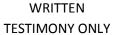
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## Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2043 HD1 RELATING TO WASTEWATER

SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: March 14, 2018 Room Number: 224

Time: 1:30 pm

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

- 2 **Department Testimony:** Private and public sewer laterals can have a significant impact on the
- 3 performance of the county sewer systems and county wastewater treatment plants. Also, the owners
- 4 of the sewer laterals may be unaware of problems associated with their own sewer lateral or may be
- 5 unwilling to fix them.
- The proposed measure is a step in the right direction. However, in addition to saltwater
- 7 infiltration, leaks from laterals, groundwater/rainwater/saltwater infiltration, and inflow from illegal
- 8 connections can also significantly impact the county sewer systems and county wastewater
- 9 treatment plants. Infiltration occurs when groundwater, rainwater, and saltwater enter the county
- sewer system through cracked, broken, or defective sewer laterals. Inflow occurs when non-sewage
- enters the county sewer system via inappropriate or illegal connections. Infiltration and inflow can
- cause problems at the county wastewater treatment plant, increase the cost of treatment, and/or
- overload the sewers and cause sanitary sewer overflows. Counties need the authority to inspect and

control all forms of infiltration, inflow, and leaks from private and public sewer laterals connecting 1 2 to county sewers. **Offered Amendments:** For these reasons, the DOH recommends the following amendment to 3 4 §46-1.5(23) (B) and (C): "§46-1.5 General powers and limitation of the counties. Subject to general law, each county shall have the following powers and shall be subject to the following liabilities 5 6 and limitations: ..... 7 (23)Each county shall have the power to [establish]: Implement a sewer monitoring program that includes the inspection of 8 (B) 9 sewer laterals that connect to county sewers, when those laterals are 10 located on public or private property, after providing a property owner not less than ten calendar days' written notice, to detect leaks from laterals, 11 12 infiltration, and inflow, any other law to the contrary notwithstanding (Infiltration means groundwater, rainwater, and saltwater that enters the 13 14 county sewer system through cracked, broken, or defective sewer laterals. Inflow means non-sewage entering the county sewer system via 15 16 inappropriate or illegal connections); Compel an owner of private property upon which is located any sewer 17 (C) lateral that connects to a county sewer to inspect that lateral for leaks, 18 infiltration, and inflow and to perform repairs as necessary (Infiltration 19 means groundwater, rainwater, and saltwater that enters the 20 county sewer system through cracked, broken, or defective sewer laterals. 21 Inflow means non-sewage entering the county sewer system via 22 inappropriate or illegal connections) ......" 23

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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