

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1215

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 14

, 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1232
S.D. 2
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred
S.B. No. 1232, S.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate
funds for a three-year Wastewater Technology Testing Pilot Program
within the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Health; Department of Hawaiian Home Lands;
University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center; Hawai'i
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; Hawai'i Reef
and Ocean Coalition; Climate Change and Health Working Group; The
Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra; Public Access to
SunScreens Coalition; Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region; WAI:
Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations; and three individuals.

Your Committee finds that new and emerging wastewater
technologies and management solutions are being introduced that
may improve public health and the environment and better protect
the State's fragile coral reefs at a more affordable cost than
some traditional individual wastewater systems. Your Committee
further finds that these new technologies must be tested in order

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to be certified by the Department of Health for use in the State. Your Committee notes that the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center can facilitate the Department of Health's certification process with its experience, guidance, and research regarding wastewater technologies. However, the Center would need funding for a full-time coordinator position, cover administrative costs, and cover infrastructure and equipment costs for testing and analyses. This measure will establish a pilot program that will provide the Center with the resources it needs to test new wastewater technologies to facilitate the technologies' certification for use in Hawaii.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1232, S.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1232, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,



ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



