

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2095 SD1, HD1**  
**RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS TODD, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 04/07/2026, 2:00PM, Room 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's  
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department's) appropriations and  
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments and requests funding.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office (HEER)  
6 provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

7 The Department appreciates inclusion of our proposed amendments to SB2095 SD1  
8 which establishes a PFAS working group to investigate the existence and environmental  
9 dangers of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

10 To successfully accomplish the mandates obligated to the working group the  
11 Department requires financial assistance to carry out its administrative responsibilities.  
12 Resources are needed to coordinate and facilitate stakeholders meetings, bring in subject  
13 matter experts to weigh in on source investigations, design studies and testing requirements,  
14 evaluate environmental and public health risk associated with PFAS exposure, review existing  
15 policies and provide recommendations. Three annual reports from 2027-2029 must also be  
16 submitted to the Legislature.

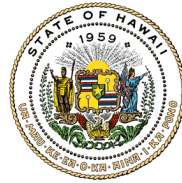
1           The Department respectfully requests funding of approximately \$30,000 to carry out the  
2 duties of the PFAS Working Group.

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

4 **Offered Amendments:** None

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA  
1428 South King Street  
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**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026  
2:00 P.M.**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2095, SD1, HD1  
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2095, SD1, HD1, relating to environmental protection. The bill establishes a per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) working group within the Department of Health to investigate the existence and environmental dangers of PFAS and other related chemicals. The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity ("Department") supports this bill.

PFAS contamination is a serious issue that has already impacted the United States on a national level causing federal and state agencies to regulate PFAS at varying degrees. The Department recognizes the need to assess the presence and risks of PFAS within the State to determine whether further restrictions are needed.

The Department appreciates being included in the working group since agricultural land can be contaminated by PFAS via water, dust, soil amendments, pesticides, and other products or pathways. Crops and livestock will be impacted by these contaminated farmlands and is a potential pathway for human exposure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY  
KA 'OIHANA WAI  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96843  
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RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
MANAGER AND CHIEF ENGINEER  
MANAKIA A ME KAHU WILIKI

ERWIN KAWATA  
DEPUTY MANAGER  
HOPE MANAKIA



April 7, 2026

NĀ'ĀLEHU ANTHONY, Chair  
JONATHAN KANESHIRO, Vice Chair  
LANCE WILHELM  
JEFFREY LAUPOLA  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN, Ex-Officio  
GENE C. ALBANO, P.E., Ex-Officio

The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair  
and Members  
House Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Todd and Members:

**SUBJECT: SB2095, SD1, HD1 – Relating to Environmental Protection**

The Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports Senate Bill (SB) 2095, Senate Draft (SD) 1, House Draft (HD) 1. This bill proposes to establish a working group to investigate the existence and environmental dangers of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and other related chemicals.

As stated in SB 2095, SD1, HD1, the creation of a PFAS working group to address the presence of PFAS in the State's environment and food and water supplies can provide a centralized and coordinated approach to assess PFAS-related issues, engage with stakeholders, and propose actionable recommendations.

The BWS has been testing its wells regularly for PFAS and discovered low-levels at various wells across the island. The BWS started testing for this contaminant since 2020. We have installed a temporary water treatment system for PFAS at our Ka'amilo Wells.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2095, SD 1, HD 1.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ernest Y. W. Lau', is written over a faint circular stamp or watermark.

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.  
Manager and Chief Engineer



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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## TESTIMONY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2095 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi**

**House Committee on Finance (FIN)**

**Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2026**

**Time: 2:00 PM**

**Place: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference**

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports** SB2095 SD1 HD1, which establishes a Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Working Group within the Department of Health to investigate the presence and environmental dangers of PFAS statewide. The bill's findings correctly recognize that PFAS persist in the environment, bioaccumulate, and pose documented risks to human health, ecosystems, and food security.

### **I. PFAS Working Groups Are Already Operating in Other States — and Hawai'i Risks Falling Behind**

Across the country, states have established PFAS task forces or working groups because PFAS contamination crosses agency boundaries and requires coordinated, science-based responses. Examples include:

1. **Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART)** — the nation's first multi-agency PFAS task force, coordinating statewide testing, fish advisories, and cleanup.
2. **New Hampshire PFAS Commission** — evaluates PFAS in drinking water, wastewater, biosolids, and private wells.
3. **Vermont PFAS Working Group** — integrates agriculture, water, and public health agencies to address PFAS in soils, farms, and water systems.
4. **Maine PFAS Fund & Advisory Group** — created after widespread PFAS contamination from biosolids impacted farms, livestock, and drinking water.

5. **Colorado PFAS Task Force** — focuses on firefighting foam, industrial sources, and water system monitoring.

These states acted because PFAS contamination is complex, multi-pathway, and expensive to remediate. Hawai'i faces the same risks — but with far fewer freshwater resources and far greater dependence on nearshore ecosystems. SB2095 SD1 HD1 ensures Hawai'i adopts the same coordinated, multi-agency approach.

## **II. The March 20, 2026 Wahiawā Wastewater Treatment Plant Overflow Demonstrates Why This Working Group Is Urgently Needed**

During the March 19–21 Kona Low storm system, the Wahiawā Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) reached capacity and overflowed from 2:56 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on March 20, discharging uncertified R1 municipal wastewater directly into Lake Wilson. The reservoir was already rising toward the emergency threshold, and the overflow contributed to the downstream flooding of Waialua and Hale'iwa, where floodwaters entered homes, agricultural fields, and businesses.

Municipal wastewater contains PFAS from household products, industrial discharges, and landfill leachate. R1 treatment improves microbial quality but **does not remove PFAS**, because PFAS are not filtered out by conventional wastewater treatment processes. PFAS pass through primary, secondary, and tertiary treatment and remain in: (1) treated effluent, (2) biosolids, (3) reclaimed water, and (4) storm-mobilized overflow. Thus, when the Wahiawā WWTP overflowed, PFAS in the untreated and partially treated wastewater migrated into Lake Wilson, then into the floodwaters that inundated downstream communities.

Key unanswered questions that the PFAS Working Group must address:

1. What PFAS concentrations were present in the R1 wastewater at Wahiawā WWTP prior to overflow?
2. How much PFAS entered Lake Wilson during the March 20 discharge?
3. How much PFAS migrated downstream into Waialua and Hale'iwa floodwaters?
4. What PFAS loads entered agricultural soils, taro patches, livestock areas, and residential properties?
5. What long-term monitoring is needed for soils, groundwater, and biota?

These are precisely the types of cross-agency, cross-disciplinary questions that SB2095 SD1 HD1 directs the PFAS Working Group to investigate, including identifying contamination sources, assessing environmental and public-health risks, and recommending testing and mitigation strategies.

### **III. SB2095 SD1 HD1 Provides the Structure Hawai'i Needs**

The Bill establishes a working group composed of DOH, DLNR, the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, UH experts, and relevant stakeholders. The group is tasked with: (1) examining ongoing DOH PFAS assessment work; (2) identifying additional testing locations; (3) studying PFAS sources; (4) evaluating environmental and public-health risks; (5) reviewing regulatory gaps; (6) recommending testing, monitoring, remediation, and prevention strategies; and (7) submitting annual interim reports and a final report to the Legislature. This structure is essential for addressing PFAS contamination comprehensively and transparently.

### **IV. Conclusion**

PFAS contamination is a growing threat to Hawai'i's drinking water, agriculture, fisheries, and public health. The recent Wahiawā WWTP overflow underscores the need for coordinated statewide PFAS monitoring, testing, and response. SB2095 SD1 HD1 provides the framework Hawai'i needs to protect its people, ecosystems, and food systems.

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB2095 SD1 HD1.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Alan Burdick, Co-Chair, [burdick808@gmail.com](mailto:burdick808@gmail.com)

Mike Ewall, Co-Chair, [mike@energyjustice.net](mailto:mike@energyjustice.net)

Melodie Aduja, Co-Chair *Emerita*, [Legislativepriorities@gmail.com](mailto:Legislativepriorities@gmail.com)

**Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai'i**



April 6, 2026

To: Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and the House Committee on Finance

Subject: **SB2095 SD1 HD1**, Relating to Environmental Protection

Aloha,

I am writing in **support of SB2095 SD1 HD1** which establishes a PFAS Working Group within the Department of Health to investigate the existence and environmental dangers of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and other related chemicals.

PFAS pose a great risk to public health and are becoming an ubiquitous chemical in application and environmental accumulation across the United States. The understanding and management of these chemicals in freshwater, fish, and animal life will help mediate the exposure of these chemicals to humans and mitigate the serious health risks that come with bioaccumulation of PFAS. Also, Hawai'i's geographic isolation increases the vulnerability of our freshwater supply and environment, so measures must be taken to protect our vital resources.

**I urge this committee to pass SB2095 SD1 HD1** to establish a PFAS working group so experts can test bodies of water, waterways, fish, and other animals for human consumption to identify possible PFAS contamination, assess potential health risks, and ensure the safety of food and water resources in the State. This measure would continue the efforts already in place for this research while adding additional stakeholders to collaborate and provide more comprehensive studies and data related to PFAS. This work must be prioritized as a current emerging public health and food system resilience issue.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Mahalo,  
Sydney Haas & the Food+ Policy Team  
#fixourfoodsystem

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

**SB-2095-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:49:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Dean	Clean the Pacific	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PFAS is a very toxic substance. It has infiltrated every single organism on planet Earth. I'm sure the industry that makes money manufacturing, distributing and using PFAS chemicals would rather not know the truth. But I think everyone who has children would like to know the truth. Here we have legislation to investigate the truth. I assume you'll pass this.

**SB-2095-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 4:44:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I strongly support this bill to streamline our waste system to reduce organic materials from landfilling and create compost for agriculture.

Sincerely,

Diane Ware Volcano 96785

**SB-2095-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 5:10:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Todd & Teknouchi and committee members - Because of the severe threat to our health posed by PFAS or "forever chemicals" I urge you to pass SB2095 and to fund it per HSCR1444-26. Mahalo.

**SB-2095-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 10:16:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong support** of SB2095, which establishes a PFAS Working Group within the Department of Health to investigate the existence and environmental dangers of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. This bill is a necessary and timely step to understand and address a growing threat to our water, our health, and our future.

**The Problem: "Forever Chemicals" Are Here**

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, commonly known as PFAS or "forever chemicals," are a class of synthetic chemicals used since the 1940s in consumer products like nonstick cookware, stain-resistant fabrics, food packaging, and firefighting foam. They are called "forever chemicals" because they persist in the environment for decades without breaking down.

The health risks associated with PFAS exposure are serious and well-documented. Scientific research has linked these chemicals to a range of adverse health effects, including **lipid disorders, hypertension, diabetes, thyroid disorders, infertility, cancer, and neurodevelopmental issues**.

PFAS accumulate in the human body—particularly in the liver and blood plasma—and can be passed from mother to child through breast milk. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has set strict Maximum Contaminant Levels for some PFAS compounds, including a limit of 4 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS, reflecting the grave concern at the federal level.

**The Threat Is Not Hypothetical—It Is Already Here**

Recent detections across our islands confirm that PFAS contamination is not a future problem; it is a present reality. In just the past year:

- **In September 2025**, low levels of PFOS were detected in the Pearl City Wells system serving O‘ahu, with concentrations ranging from 2.2 to 2.4 nanograms per liter.
- **Between November 2024 and February 2025**, PFAS compounds including PFHxA and PFPeA were detected in the Hō‘ae‘ae Wells treatment facility, which serves communities from ‘Ewa Beach to Mākaha, including Kapolei, Nānākuli, and Wai‘anae.

- **In May 2025**, PFHxS was detected in water samples from the Consolidated Baseyards water system serving Central Maui.

These detections span multiple islands and multiple communities. While current levels are below federal standards for regulated compounds, the repeated findings demonstrate that PFAS are present in our environment and our drinking water sources. We cannot afford to wait until contamination worsens to act.

### **Why a Working Group Is Needed**

Hawai‘i has previously recognized the need for a coordinated approach to PFAS. In 2024, the Legislature considered SB2369, which would have established a working group to plan for PFAS remediation across the state. Testimony in support of that measure came from the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, environmental organizations, and community advocates who recognized that PFAS contamination requires dedicated study and planning. While that bill did not become law, its introduction reflected a bipartisan understanding that we must get ahead of this issue.

SB2095 builds on that foundation. The proposed PFAS Working Group would be tasked with investigating the existence and environmental dangers of these substances across Hawai‘i. This includes:

- Identifying sources of PFAS contamination;
- Assessing the extent of PFAS in our water, soil, and biota;
- Evaluating the risks to human health and ecosystems;
- Recommending strategies for monitoring, mitigation, and remediation.

### **The National Context**

Across the country, states are moving to cement PFAS protections amid fears of federal rollbacks. California, Pennsylvania, Maine, and Connecticut have all introduced or advanced legislation to set state-level PFAS standards, recognizing that they cannot rely on federal action alone. At least 29 states considered PFAS policies in 2025.

Hawai‘i should join them. We have the same vulnerabilities—and the same responsibility to protect our communities—as any other state. But we also have unique challenges: our isolation makes us dependent on local water sources, and our ecosystems are particularly sensitive to persistent pollutants. A dedicated working group is the appropriate first step to understanding the full scope of the problem and developing solutions tailored to our islands.

### **A Proactive Investment**

Establishing a PFAS Working Group is a modest but critical investment. It signals that we take this threat seriously and that we are committed to evidence-based policymaking. The group can coordinate across agencies, engage with experts, and produce recommendations that will guide future legislation and funding priorities. Most importantly, it will ensure that when PFAS are detected—as they inevitably will be—we have a plan in place to respond.

The science is clear: PFAS are persistent, toxic, and present in our environment. The detections in our water systems confirm that this is not an abstract concern. Our communities deserve to know what is in their water, what the risks are, and what we are doing about it.

SB2095 provides the framework for answering those questions. I urge this committee to pass this bill and establish the PFAS Working Group as a permanent part of our environmental health infrastructure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2095-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:32:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauryn Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Richards and McKelvey, and Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express my support for SB2095, which establishes a PFAS working group within the Department of Health to provide a coordinated approach to addressing PFAS-related issues in the state, propose actionable recommendations, and engage with stakeholders.

Although PFAS pose known and suspected exposure risks, including acting as carcinogens and interfering with reproductive health, our understanding of where PFAS occur in Hawai'i's environment is limited, constraining the state's capacity to respond to evolving contamination concerns.

A coordinated PFAS response is needed following recent contamination events (including the 2022 AFFF release at Red Hill), and a heavy military and airline presence that uses large amounts of PFAS-containing AFFF foam. A 2024 report published by the Hawai'i DOH revealed elevated PFAS concentrations in the soils surrounding AFFF-impacted sites, at airports, and in wastewater and biosolids. Improving understanding of where PFAS occur in freshwater, marine environments, fish, and the general food supply will help us effectively respond to contamination and protect public health and local resources.

Having a designated body that advances PFAS research and management without requiring federal oversight enables a proactive, regional approach to inform management decisions and research needs. Coordinating regional PFAS response efforts also positions the state to play a larger role in national regulatory conversations. This is especially pertinent to addressing PFAS and other emerging contaminants, as adverse health effects from exposure can be identified decades before regulations and "safer" alternatives are introduced.

SB2095 addresses the critical need for a coordinating entity to respond to emerging contamination issues in the state and mirrors other states' actions to address their own PFAS concerns. For example, in 2019, the Governor of Wisconsin established a similarly coordinated PFAS Coalition by [executive order](#), which delegated responsibility to address PFAS contamination. This multi-agency coalition was similarly coordinated by a single state department, in collaboration with 16 other agencies, universities, and research organizations, to secure technical workforce hires and advance work in the state.

If executed properly, this working group could be leveraged to provide a roadmap for streamlining the state's approach to other unregulated contaminants that will require management attention in the future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Lauryn Hansen

**SB-2095-HD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:52:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/7/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2095 SD1 HD1 which would establish a PFAS Working Group within the Department of Health to investigate the existence and environmental dangers of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances. This measure is a critical step toward understanding and mitigating the risks associated with PFAS.

PFAS--forever chemicals, are linked to significant health risks, including but not limited to cancer, liver damage, developmental issues, weakened immune systems, and endocrine disruption. PFAS contamination is a growing threat to Hawai'i's drinking water, agriculture, fisheries, and public health. The Navy's fire suppression system at Red Hill spilled over 1,300 gallons of aqueous film forming foam (AFFF) concentrate into the environment in 2022. Moreover, the Wahiawa Wastewater Treatment Plant's recent overflow after the Kona low, which likely contained PFAS contamination along with the discharge, further necessitates improved, state-aligned PFAS surveillance and response efforts.

To protect the health and safety of our communities, it is crucial that we take steps toward assessing and then remediation of PFAS contamination throughout the State. Please PASS this important measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.