



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3053 SD1
RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 02/25/2026, 10:57 am, 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) requests that this measure be
2 considered as a vehicle to provide this needed funding so long as it does not supplant the
3 priorities and requests outlined in the Governors executive budget request.

4 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Management Division, Clean Water Branch (EMD-
6 CWB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

7 The Department supports this measure which would appropriate funds for the
8 development and implementation of the comprehensive watershed-based water quality
9 monitoring pilot program for the Waikele watershed, including Waikele stream and the
10 Kapakahi stream watershed. Waikele and Kapakahi Streams are considered impaired water
11 bodies, meaning that there is known pollution and that water in the streams has failed to meet
12 water quality standards. The Department is developing a new comprehensive water monitoring
13 program for polluted waters, that would include monitoring of both streams and their
14 associated watersheds, as stream health begins at the watershed level. This new program is
15 intended to increase monitoring and identify possible sources of pollutants, which would
16 inform actions that can help to improve water quality.

1 As noted in Senate Standing Committee Report No. 2524, the Department respectfully
2 requests that the Committee on Ways and Means considers an appropriation amount of
3 \$230,000 to implement this measure.

4 **Offered Amendments:** None.

5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

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LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026
10:57 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3053, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES**

Senate Bill 3053 proposes to appropriate moneys to the Department of Health (DOH) for the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Watershed-based Water Quality Monitoring Pilot Program for the Waikele Watershed and requires a report to the Legislature. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department has been actively working in West Loch Pearl Harbor since approximately 2018, conducting invasive mangrove removal, native wetland and shoreline restoration, and ongoing water quality and biological monitoring within the Honouliuli, Waikele, and adjacent watershed areas. Pearl Harbor is the largest estuary in Hawai'i and represents a high-priority aquatic resource that supports native fish, waterbirds, and important cultural and community uses. Through coordination with community groups and state and federal partners, the Department's efforts improve water quality, restore habitat function, and support long-term, place-based watershed stewardship.

The Department supports the appropriation of funds to DOH for more comprehensive water quality monitoring for the Waikele watershed and urges the legislature to also provide funding for the Department's ongoing native habitat restoration efforts as proposed in the original bill. Together, these efforts will accelerate the restoration of these impaired waters.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-3053-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:40:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2026 10:57:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Oppose

3053 SB RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES.

TO INCLUDE HO'AE'AE WELLS, PFAS DETECTED, AND WAIPAHU WELLS II
GRANULAR ACTIVATED CARBON.