
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that protecting the
2 State's nearshore waters is important for ecosystem resilience
3 and public health. Clean nearshore waters, free of pollutants,
4 help support the coral reef systems that are critical to
5 Hawaii's fisheries. A 2023 study published in the scientific
6 journal Nature found that coral reefs that are protected from
7 land-based pollutants, especially wastewater pollutants, are
8 better able to recover from ocean warming events.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require newly
10 installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are
11 near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include
12 denitrification capacity.

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 342D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately
15 designated and to read as follows:



1 "§342D- Individual wastewater systems; denitrification
2 capacity. (a) Each individual wastewater system that is newly
3 installed or modified shall have denitrification capacity if:

4 (1) The wastewater system is located two hundred feet or
5 less from a shoreline; or

6 (2) The wastewater system is located at or below one
7 thousand five hundred feet above sea level and:

8 (A) The substrate is less than five thousand years
9 old; and

10 (B) The soil has low nutrient holding capacity, low
11 shrink and swell characteristics, and very fast
12 water permeability, based on the Hawaii soil
13 atlas.

14 (b) For the purposes of this section, "denitrification
15 capacity" means being certified to meet the guidelines of the
16 National Sanitation Foundation/American National Standards
17 Institute standard 245 for on-site residential wastewater
18 treatment."

19 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Environment; Individual Wastewater Systems; Nearshore Waters;
Denitrification Capacity

Description:

Requires newly installed or modified individual wastewater systems that are near the shoreline, or likely to pollute groundwater, to include denitrification capacity. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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