

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 2815

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 05 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2155
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Health and Human Services and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 2155 entitled:

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

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to require the Department of Health to amend its administrative rules to:

- (1) Set the maximum number of dwellings and dwelling units that may be connected to a single individual wastewater system to five dwellings and dwelling units; and
- (2) Set the maximum number of bedrooms that may be connected to a single individual wastewater system to six bedrooms.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Department of Health and Grassroot Institute of Hawaii.

Your Committees find that a growing body of research substantiates that overutilization of individual wastewater systems has been linked to groundwater contamination, waste leakage, and significant risks to nearshore marine ecosystems. Your Committees further find that when these systems experience hydraulic overload, effluent can migrate into groundwater sources, resulting in contamination that poses significant risks to public



health and the environment. This measure ensures that individual wastewater systems are not operated beyond their intended capacity and that appropriate limits are established to protect human health, groundwater resources, and coastal ecosystems.

Your Committees have amended this measure by making a technical, nonsubstantive amendment for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Health and Human Services and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2155, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2155, S.D. 1, and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Health and Human
Services and Agriculture and
Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Health and Human Services
HHS

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2155 | Committee Referral: HHS/AEN, WAM | Date: 2/2/2024 |
|---|--|--------------------------|

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.
If so, then the previous decision was to: _____

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312
 Pass, with amendments 2311
 Hold 2310
 Recommit 2313

| Members | Aye | Aye (WR) | Nay | Excused |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A. (C) | ✓ | | | |
| MCKELVEY, Angus L.K. (VC) | ✓ | | | |
| KANUHA, Dru Mamo | ✓ | | | |
| KEOHOKALOPE, Jarrett | | | | ✓ |
| FEVELLA, Kurt | | | | ✓ |
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| TOTAL | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 |

Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature:

Distribution: Original Yellow Pink
File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

