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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

- 1           SECTION 1.   (a)   The department of health shall:
- 2           (1)   Fill the vacant environmental management division
- 3                 chief staff position by October 1, 2021;
- 4           (2)   Require that the clean water branch of the
- 5                 environmental division continue to test water quality
- 6                 as part of its Hawaii beach monitoring program during
- 7                 brown water advisories, adhering to their regularly
- 8                 scheduled beach sampling schedule; provided that no
- 9                 water sample shall be collected by clean water branch
- 10                personnel until any hazardous conditions at affected
- 11                beaches have subsided;
- 12          (3)   Issue health advisories during brown water advisories
- 13                that explain the health risks associated with water
- 14                runoff, including but not limited to informational
- 15                signs posted during these advisories at affected
- 16                tier 1 beaches;



1           (4) Take into consideration environmental justice issues  
2           in the assessment of use, when considering usage and  
3           public health risk for its determination and ranking  
4           of beaches for inclusion in Hawaii's beach monitoring  
5           program; and

6           (5) Establish an environmental management division  
7           oversight advisory board to provide oversight and  
8           guidance to the environmental management division.

9           (b) The department of health shall adopt or amend its  
10          administrative rules in accordance with chapter 91, Hawaii  
11          Revised Statutes, as necessary to implement this section.

12          (c) For the purposes of this Act, "tier 1 beaches" means  
13          those beaches designated as tier 1 by the department of health  
14          pursuant to the federal Beaches Environmental Assessment and  
15          Coastal Health Act of 2000.

16          SECTION 2. (a) The legislative reference bureau shall  
17          conduct a comprehensive review of the environmental management  
18          division of the department of health; provided that the  
19          comprehensive review shall focus on but not be limited to the  
20          environmental management division's clean water branch and  
21          wastewater branch.



1           (b) The legislative reference bureau shall submit a report  
2 to the legislature of its findings and recommendations,  
3 including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days  
4 prior to the convening of the regular session of 2022.

5           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.



**Report Title:**

Department of Health; Environmental Management Division; Clean Water Branch; Wastewater Branch; Hawaii Beach Monitoring Program; Environmental Justice; Brown Water Advisories; Beaches; Legislative Reference Bureau; Review

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Health to fill the vacant division chief staff position within the Environmental Management Division by 10/1/2021, and consider environmental justice issues when making certain assessments and determinations. Requires the Clean Water Branch to perform water quality testing during brown water advisories, inform the public of health risks associated with water runoff during brown water advisories, and establish an Environmental Management Division Oversight Advisory Board. Requires the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a comprehensive review of the Environmental Management Division. (SD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

