



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

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1731
RELATING TO WASTEWATER

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

REPRESENTATIVE KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: February 11, 2016
Time: 8:30 AM

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure with comments. The
3 Department does not have the resources to develop its own standards for household aerobic
4 treatment units. Instead, the Department relies on the standards for household aerobic treatment
5 units established by the National Sanitation Foundation/American National Standards Institute
6 (NSF/ANSI). Currently, Hawaii Administrative Rules, Chapter 11-62, "Wastewater Systems,"
7 require household aerobic treatment units to have a NSF/ANSI Standard 40 certification.
8 However, the NSF/ANSI Standard 40 does not address nitrogen reduction in the treated effluent.

9 Household aerobic treatment units with NSF/ANSI Standard 245 certification can help meet the
10 growing demand for nutrient reduction in coastal areas and sensitive environments. The
11 NSF/ANSI Standard 245 has performance measures that reduces the amount of nitrogen
12 discharged into surface waters by at least 50 percent in some watersheds. Improved wastewater
13 treatment is one of the most effective ways to reduce nitrogen pollution in water. The
14 Department agrees that household aerobic units that discharge their effluent directly to
15 groundwater should be required to meet the requirements of NSF/ANSI Standard 245.

16 The Department recommends deleting section (c) of the measure. Violations are already
17 enforceable under Hawaii Revised Statutes, Section 342D-9.

18 Provided below are the Department's suggested amendments for this measure.

1 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

2 **Offered Amendments:** Section (b) should be revised as follows, “The director shall approve
3 household aerobic units based on the National Sanitation Foundation/American National
4 Standards Institute Standard 245 for class I aerobic units.” We also recommend deleting
5 section (c) as it is unnecessary.