

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee Lord
Managing Director



Ramzi I. Mansour
Director

Brenda Iokepa-Moses
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 · cohdem@hawaiiicounty.gov

Ph: (808) 961-8083 · Fax: (808) 961-8086

February 10, 2022

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Chair Gabbard,

The Department of Environmental Management appreciates the opportunity to support SB 3363. We operate the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant, which treats approximately 3 million gallons of wastewater per day and serves the Hilo area.

Within the next two fiscal years we expect to spend capital costs of \$150 million to \$200 million to upgrade the Hilo WWTP, which includes design and construction for preliminary treatment, primary treatment, and secondary treatment processes.

The condition of the plant is in dire need of replacement due to chronic underfunding for maintenance and upkeep. The County has completed an assessment plan and has started the initial design for replacing treatment processes that were identified as high priority. The programmatic planning and design effort is costing the County close to \$17 million, in addition to the above-mentioned capital costs.

Currently no recovery is done on the treated wastewater and 100 percent of it is discharged to an ocean outfall outside the Hilo breakwater. The historical practice of individual wastewater systems in new residential developments over sewer line extensions to the sewer collection system has contributed to the underfunding.

The condition assessment of the Hilo WWTP has identified multiple systems that are at the end of their useful lifespan with no redundancy should they fail or become taken offline due to a natural disaster. However, funding remains a key obstacle.

We look forward to participating in this hearing to address other questions as you may have.

Brenda Iokepa-Moses, Deputy Director

Eric Takamura, Deputy Wastewater Division Chief



THE SENATE
THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2022

Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Friday, February 11, 2022, 1:30PM
Conference Room 224 and Videoconference

**Re: Testimony in Support of SB3363 - RELATING TO WASTEWATER TREATMENT
IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COUNTY OF HAWAII**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW") is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents 1,500 members in the private sector.

UPW **supports** SB3363, which authorizes issuance of general obligation bonds for replacements to the water capturing system in the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant to capture recycled water, natural gases, and fertilizer for agricultural purposes.

A February 9, 2022 article on Hawaii News Now, described the ongoing issues regarding the structural integrity of the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant. While there have been efforts to address these issues in the past, there have been concerns that some of these proposals would result in the privatization of public employees, something we cannot support.

We appreciate the Legislature's commitment through this bill to provide funds to take the necessary steps to address the ongoing infrastructural issues at the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant and hope it leads to a combined effort by the county, state, and federal levels.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Liz Ho
Administrator

UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO



SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 7:06:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christopher Dean	Testifying for Recycle Hawaii	Support	Yes

Comments:

We need to maintain our infrastructure. We've been very bad at doing this all across the country. We like to build new infrastructure, but we hate to spend money to maintain it. Then one day we can't ignore it any longer and we take a look at what needs to be done. That's when we realize that we should have been paying attention. Now we need to fix our wastewater plant. It's not an opinion, it's a fact. It's a part of our technological society and this is the price we have to pay. The good news is, technology is always improving, and we're always learning from our mistakes, or at least, we should be learning from our mistakes. Now is the time to completely reassess how we deal with our wastewater system. Now is the time to make improvements. Now we know more about how our behavior negatively impacts the natural world. Now we know we can't just keep going on business as usual. This is our opportunity to innovate, do it better, be a leader, be smarter about how we build our infrastructure. Please pass SB3363 and let's keep moving forward, better, smarter and cleaner.

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 3:11:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

These sewer plants are the Main cause of Ocean polution in Hawaii. There have been many time that spiles were caused by mistakes by Empolees and overflows during Floods all of this is on Recored these plants need to be shut down and reconfigured to end these Spiles!!

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 6:12:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Culbertson	Testifying for Big Island 'Reef Keepers' Association	Support	No

Comments:

To: Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair; Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair; and members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee

Aloha Senators!

Representing our 'Reef Keepers' hui, I am in strong support of SB 3363 to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for replacements to the water capturing system in the Hilo Water Treatment Plant to capture recycled water, natural gases, and fertilizer for agricultural purposes.

Mahalo,

R A Culbertson

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 7:30:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair; Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair; and members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee

I, Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy, Strongly Support SB 3363 to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for replacements to the water capturing system in the Hilo Water Treatment Plant to capture recycled water, natural gases, and fertilizer for agricultural purposes.

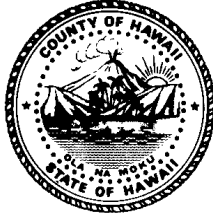
Mahalo nui for your strong consideration to PASS SB 3363

Cindi

HEATHER L. KIMBALL

Council Member

*Chair, Committee on Governmental Operations,
Relations and Economic Development
Council District 1*



Contact Information

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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

TO: Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

FROM: Heather L. Kimball
Council Member, District 1

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Heather Kimball", is written over the printed name and title.

DATE: February 9, 2022

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT SB 3363, RELATING TO WASTEWATER TREATMENT
IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COUNTY OF HAWAII**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to authorize issuance of general obligation bonds for replacements to the water capturing system in the Hilo Water Treatment Plant to capture recycled water, natural gases, and fertilizer for agricultural purposes.

I am providing testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Hawai'i County Council.

I **SUPPORT** this measure because Hawai'i County must make improvements in our wastewater treatment facilities and issuing general obligation bonds is one important way we can fund these needs.

For this reason, I **SUPPORT** SB3363, Relating to Wastewater Treatment Improvements in the County of Hawai'i.

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 4:00:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mark Wolfendale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a disaster which will happen if immediate attention is not given to upgrading the
infastructure of the plant.

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 6:37:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Devon K Aguiar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou members of The Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment. I'am writing to express my **full support for Senate Bill 3363**. This bill will provide the funding needed to modernize and improve Hilo's aging wastewater treatment facility.

Treated (and occassionally un-treated) wastewater from the facility is currently discharged off the Keaukaha coastline. Keaukaha contains many culturally significant sites, serves as an "ice box" for community members, and is the most accessible shoreline in East Hawai'i. Further neglect of the Hilo wastewater treatment facility increases the likelihood for releases of un-treated wastewater, and subsequent damage to Keaukaha's coastal resources.

Additionally, this bill will also provide an opportunity to utilize treated sewage byproducts for agricultural purposes. Treated wastewater is used throughout Hawai'i for irrigation by the agricultural and industrial sectors. These additions to the Hilo wastewater treatment facility can reduce our dependence on imported agricultural products and encourage the use of treated wastewater in East Hawai'i.

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 8:53:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kupuna for the Mo'opuna	Testifying for Kupuna for the Mo'opuna	Support	No

Comments:

Support! Mahalo nui for this bill!

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:17:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Navarra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Hilo waste water treatment facility is in danger of failure and funding to replace this facility is an urgent need. The county does not have the money to update the facility. This bill will not only help fund replacement, but will turn our "waste" water into a resource to generate fertilizer or energy. This is the type of forward-thinking projects we need to adopt to move towards Zero Waste; viewing "waste" as resources out of place.

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:15:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nicolas Storie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Measure: SB 3363**Title:** RELATING TO WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COUNTY OF HAWAII

Dear Sen. Gabbard and Members of the Senate House Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

I **SUPPORT SB 3363** which will provide Hawai'i County the funds critically needed to rebuild the dilapidated Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant (HWWTP) that is on the verge of complete failure, leading to an environmental catastrophe.

My name is Nicolas Storie and I am a marine scientist currently pursuing a graduate degree at UH-Mānoa. Prior to moving to O'ahu, I lived in Hilo for over seven years and consider this area my home. For the last two years, I have developed a deeper connection with my community as I researched the presence and sources of sewage pollution impacting Hilo's coastal waters. Hilo is a Priority 3 Upgrade Area for the State's cesspool conversion plan, meaning there is a potential threat of sewage contamination to sensitive waters. As we work towards upgrading Hilo homeowners' cesspools in the near future, it is essential that we also invest in the necessary wastewater infrastructure to support this increase of wastewater to the HWWTP. If the HWWTP were to fail, a complex cocktail of pathogens, nutrients, toxic metals, and pharmaceuticals will be directly released into the ocean and will be a direct threat to human and environmental health. Human-associated bacteria such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *Vibrio cholerae*, *Salmonella*, and *Shigella* are associated with untreated sewage and can lead to skin and urinary tract infections, cholera, gastroenteritis, and death if left untreated. Our coral reefs thrive in clear nutrient-poor waters and an upset of this nutrient balance can have multiple lasting impacts. Excess nutrients from sewage pollution can trigger harmful algal blooms, fish kills, anoxic zones, and overall decreased reef health. The health of Hawai'i's coastal waters is important culturally, biologically, and economically and their preservation is imperative. Generations of my family have used these waters for sustenance fishing, recreation, and healing of ailments. The coastline also houses three traditional loko i'a which are reliant on natural nutrients from groundwater and seawater. Furthermore, a sewage spill would directly impact the tourism industry that the community of Hilo is reliant upon.

While the immediate cost is daunting, we must look towards the future we want for our families and act accordingly. Funds are desperately needed to rebuild this dilapidated facility to protect the people of Hilo, as well as the water quality and health of the Bay and surrounding ocean waters. Lastly, Upgrades such as water reclamation, gas capture, and fertilizer production will contribute to the state's sustainability goals and future operational costs.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nicolas Storie

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:31:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important infrastructure issue.

Mahalo

Elizabeth Hansen

Registered voter - Hakalau HI 96710

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:37:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nako'o Warrington	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In **strong support** of this very important bill. Mahalo!

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:41:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rodger Hansen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a huge deal - infrastructure needs your help.

Please support.

Rodger Hansen

Registered voter - Hakalau HI 96710

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor



Lee E. Lord
Managing Director

Robert H. Command
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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February 10, 2022

Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard
Vice-Chair Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment
Hawai'i State Legislature
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: S.B. 3363 RELATED TO HILO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT; GO BONDS
Hearing Date: Friday, February 11, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.
Time/Place of Hearing: Via Video Conference
Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment;

On behalf of the County of Hawai'i, I am expressing my unequivocal support for SB 3363, which provides necessary funding for the replacement to the water capturing system in the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The County of Hawai'i regards this bill as crucial to our efforts to replace and upgrade our primary wastewater treatment facility, which is in danger of a major failure due to physical plant degradation and deferred maintenance over the past 20 years. An independent engineering report released in 2021 estimated more than 90% of the facility has to be repaired or replaced. A failure of the treatment plant would result in a 3 million gallon a day discharge of raw sewage into Hilo Bay which would constitute an environmental disaster affecting our entire community.

Please give your utmost consideration for this critical legislation.

Mahalo,

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor
County of Hawai'i



Feb. 10, 2022

In Support of **SB3363** Relating to Wastewater Treatment Improvements in Hawaii County
Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment (AEN)
Hearing on Feb. 11, 1:30pm

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the non-profit WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations, I am writing in **strong support of SB363**. This bill would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the County of Hawaii for replacements to the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant. The bill would provide funding to upgrade the plant to capture the natural gases to produce energy and the reclamation of the liquids and solids for reuse.

On Nov. 15, 2021, I was part of a group that was invited to take a tour of the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant by state and county legislators and officials who were concerned about the condition of the plant. Seeing the dilapidated infrastructure first-hand, we were all alarmed by how badly the equipment had deteriorated over time. Some were not functioning at all. It became clear that much of the infrastructure was beyond repair and would have to be replaced to avert a crisis.

Operators of the plant told us that if the system were to fail, they would have to pump over 3 million gallons per day of untreated sewage into Hilo Bay. They also said it was not a matter of if it would fail but when. That kind of sewage discharge would pose unacceptable human health risks and environmental damage. Hawaii Island is already struggling to deal with a major sewage pollution problem and meet the mandate to convert all its cesspools in the next three decades.

WAI is dedicated to protecting our drinking water, groundwater and near-shore ecosystems by reducing sewage pollution. Our goal is to help find more innovative, affordable, and eco-friendly solutions to wastewater management. Better sanitation systems reduce sewage pollution and protect public health and our groundwater, streams and the health of our coral reefs and coastal areas. WAI also advocates for reuse of liquid and solid wastes, which can be recycled for many uses, including energy, irrigation and as a soil amendment.

This bill addresses the imminent threat of a massive sewage spill and creates desperately needed funding to repair and eventually rebuild the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant. The funding could also be used as a matching contribution towards the development of a new facility as the county and state seek federal infrastructure funding. The ultimate solution would be a new facility that could process the solid and liquid wastes to produce energy, recycled water and soil amendments. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue and support of this bill.

Aloha,

Stuart Coleman

Stuart H. Coleman, Executive Director

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:23:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Michael Gabbard, Chair, The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing SB3363 RELATING TO WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COUNTY OF HAWAII, Friday February 11, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition strongly supports SB363! HIROC is concerned about protecting the reefs and other marine life by protecting our groundwater and near-shore ecosystems from sewage pollution.

This bill would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for the County of Hawai'i for replacements to the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant. The bill would provide access to funding to upgrade the plant to capture the natural gases to produce energy and the reclamation of the liquids and solids for reuse.

I worked for 15 years as an attorney representing the Hawai'i Department of Health on wastewater matters. I believe that the Hilo Wastewater Treatment plant is dilapidated and needs upgrading, or an environmental calamity is likely to ensue. Much of the infrastructure is beyond repair and needs to be replaced to avert a crisis. The occurrence of a calamity is a question of when, not if.

I have heard that **if the system were to fail, operators would have to pump over 3 million gallons per day of untreated sewage into Hilo Bay. That kind of sewage discharge would pose unacceptable human health risks and environmental damage.** Hawai'i Island is already struggling to deal with a major sewage pollution problem and must meet the mandate to convert all its 49,000 cesspools in the next three decades.

This bill addresses the imminent threat of a massive sewage spill and provides desperately needed access to funding to repair and eventually rebuild the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant. The funding could also be used as a matching contribution towards the development of a new facility as the county and state seek federal infrastructure funding. The ultimate solution would a

new facility that could process the solid and liquid wastes to produce energy, recycled water and soil amendments.

Please this bill to protect our environment!

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:26:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Henry Curtis	Testifying for Life of the Land	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha

Life of the Land is in strong support of in strong support of SB3363 to address the imminent threat of a massive sewage spill at the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mahalo

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:28:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tyler Gerken	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB3363. As a public health professional, I support the issuance of general obligation bonds to assist the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant make necessary repairs and upgrades to remain compliant with the Clean Water Act and uphold necessary (wastewater) services to the local community. If this action is not taken, severe environmental catastrophe's are likely which is an undue environmental and human health risk that should not be allowed to occur.

I support SB3363 because this action helps advance the State of Hawaii's sustainability goals and future operational costs. Investigating in upgrading the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant, which has been severely neglected (financially), will help the facility become more resilient in ensuring wastewater is adequately treated and will not impair the water quality of the surrounding environment.

This action is necessary because if the facility fails, wastewater will pollute the surrounding environment at Puhi Bay, an area that will disproportionately affect Native Hawaiians and the local community. Wastewater releases severely degrade water quality, which impacts coral reefs through eutrophication, disrupts nearshore fish abundance, and is a human health threat raising the risk of acquiring enteric illnesses, and contributes to the rise of antibiotic resistance -- this occurs through the dissemination of human (and animal) antibiotic resistant bacteria and antibiotic resistant genes. Furthermore, cultural and aesthetic ecosystem services are hindered and negatively influences tourism due to the potential for sewage spills and lasting impacts.

I support SB 3363 to ensure wastewater from the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant will not result in a pending wastewater spill, which will degrade the water quality and ecosystem services of the surrounding environment. Thank you.

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:33:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair; Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice-Chair; and members of the Agriculture and Environment Committee

I, Diane Ware am in strong support of SB 3363 to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds for replacements to the water capturing system in the Hilo Water Treatment Plant to capture recycled water, natural gases, and fertilizer for agricultural purposes.

There are so many pollution alerts for Hilo Keaukaha area that I no longer go into the ocean and advise all guests to avoid swimming in polluted waters. This is not paradise it is Paradise polluted!

Mahalo

Your Name

Diane Ware

99-7815 Kapoha PL, Volcano HI



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee Agriculture and Environment

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 11, 2022

**S.B. 3363 – RELATING TO WASTEWATER TREATMENT
IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COUNTY OF HAWAII**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B.3363 which authorizes the issuance of general obligations bonds for replacements to the water capturing system at the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant.

We recognize and have seen for ourselves the derelict state of the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant. It has been reported that the wastewater equipment is so dilapidated that 95% of it either needs to be replaced, has significant defects, or is completely inoperable. If the facility were to fail, an estimated three million gallons of sewage would spill into the ocean a day, resulting in a catastrophic environmental disaster. Clearly these problems did not surface overnight, rather they are a result of decades of neglect, despite your public employee workforce routinely sounding the alarm. All wastewater treatment facilities are critical utilities that every resident relies on daily, therefore it behooves the Hawaii County Administration to expediently capitalize on all available revenue sources and work in concert with our federal delegation and state legislative leaders to fund necessary repairs.

We would be remiss if we didn't note: it is inexcusable and unacceptable for either Hawaii County or the Legislature to again pursue legislation that attempts to resolve these funding issues by privatizing wastewater facilities and selling our local public assets. Securing general obligation bond funding and seeking federal funding or loans are the appropriate way to finance and resolve these wastewater infrastructure needs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 3363.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

SB-3363

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:20:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is what the Big Island really needs... please pass! Mahalo, JW

SB-3363

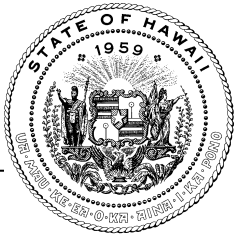
Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:51:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ariel Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! I am Ariel Murphy from the Big Island. I write in support of SB 3363 which will help provide urgently needed funds to address the decrepit and environmentally hazardous Hilo solid waste water treatment plan. I cannot overstate the importance of making sure that potential runoffs and seepage of environmentally hazardous wastewater into our soil and ocean should not be allowed to happen and should be stopped, if it is indeed already happening. The Big Island and our whole State of Hawaii has always been renowned for being "paradise." But what is a "paradise" that does not ensure protection for what, in the first place, makes Hawaii beautiful, unique and worth its reputation as "paradise" if not a clean and protected environment -- now in extreme jeopardy not just because of global warning but our inability to address local problems for which we can fully provide local solutions. Please pass and support SB 3363. We owe it not just to ourselves but to our keiki. MAHALO! -- ARIEL MURPHY



HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SCOTT J. GLENN
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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Testimony of
SCOTT J. GLENN, Chief Energy Officer

before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, February 11, 2022
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**SUPPORT
SB 3363
RELATING TO WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS IN THE
COUNTY OF HAWAII.**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 3363, which authorizes issuance of general obligation bonds for replacements to the water capturing system in the Hilo Water Treatment Plant to capture recycled water, natural gases, and fertilizer for agricultural purposes.

HSEO's testimony is guided by its mission to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy, and clean transportation to help achieve a resilient, clean energy, decarbonized economy.

An energy assessment report prepared over ten years ago by the United States Environmental Protection Agency determined that a variety of measures had the potential for significant annual savings of energy, water, and operational costs.¹ Additional studies since that time have identified additional pollution abatement needs. HSEO supports the energy savings and pollution reduction potential from this project.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9, [*Energy Assessment Report for County of Hawai'i Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant*](#). 2010.