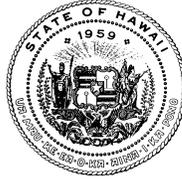


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



BRUCE S. ANDERSON, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 0425
RELATING TO WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

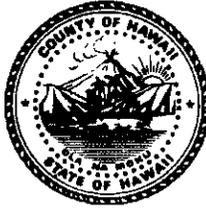
REPRESENTATIVE RYAN I. YAMANE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: February 8, 2019
Time: 8:30 AM

Room Number: 325

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Funds are appropriated to support hiring of an Environmental Health
- 2 Specialist IV for Hawaii Island.
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health appreciates and supports the intent of this
- 4 initiative as long as it defers to the Governor's Budget Request for appropriation priorities.
- 5 Timely monitoring helps to assure Hawaii's stream and coastal waters meet established water
- 6 quality standards and protects those in the public who engage in recreational activities such as
- 7 swimming and fishing and helps to assure the aesthetic beauty of Hawaii's streams and coastal
- 8 waters.
- 9 **Offered Amendments:** No amendments offered.
- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA. 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy, Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 6, 2019

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Rep. Chris Todd, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Hawai'i State Legislature

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Todd, and Committee members:

Re: HB 425, RELATING TO WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Thank you for this opportunity to support HB 425.

The Department of Health has only one water quality resident inspector for the entire County of Hawaii. This has been an ongoing issue, especially for the Keaukaha community in Hilo, and really should be remedied. As can be seen from HB 425, the investment is small, but apparently it has never quite made the priority list of the Administration.

Please act favorably on HB 425.

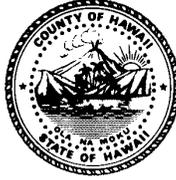
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim, Mayor
County of Hawai'i

Harry Kim
Mayor

Wilfred M. Okabe
Managing Director



William A. Kucharski
Director

Diane A. Noda
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 961-8083 · Fax (808) 961-8086
cohdem@hawaiicounty.gov

February 6, 2019

Rep. Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Committee On Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs
State of Hawai'i House of Representatives
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: **SUPPORT of HB425**
(Relating to Water Quality Monitoring)
Date: February 8, 2019 (Friday)
Time: 8:30 a.m.

Dear Chairperson Yamane and Members of the Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs:

The County of Hawai'i (COH) supports HB425.

Providing funds to the Hawai'i Department of Health (HDOH) to add a new employee for water monitoring in the COH is warranted and supported by the County. As the County with the largest land area, the addition of another monitoring professional to the limited HDOH presence in COH is welcomed.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

William A. Kucharski
Director

cc: Andrew Levin, Executive Assistant

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 11:39:06 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

30th Legislature, 2019

Feb. 7, 2019

House of Representatives

Aloha State of Hawaii Legislators,

Please accept this testimony in **support** of House Bill # 425, regarding Water Quality Monitoring. We appreciate your resubmitting this bill at legislation year of 2019. We would appreciate your assistance in approving this bill to help Hawaii Island Department of Health Clean Water Branch to better their efficiency in testing and monitoring our waters and prioritize areas of need.

By funding this position you will help keep our families safe from sicknesses that have been reported in the years, like Staph and MRSA, especially in PUHI BAY where the County of Hawaii decided to place a SEWER plant near a swimming and subsistence gathering area for our Native Hawaiians.

My name is Terri L. Napeahi the organizer of Keaukaha Action Network or K.A.N. It was organized to address the health and safety concerns of our community. Since 2013 our organization has been working on a data base collection to find the source of sicknesses reported. We chose an Environmental Justice Management system to help us authenticate our findings. We suspected a relationship between the TRI toxic release inventory facilities developed in and around our families and the poor health of our community. We were able to identify at least 7 TRI companies who were non-compliant to EPA and Department of Health standards. We have been working diligently with Government departments and agencies to reduce or eliminate the RISKS imposed cumulatively throughout the years. In 2014 EPA administrative orders were filed against a few facilities and given deadlines to address these problems.

Hilo Puhi Bay Waste Water County facility was one of the few to be non-compliant. We have had many reports of families contracting sicknesses of Staph and MRSA after swimming in Puhi Bay. The County chose to build this sewer treatment plant in front of our Hawaiian community. The outfall is in front of our recreational and subsistence gathering beach front. We have met multiple times with Government officials regarding this issue and found that PUHI BAY sites # 1129, 1130 and 1128 are not regular testing sites. We questioned DOH about this matter after gathering monitoring data and trying to find the regulatory agency responsible for testing these sites.

We met with DOH monitoring person who now tests the entire island by himself. This is not appropriate knowing that the sewer pumps for East Hawaii are aged and in need of upgrades. There have been multiple spills and very little help for adequate testing. Recently Hurricane Lane showed Government officials the need for new policies and adequate testing to keep our families safe. The Puhi Bay pumps spilled at least 5 million gallons of raw sewage while other pumps pushed out the remainder to a total of 9 million gallons. There is also desperate need of infrastructure upgrades to the Hilo Waste Water Sewer plants, especially in PUHI BAY.

Please vote yes to funding this BILL for the safety of our community.

Mahalo, Terri L. Napeahi , Keaukaha Action Network, Hilo, Hawaii tnapeahi@yahoo.com

RELATING TO WATER QUALITY
MONITORING.

Report Title: Clean Water Branch; Environmental Health Specialist; Hawaii Island Streams and Coastal Waters (\$)

Description: Appropriates funds for an additional full-time Environmental Health Specialist IV position within the Department of Health to monitor water quality on the island of Hawaii.

Companion: [SB897](#)

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 8:56:12 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jim Albertini	Malu 'Aina	Support	No

Comments:

Our organization supports this important measure. People have a right to know what's in their water. This should also apply to new wells drilled by UH scientist Don Thomas at Pohakuloa where fresh water was located at shallow depths. Release the test data. We suspect it will contain a host of military toxins including perchlorate, a cancer causing chemical used in rocket fuel and explosives, the same chemical that would be used in a proposed rocket launch facility in Keaau. Stop that project. We in Puna do not want perchlorate in our water catchment tanks. Thousands of us live down wind of the proposed rocket launch site.

Mahalo.

Jim Albertini, President of Malu 'Aina

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 1:32:01 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon	Hot Yoga Hilo	Support	No

Comments:

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 6:46:35 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB425 to provide water quality monitoring.

Andrea Quinn

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:13:03 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Hershey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:15:58 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chezlani Casar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:00:50 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Koohan Paik	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:30:57 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joan ellis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill as a necessary step toward protecting our water supply.

Mahalo

Joan Ellis

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:12:23 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
NoevAuna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB425. I grew up in Keaukaha and many times we were notified my mouth, not the media as to our beaches being contaminated by high levels of bacteria. This is after the fact, when many of our Keoki had ear infection and other illnesses. Please we need better motoring of our waters. A friend of mines went fishing at Kealoha Beach Park and there were parasites on the fishes.

Help us!

Lynette N. Auna

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:48:14 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kuulani Muise	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 10:51:05 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Yuen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Ryan Yamane, Vice-Chair Chris Todd, and members of the House Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs:

I strongly support HB245 which appropriates funds for an additional full-time Environmental Health Specialist IV position within the Department of Health to monitor water quality of streams & coastal waters on the island of Hawaii.

Cesspools are the biggest single threat to the water quality on all the Hawaiians, and especially Hawaii Island where sewer infrastructure is limited. Given our reliance on tourism and selling Hawaii as a pristine destination water quality is important.

Please pass this bill from your committee so more can be done to improve the water quality on Hawaii Island. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Nathan Yuen

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 11:21:50 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Lime	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Im in support of water quality monitoring.

Mahalo,

Jennifer

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 1:08:08 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Culbertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 1:18:44 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Phaethon Keeney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support water quality monitoring for Hawaii Island streams and waters! As we've seen from recent issues on island, the public needs quick and accurate information about water quality, our health cultural, and environmental concerns depend on it. This bill appropriates funds for an additional full-time Environmental Health Specialist IV position within the Department of Health to of streams & coastal waters on the island of Hawaii. Thank you!

February 7, 2019

Aloha Chair Yamane and Members of the Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I am testifying in strong support of House Bill 425. Nearshore wastewater injection wells are currently in widespread use along the coast of Hawai'i island. The justification for injecting wastewater deep underground had been "the solution is dilution", that is, any wastewater that migrates to the ocean will be quickly dissipated before causing any environmental damage. Unfortunately, time is proving this theory to be false and the practice illegal.

The nearshore waters of Hawai'i island are classified as Class AA pristine, untouched by human influence, yet an increasing number of nearshore areas on the island of Hawai'i have been designated as "impaired" by the Environmental Protection Agency.

In 2003, the court-appointed water monitor in the *1250 Oceanside Partners v. Kelly* litigation found that the golf course at the Hokuli'a project was the cause of pollution levels found in the project's nearshore marine that were out-of-compliance with state water quality standards.

In 2006, the state Supreme Court found the County of Hawai'i had an affirmative duty to protect nearshore marine waters (*1250 Oceanside Partners v. Kelly*).

Prior to this ruling, the water quality monitoring studies and reports required by a development's Special Management Area permit had been submitted to the county. But the county subsequently admitted these reports were simply being filed because no one in the Planning Department had the expertise to assess the results.

As a result, in 2006 the county contracted the University of Hawai'i-Hilo Marine Sciences Department to review all water quality reports that had been submitted to the county. Many required reports were missing and the university had a difficult time getting replacements from SMA permit holder. Nevertheless, the university eventually got the data and issued a report, "A Review of Coastal Monitoring Data for Developments in West Hawai'i". The executive summary stated in part, "Historical water quality analyses from Waikoloa and Hokuli'a revealed that nitrogen water quality parameters have significantly increased at both developments over the past ten years... Results from these analyses are consistent with historical temporal trends for these sites, suggesting that conditions in West Hawaii may be developing for extreme environmental degradation, possibly resulting in algal blooms like those in West Maui."

To its credit, the County of Hawai'i Planning Department then hired a doctoral candidate in Environmental Science and drafted a county water monitoring program. This was another effort that met with significant resistance from the private consultants hired by the developments to conduct SMA water quality monitoring reports. However, following the 2008 election and a

change of mayor, the new administration terminated the nascent county water quality monitoring program. No action has since been taken by the county to restart a water monitoring program.

On the island of Hawai'i, in addition to existing wastewater injection wells located at many nearshore locations on the island of Hawai'i, the effluent from the Kealakehe Wastewater Treatment Plant is being poured into a pit just mauka of the coastal Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway. Testing of groundwater between this pit and the coast by United States Geological Survey show not only elevated levels of nutrient pollutants, such as nitrates and phosphates, but also pharmaceutical drugs and corrosive chemicals as well.

Many more wastewater injection wells associated with thousands of residences have either come on-line, are under construction, or are being planned on the island of Hawai'i.

Last year, the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Maui county's use of injection wells at the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility since the early 1980s violated the federal Clean Water Act.

It is therefore critical that the state have the resources in place to establish baseline data and measure the impacts of future development so that the need for mitigation measures can be determined and so mitigation measures can be efficiently and effectively implemented.

Funding and hiring a full-time equivalent environmental health specialist IV employee to monitor and enforce the water quality on the island of Hawai'i is essential to maintain the environmental and cultural resources of Hawai'i and the health, safety, and welfare of its people.

Mahalo for drafting, submitting and scheduling HB425 and for this opportunity to testify,

Charles Flaherty
P O Box 922
Captain Cook HI 96704

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 2:12:02 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katy Benjamin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Katy Benjamin, I am a resident of Hilo and a water protector. I would like to testify in support of HB425. We have come to a place in the world where we can CLEARLY see the importance of clean and protected water. Any action we can take to defend and protect this precious resource must be taken. My deepest hope is that this position, and others like it are prioritized and work in tandem to discontinue practices that we know to contaminate our precious, like the abhorrent practices of the US occupying military, exploitative bottled water industries, devastating cruise ships, and runoff from industry into water supplies.

Katy Benjamin

Hilo, HI

LATE

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 3:56:28 PM
Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leona Leialoha	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm supporting this because I have family members that have contracted staph infections as well as Mersa virus due to pollution of Puhi Bay from the sewer outfall here in Keaukaha. I believe having an inspector for East Hawai'i to test our coastline waters will help prevent future problems. Mahalo

LATE

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 4:26:26 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sophia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of HB425 relating to water quality monitoring!

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 5:04:39 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Len	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this initiative as I believe the benefit far outweighs the cost.

Mahalo, Len Gambla

LATE

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:55:13 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-425

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 9:59:58 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/8/2019 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Only one water quality monitor presently for the entire Hawai'i Island...hmmm...what could possibly go wrong?

mahalo,

Cory Harden, Hilo