



STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0735
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION
OF OPERATING PERSONNEL IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS, GUBERNATORIAL
NOMINEE, TAO YAN, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2030.**

SENATOR JOY A. SAN BUENAVENTURA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 03/16/2026, 1:00 pm, 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) strongly support the
3 Governor’s nominee, Dr. Tao Yan, to the Board of Certification of Operating Personnel in
4 Wastewater Treatment Plants (Board).

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

7 Dr. Yan’s confirmation will allow the Board to continue to operate and perform its duties
8 required under Chapter 11-61, Hawai’i Administrative Rules, entitled, “Mandatory Certification
9 of Wastewater Treatment Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants.”

10 Dr. Yan currently works as a Professor at the University of Hawai’i at Manoa,
11 Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Honolulu, Hawai’i and serves as the
12 Director of the Water Resources Research Center at the University of Hawai’i at Manoa,
13 Honolulu, Hawai’i. He has over 26 years of engineering and environmental science research
14 experience with Tsinghua University in Beijing, China, University of Minnesota in Twin Cities,

1 Minnesota, and University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawai'i and over 18 years of
2 engineering education experience with the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, Honolulu, Hawai'i.
3 As a Board member, Dr. Yan's engineering and education knowledge and experience will be
4 valuable in assisting with testing requirements and continuing education credits for wastewater
5 operators. The Department believes that Dr. Yan will be a great asset to the Board as the
6 representative from the University of Hawai'i, who will represent the member of the
7 engineering (environmental or sanitary) faculty of a university or college in the State in
8 compliance with Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 340B-4.

9 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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