

SCR-128-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 8:57:48 AM

Testimony for EEP on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this resolution. PFAS are very harmful to human health. We must take steps to prevent exposure to these forever chemicals. The PFAS testing grant program could play a vital role in understanding and managing the risks associated with PFAS, ultimately protecting human health and the environment.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

April 11, 2024

To: House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Hon. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Hon. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

Re: SCR 128 SD 1 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO ESTABLISH
A PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES TESTING GRANT PROGRAM
IN COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

Hearing: Thursday, April 11, 2024, 9:00 a.m., Room 325 & videoconference

Position: Strong support

Aloha, Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i comprises of over 7,500 politically active members of Hawai'i's majority political party. We strongly support requesting the Department of Health to establish a per- and polyfluoroalkyl testing grant program in collaboration with the University of Hawaii.

Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a group of man-made chemicals that have been in use since the 1940s. Due to their resistance to heat, water, and oil, PFAS has been used in a wide range of products, including non-stick cookware, water repellant clothing, stain-resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, and products that resist grease, water and oil.

However, PFAS can accumulate over time in the environment and the human body, leading to potential adverse health effects. Most of the hundreds of PFAS currently in commerce have limited or no toxicity data, making it challenging for agencies like the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to understand and address the risks these substances may pose to human health and the environment.

Establishing a PFAS testing grant program is crucial for several reasons:

1. **DATA COLLECTION.** It would require PFAS manufacturers to provide the agency with toxicity data and information on categories on PFAS chemicals which can inform future regulatory efforts.
2. **RISK ASSESSMENT.** The program would help identify and select PFAS for which the agency will require testing, deepening the understanding of the impacts of PFAS, including potential hazards to human health and the environment.



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

3. **COMMUNITY SUPPORT.** The PFAS testing grant program can assist local communities, businesses, and residents in obtaining test services and biological sampling for PFAS detection. This can help identify and detect PFAS in water, soil, dust, crops, food, packaging, consumer products and other substances and materials.

Collaborating with the University of Hawaii could be beneficial due to their research capabilities and their understanding of the local environment and community. The University of Hawaii has a history of successful collaborations with the Department of Health on various projects, making them a suitable partner for such an initiative. This collaboration could lead to more comprehensive and locally relevant data, which could inform better risk management strategies and public health intervention.

The PFAS testing grant program could play a vital role in understanding and managing the risks associated with PFAS, ultimately protecting human health and the environment.

On behalf of the Environmental Caucus, we thank you very much for your support of these requests. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these important resolutions.

Melodie Adyja legislativepriorities@gmail.com

Alan B. Burdick burdick808@gmail.com

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus