

DAVID Y. IGE  
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CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE  
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, &  
HOMELESSNESS AND ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
ON  
HOUSE BILL NO. 2515

**February 8, 2022**  
**11:00 a.m.**  
**Room 329 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 2515.

H.B. No. 2515 amends Chapter 321, HRS, to add a new section to require the Department of Health (DOH) to establish and operate a laboratory capable of testing for diseases and air and water quality issues, and other high complexity testing; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to DOH to establish and operate the testing laboratory.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

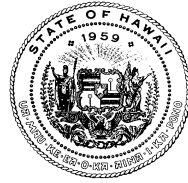
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2515  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, & HOMELESSNESS  
REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: 2/8/2022

Room Number: Via Videoconference

- 1     • **Fiscal Implications:** A new facility constructed on the Pearl City Waimano  
2     Home Road campus to house DUI (driving under the influence), drinking  
3     water, general environmental, and infectious diseases related testing. This  
4     facility would be state of the art and constructed for withstanding and  
5     continuing to operate despite a force 3 hurricane. Solar power would be part  
6     of the design. Expected staffing would be 50 persons, but 40 of these would  
7     be current staff so only 10 would be new staff members. Cost estimates  
8     include:  
9         • \$100 million for construction plus \$10 million for equipment.  
10        • Annual costs would be:  
11            ○ \$1 million for personnel costs  
12            ○ \$250, 000 for reagents, supplies, test kits, etc.  
13            ○ \$1 million for equipment service contracts  
14            ○ \$600,000 per year for utilities costs  
15
- 16     • A new facility constructed on the Pearl City Waimano Home Road campus  
17     to house DUI, drinking water, and general environmental testing, but not  
18     infectious diseases related testing. Again, a state of the art facility able to  
19     withstand a hurricane and incorporating solar power. Expected staffing  
20     would be 25 persons, but only 10 of these would be new staff. Cost  
21     estimates would include:  
22         • \$50 million for construction plus \$5 million for equipment.

- 1           • Annual costs would be:
  - 2               ○ \$1 million for personnel costs
  - 3               ○ \$200,000 for reagents, supplies, test kits, etc.
  - 4               ○ \$500,000 for equipment service contracts
  - 5               ○ \$300,000 per year for utilities costs

6  
7   **Department Testimony:** The current State laboratory building is approximately 27  
8 years old. It was not designed to accommodate new/current demands for testing.  
9 It has a central heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system which due to its  
10 age can be expected to fail periodically, causing all laboratory testing to have to  
11 stop until repairs are made. The availability of a second building with separate  
12 (and more up to date) HVAC could enable testing to continue in the event of an  
13 HVAC failure in the old building.

14 When the older State laboratory building was designed, current testing needs  
15 were not envisioned and planned for. Testing of samples from drivers suspected  
16 of DUI was not envisioned. Nor was there a vision of the volumes of water testing  
17 now required for assuring safe drinking water after potential fuel contamination  
18 of an important aquifer. Infectious diseases testing was also very different at the  
19 time when the infectious diseases laboratories in the current older building were  
20 designed. There has been a move from cultures to molecular studies, requiring  
21 specialized molecular biology laboratories. Another fundamental shift in  
22 laboratory testing was based on the need to test for agents of bioterrorism post  
23 9/11. This creates demand for Biosafety level 3 and 3+ suites to enable staff to  
24 work safely without endangering the community.

25  
26 Please note that the staff working in the new building would be mostly existing  
27 staff. Additional staff would focus mainly on increased water testing required by  
28 contaminated aquifer or aquifers, plus expanded wastewater testing.

1 The larger building option would permit essential functions to be moved to the  
2 new building while the older building is refurbished, enabling the State laboratory  
3 to perform its critical functions uninterrupted for several decades.

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

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## BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU  
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET  
HONOLULU, HI 96843  
www.boardofwatersupply.com



February 8, 2022

RICK BLANGIARDI, MAYOR

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JADE T. BUTAY, Ex-Officio  
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ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.  
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
and Members  
House Committee on Health, Human Services, & Homelessness  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
and Members  
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Yamane, Chair Lowen and Members:

Subject: House Bill 2515: Relating to the Department of Health

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports House Bill (HB) 2515.

This bill directs the Department of Health (DOH) to establish and operate a laboratory capable of, among other things, high-complexity water quality testing. This testing capability should be placed within the DOH organization to support its regulatory authority to protect human health and the environment. DOH can ensure that the laboratory is capable of achieving the highest level of accreditation, detecting the lowest levels of constituents of concern, and servicing the demand of the community both in terms of volume and turnaround time.

Thank you for opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,



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

**HB-2515**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 9:52:28 AM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Henry Curtis	Life of the Land	Support	No

Comments:

Life of the Land supports this measure.



## Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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To: House Committee on Health, Human Services & Homelessness  
Hon. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Hon. Adrian K. Tam, Vice Chair

House Committee on Energy and the Environment  
Hon. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
Hon. Lisa Marten, Vice Chair

Re: **HB 2515 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
Hearing: Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 11:00 a.m., Room 329 & videoconference  
Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chairs Yamane and Lowen, Vice Chairs Tam and Marten, and Members of the Committees on Health, Human Services & Homelessness and Energy and Environment:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in support of HB 2515. This measure would require the Department of Health to establish and operate a laboratory capable of testing for diseases and air and water quality issues and other high complexity testing. This measure appropriates moneys for this laboratory.

The continued risk of further petroleum contamination to the Moanalua-Waimalu Aquifer, our major drinking water source for Moanalua to Hawai'i Kai, which provides drinking water to hundreds of thousands of residents, businesses and visitors of the Honolulu District, places it in imminent peril. Without EPA certified testing capabilities, the Department of Health is handicapped in receiving immediate test results of the water samples for petroleum toxicity. Instead, uncertified labs are doing the tests only to be followed by results by EPA certified labs on the U.S. continent days or weeks later. This delay is not sufficient for human safety and protection of the environment.

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports HB 2515 as it will provide funds for an EPA certified lab. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

*Melodie Adyja*

*Alan Burdick*

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Email: [legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:legislativepriorities@gmail.com)



**HB-2515**

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:19:08 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB 2515,

Mahalo,

Barbara Barry

While National security is a top priority for our county, fresh water is vital for life. We live on an island with finite resources, if our aquifer is contaminated we will be forever dependent on water from elsewhere. The most recent fuel leak has led to health problems, hospitalizations and unknown future chronic health issues. Disrupted living conditions have lasted for months.

Our state has a duty to malama ka aina and the people of Hawaii for now and for future generations. Studies have been done for years regarding the dangers of pollution in fresh water. Consider past disasters such as Love Canal and more recently Flint Michigan, do we want Oahu to be the next tragedy?

Water is a precious gift we must protect. Decisions made today will have consequences on future generations.

Sophie Cocke [scocke@staradvertiser.com](mailto:scocke@staradvertiser.com) Nov. 30, 2021. "Military Families Living near Red Hill Blame Sickness on Tainted Water." *Advertiser*, 6 Dec. 2021, <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2021/11/30/hawaii-news/military-families-living-near-red-hill-blame-sickness-on-tainted>.

"JP-5, JP-8, and Jet A Fuels Public Health Statement." *JP-5, JP-8, and Jet A Fuels Public Health Statement*, DEPARTMENT of HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Public Health Service Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Mar. 2017, <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/ToxProfiles/tp121-c1-b.pdf>.

**HB-2515**

Submitted on: 2/6/2022 5:32:36 PM

Testimony for HHH on 2/8/2022 11:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Comment:

Since there are civilians that have been impacted by the water contamination, it would behoove the department to also have a toxicology division for analyzing any health symptoms arising from the consumption.

This may not be the appropriate place for this comment, but it is something to think about.

For those of you who are not aware of the water contamination at Camp LeJune, take some time to watch the movie "Semper Fi Always Faithful." These were all Marines and their families.

We have a unique situation with civilians renting housing at Kapalina with their water supply from Red Hill. Their Landlord is offering nothing. Red Hill families are adopting civilian families to help them because they are not receiving anything. They are bringing water, basic supplies, toiletries as good samaritan's.

I'm not sure what "Other high complexity testing" refers to, but I hope it includes testing for humans too; and

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