

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **598** -24

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16, 2024

RE: H.B. No. 1691
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and
Water & Land, to which was referred H.B. No. 1691 entitled:

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

beg leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; University of
Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program and Water Resources Research
Center; one member of the Kaua'i County Council; one member of the
Hawai'i County Council; Center for Global Discovery and
Conservation Science; Hawaii Marine Education and Research Center;
Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition; Wastewater Alternatives &
Innovations; Moana Ohana LLC; and numerous individuals. Your
Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of
Health.

Your Committee finds that coral reefs that are protected from
wastewater pollutants are better able to recover from ocean
warming events. This measure requires newly installed or modified
wastewater systems that are near the shoreline or likely to
pollute groundwater to include denitrification capacity, which

2024-1521 HB1691 HD1 HSCR HMSO



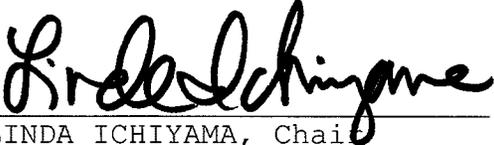
ensures that these systems meet certain on-site residential wastewater treatment standards.

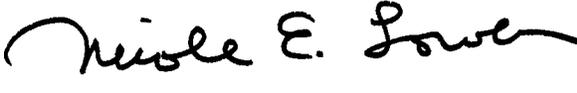
Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Narrowing the wastewater systems that are required to include denitrification capacity to those that are newly installed or modified;
- (2) Changing wastewater systems that are required to include denitrification capacity to those that are located two hundred feet or less from a shoreline, instead of fifty feet;
- (3) Adding a definition for "denitrification capacity"; and
- (4) Making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1691, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1691, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Energy &
Environmental Protection and
Water & Land,


LINDA ICHIYAMA, Chair


NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair



