy, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the public

representatives (the “Community Representation Initiative”), even after the US EPA’s Administrative Order on Consent was amended by the EPA to meet the Navy’s essentially unfounded demands.

We believe that one part of ensuring that Hawai‘i’s people can get redress is to have an environmental toxins laboratory whose results can be trusted. At this point, JABSOM is one of the few government agencies that has not lost the public’s trust on Red Hill issues. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Respectfully,

/s/ Alan B. Burdick, Chair

Burdick808@gmail.com 808-927-1500



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

January 31, 2025

Testimony in Strong Support of SB1154: Relating to Health

Aloha Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Members of the Committees on Higher Education and Agricultural and Environment,

We, Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick, are testifying on behalf of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii in **strong support** of SB1154, which requires the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to construct, establish, and operate a disease and environmental toxins testing lab. This lab will test samples submitted by the public for diseases, as well as water, air, and soil quality, and conduct complex testing. The bill also requires a report to the Legislature and authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds to fund these initiatives.

Key Points of Support:

1. **Public Health Protection:** SB1154 addresses the critical need for a dedicated facility to test for diseases and environmental toxins. This lab will play a vital role in protecting public health by providing timely and accurate testing services for various health threats.
2. **Environmental Safety:** The lab will also test water, air, and soil quality, ensuring that Hawaii's natural resources are safe and free from harmful contaminants. This is essential for maintaining a healthy environment and preventing potential health hazards.
3. **Comprehensive Testing Capabilities:** By establishing a facility with the capability to conduct complex testing, SB1154 ensures that Hawaii has the necessary infrastructure to address emerging health and environmental challenges. This will enhance the state's ability to respond to public health emergencies and environmental crises.
4. **Research and Innovation:** The lab will support research and innovation in the fields of disease prevention and environmental health. This will contribute to the development of new strategies and technologies to improve public health and environmental safety.
5. **Economic Benefits:** The construction and operation of the lab will create jobs and stimulate economic growth in Hawaii. Additionally, the availability of advanced testing services will attract research funding and collaborations, further boosting the state's economy.

Examples of Harm Due to Delayed Turnaround Time for Toxins Lab Results:

- A. **PFAS Contamination in Kunia Wells:** The detection of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Kunia Village water system has caused significant concern for residents. Due to the lack of an in-state toxins lab, the turnaround time for obtaining EPA-certified lab results from the West Coast often exceeds 30 days. This delay has forced residents to rely on bottled water and live in a contaminated environment for extended periods, posing health risks and disrupting daily life.
- B. **TPH Contamination in the Navy Water System:** The presence of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) in the Navy's drinking water system at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam has raised serious health and environmental concerns. The delayed turnaround time for lab results from out-of-state facilities has prolonged the exposure of residents to contaminated water, leading to ongoing health issues and uncertainty about water safety.
- C. **Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility Leak:** The fuel leak at the Red Hill underground storage facility in 2014 led to the contamination of the groundwater aquifer that supplies drinking water to Honolulu. The delay in obtaining lab results from out-of-state facilities prolonged the exposure of residents to potentially contaminated water, causing significant health concerns and public outcry.
- D. **Hilo Bay Water Contamination:** In 2017, Hilo Bay experienced a significant water contamination event due to runoff from nearby agricultural lands. The delay in receiving lab results from the mainland hindered timely public health advisories and remediation efforts, putting residents and marine life at risk.
- E. **Kailua Beach Water Quality:** In 2019, Kailua Beach faced water quality issues due to high levels of enterococci bacteria. The lack of an in-state lab meant that water samples had to be sent to the mainland for testing, resulting in delays in issuing public health warnings and beach closures, potentially exposing beachgoers to harmful pathogens.
- F. **Maui's Pesticide Contamination:** In 2018, there were concerns about pesticide contamination in the water sources on Maui due to runoff from agricultural lands. The delay in receiving lab results from the mainland hindered timely public health advisories and remediation efforts, putting residents and the environment at risk.
- G. **Kauai's Atrazine Contamination:** In 2016, atrazine, a herbicide, was detected in the water supply on Kauai. The lack of an in-state lab meant that water samples had to be sent to the mainland for testing, resulting in delays in issuing public health warnings and addressing the contamination. This prolonged exposure to the herbicide posed health risks to residents.
- H. **Hawaii Island's Volcanic Emissions:** During the 2018 Kilauea eruption, there were concerns about the levels of sulfur dioxide and other volcanic emissions affecting air quality on Hawaii Island. The delay in obtaining lab results from out-of-state facilities made it challenging to provide timely health advisories and protective measures for residents, especially those with respiratory conditions.

- I. **Lead Poisoning from Firing Ranges:** Military firing ranges have been sources of lead contamination due to the use of lead-based ammunition. The lack of an in-state lab has delayed the detection and remediation of lead-contaminated soil and water, posing health risks to military personnel and nearby communities.
- J. **AFFF with PFAS Contamination:** The use of aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) containing PFAS at military bases has led to widespread groundwater contamination. The delayed turnaround time for lab results from out-of-state facilities has prolonged exposure to these harmful chemicals, increasing the risk of cancer and other serious health effects for military personnel and surrounding communities.
- K. **AFFF with PFAS in Commercial Airports:** The use of AFFF for fire suppression at commercial airports has led to significant PFAS contamination in soil and groundwater. Airports are required to use AFFF to ensure safety, but the chemicals in AFFF have been linked to adverse health effects, including cancer, liver damage, and immune system dysfunction. The lack of an in-state lab has delayed the detection and remediation of PFAS contamination, putting airport workers and nearby residents at risk.
- L. **Dioxins and Furans from H-Power:** The H-Power waste-to-energy facility in Honolulu has been a source of dioxins and furans, which are highly toxic compounds formed during waste incineration. These contaminants can persist in the environment and accumulate in the food chain, posing serious health risks to humans and wildlife. The lack of an in-state lab has delayed the detection and mitigation of these harmful emissions. Additionally, other toxins such as heavy metals and particulate matter from H-Power have raised environmental and health concerns.
- M. **Agent Orange on Kauai:** Agent Orange, a herbicide containing dioxin, was tested under a U.S. Army contract at the University of Hawaii's Kauai Agricultural Research Station. Several research workers who were regularly exposed to the chemical died of cancer, and barrels of Agent Orange were buried on Kauai for decades. The lack of an in-state lab has hindered timely testing and remediation efforts, prolonging the exposure of residents to this dangerous toxin.

In conclusion, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii **strongly supports** SB1154 and urges the Committees to pass this important legislation. By establishing a disease and environmental toxins testing lab, we can ensure a healthier and safer future for all residents of 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

SB-1154

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 5:18:25 AM

Testimony for HRE on 1/31/2025 1:50:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Lynette Cruz | Testifying for Malama Makua | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Strong support for this bill. Why isn't there a lab here? The community deserves better service and care than it currently receives. It's the community that pays the bill. Please remember that.

SB-1154

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 5:21:13 PM

Testimony for HRE on 1/31/2025 1:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

Yes to - Requires the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine to construct, establish, and operate a disease and environmental toxins testing laboratory to test samples submitted by the public for diseases; water, air, and soil quality; and complex testing. Requires a report to the Legislature. Authorizes the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds. Appropriates funds.



Restore the Commons

Friday, January 31, 2025, 1:50 pm

Senate Committees on Higher Education and on Agriculture and Environment

SENATE BILL 1154 – RELATING TO HEALTH

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Members of the Committees on Higher Education and on Agriculture and Environment.

SB1154 requires the UH School of Medicine to construct, establish, and operate a disease and environmental toxins complex testing laboratory; authorizes GO Bonds and appropriates funds.

The environmental community has been pressing the Legislature for years to upgrade the State's laboratory testing capacities, and this may be the best proposal for that, to date. With an unending series of contamination incidents and our ever-present vulnerability to health pathogens, this lab could come in the nick of time. We must be prepared for the bird flu becoming an epidemic in Hawaii, worse than COVID, spreading throughout crucial livestock/food sources and our family pets

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this issue,

/s/ Charley Ice, Hoa'āina, Waimalu, O'ahu;

former Chair of O'ahu Democratic Party Region 5 ('Aiea-Pearl City); retired Hydrologist. Commission on Water Resource Management (25 years); and Planner at DHHL (10 years)

SB-1154

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 4:25:48 AM

Testimony for HRE on 1/31/2025 1:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB1154 to protect Hawai'i's health, environment, and to promote a culture of accountability and transparency.

SB-1154

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 6:07:51 AM

Testimony for HRE on 1/31/2025 1:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Members of the Committees on Higher Education and Agricultural and Environment,

My name is Chai Blair-Stahn, and I am writing in strong support of SB1154, which calls for the construction and operation of an independent environmental toxins laboratory at the University of Hawai‘i John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). This lab is essential for protecting public health, preserving our environment, and ensuring transparency and accountability in environmental testing.

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

Sincerely, Chai Blair-Stahn

SB-1154

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:19:20 AM

Testimony for HRE on 1/31/2025 1:50:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Renate C Ryan | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

PROTECT OUR PUBLIC HEALTH

WE CAN NOT RELY ON FEDS AT THIS TIME FOR THE SAFETY OF OUR PEOPLE

NO MORE ACCIDENTS AS IN RED HILL

SB-1154

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 10:41:35 AM

Testimony for HRE on 1/31/2025 1:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Members of the Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment,

My name is Rosalie Luo, and I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB1154, which mandates the establishment of a disease and environmental toxins testing laboratory at the University of Hawai‘i John A. Burns School of Medicine.

Hawai‘i’s communities continue to face serious public health threats from environmental contamination, water quality crises, and emerging diseases. The lack of accessible, state-operated testing facilities has left residents dependent on slow and often costly out-of-state testing, delaying critical responses to environmental hazards and public health emergencies.

By investing in a laboratory dedicated to testing for diseases, water, air, and soil quality, this bill provides Hawai‘i with an essential tool to safeguard public health. Establishing a local, state-supported testing facility ensures that communities can receive timely and reliable data on potential threats, empowering both individuals and policymakers to make informed decisions.

Given Hawai‘i’s history of environmental contamination—from Red Hill’s fuel leaks to pesticide exposure in agricultural areas—this initiative is long overdue. SB1154 is a common-sense measure that prioritizes health, transparency, and environmental justice for the state of Hawai‘i.

I urge you to PASS SB1154 to strengthen our capacity for disease detection and environmental monitoring, protecting both present and future generations of Hawai‘i residents.

Sincerely,
Rosalie Luo

SB-1154

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 11:34:53 AM

Testimony for HRE on 1/31/2025 1:50:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Jamie Simic | Individual | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Members of the Committees on Higher Education and Agricultural and Environment,

I, Jamie Simic an affected family member of Red Hill, am testifying in strong support of SB1154, which requires the University of Hawai'i John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM) to construct, establish, and operate a disease and environmental toxins testing lab. This lab will test samples submitted by the public for diseases, as well as water, air, and soil quality, and conduct complex testing.

This lab will play a vital role in protecting public health by providing timely and accurate testing services for various health threats.

The lab will also test water, air, and soil quality, ensuring that Hawaii's natural resources are safe and free from harmful contaminants. This is essential for maintaining a healthy environment and preventing potential health hazards.

By establishing a facility with the capability to conduct complex testing, SB1154 ensures that Hawaii has the necessary infrastructure to address emerging health and environmental challenges. This will enhance the state's ability to respond to public health emergencies and environmental crises.

The detection of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Kunia Village water system has caused significant concern for residents. Due to the lack of an in-state toxins lab, the turnaround time for obtaining EPA-certified lab results from the West Coast often exceeds 30 days. This delay has forced residents to rely on bottled water and live in a contaminated environment.

The presence of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) in the Navy's drinking water system at Joint Base Pearl Harbor- Hickam has raised serious health and environmental concerns. The delayed turnaround time for lab results from out-of-state facilities has prolonged the exposure of residents to contaminated water, leading to ongoing health issues and uncertainty about water safety.

Red Hill Fuel Storage Facility Leak: The fuel leak at the Red Hill underground storage facility in 2014 led to the contamination of the groundwater aquifer that supplies drinking water to

Honolulu. The delay in obtaining lab results from out-of-state facilities prolonged the exposure of residents to potentially contaminated water, causing significant health concerns and public outcry.

With these reasons stated I strongly support SB1154.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jamie E Simic

SB-1154

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 11:46:09 AM

Testimony for HRE on 1/31/2025 1:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

SB-1154

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 5:20:57 PM

Testimony for HRE on 1/31/2025 1:50:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because we need to know that our water is clean and drinkable. As a Hawaiian and Red Hill affected family, we need access to clean, safe water. Mahalo

LATE

SB-1154

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 9:47:22 PM

Testimony for HRE on 1/31/2025 1:50:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ilima DeCosta | Testifying for Hui Malama Pono Hawaii | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB1154 addresses the need for a local environmental toxins testing lab.

A local environmental toxins testing lab is necessary to testing water, air, and soil quality, thereby ensuring that Hawaii's natural resources are safe and free from harmful contaminants.

Developing a facility with the capability to conduct complex testing would provide Hawaii with the necessary infrastructure to address emerging health and environmental challenges.

It's time that Hawai'i leaders step up to take more control over public safety; SB1154 provides medical researchers, regulators and leaders with the ability to know as much as is possible about the safe maintenance of our water and other natural resources.

Please pass SB1154 out of committee. Mahalo