



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov



**Testimony in SUPPORT of GM0791  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION  
OF OPERATING PERSONNEL IN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS, GUBERNATORIAL  
NOMINEE, VIRGILIO VIERNES, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2029.**

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

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 04/07/2026, 3:20 pm, 225

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) supports the Governor’s  
3 nominee, Mr. Virgilio Viernes, 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 Mr. Viernes’ confirmation will allow the Board to continue to operate and perform its  
8 duties required under Chapter 11-61, Hawai’i Administrative Rules, entitled, “Mandatory  
9 Certification of Wastewater Treatment Personnel in Wastewater Treatment Plants.”

10 Mr. Viernes currently works as a certified Grade IV Wastewater Treatment Plant  
11 Operator at Aqua Engineers. He has over 20 years of wastewater treatment plant operator  
12 experience with Pural Water Specialties, Aqua Engineers, WaterTectonics, and County of Maui  
13 Wastewater Reclamation Division.

1           The Department believes that Mr. Viernes will be a great asset to the Board as the  
2 representative from the County of Maui, who will represent the one (1) of four (4) individuals  
3 employed in a wastewater treatment plant either as a certified operator or certified supervisor  
4 of a wastewater treatment plant and one (1) of three (3) individuals employed in the neighbor  
5 island counties, in compliance with Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 340B-4.

6   **Offered Amendments:** None.

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