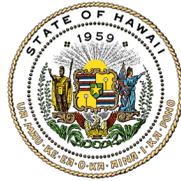


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026
9:15 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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

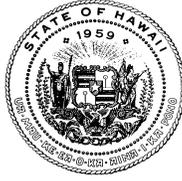
Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2095, SD1 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.



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

**Testimony COMMENTING on SB2095 SD1
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 03/17/2026, 9:15 AM, 325

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

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

630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96843
Phone: (808) 748-5000 • boardofwatersupply.com

LATE

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



March 17, 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 Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Lowen and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill 2095 Senate Draft 1: Relating to Environmental Protection

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

The creation of a PFA 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.

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

Very truly yours,

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



March 16, 2026

To: Chair Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair Amy Perruso and the House Committee in Energy and Environmental Protection

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

Aloha,

I am writing in **support of SB2095 SD1** 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 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

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.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

TESTIMONY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2095 SD1 Relating to Environmental Protection

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (EEP)

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 2026

TIME: 9:15 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

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

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports SB2095 SD1, which strengthens Hawai'i's statewide response to per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). PFAS contamination poses significant risks to public health, drinking water, and environmental quality, and this measure provides the coordinated, science-based structure necessary to address those risks.

SB2095 SD1 establishes a PFAS Working Group within the Department of Health, and the Caucus strongly supports its inclusion. The Working Group is essential for statewide coordination, transparency, and consistency in Hawai'i's PFAS response. The bill clearly outlines the Working Group's membership, including DOH, DLNR, the Board of Agriculture/Biosecurity, the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, a University of Hawai'i expert, and additional stakeholders.

The Working Group's seven statutory duties, as set forth in SB2095 SD1, are critical to ensuring a comprehensive and science-driven approach. These duties include:

1. Assessing the Department of Health's ongoing PFAS work and recommending additional testing locations.
2. Studying sources and pathways of PFAS contamination in Hawai'i.
3. Reviewing best practices and regulatory approaches from other jurisdictions.
4. Evaluating environmental and public health risks associated with PFAS exposure.

5. Reviewing existing state regulations and identifying gaps or inconsistencies.
6. Recommending strategies for PFAS testing, monitoring, remediation, and prevention.
7. Providing reports to the Legislature with findings, recommendations, and proposed policy improvements.

These responsibilities form the backbone of a coordinated statewide PFAS strategy. They ensure that Hawai'i's response is grounded in science, informed by best practices, and aligned across agencies and jurisdictions.

The Environmental Caucus urges the Committee to retain the PFAS Working Group and its full set of duties as outlined in SB2095 SD1. This structure is essential for protecting public health, safeguarding drinking water, and ensuring that Hawai'i has the tools and coordination necessary to address PFAS contamination effectively.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Alan B. Burdick, Co-chair burdick808@gmail.com

Mike Ewall, Co-chair mike@energyjustice.net

Melodie Aduja, Co-chair emerita legislativepriorities@gmail.com

Environmental Caucus Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SB-2095-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 4:27:53 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

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.

Conclusion

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 4:52:15 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

To: Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: March 15, 2026

RE: Senate Bill 2095 SD1
Measure Title: RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.
Report Title: DOH; PFAS Working Group; PFAS; Toxic Chemicals; Reports

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support Senate Bill 2095 SD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

SB-2095-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:52:49 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/17/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i currently lacks a unified, statewide strategy to track and mitigate PFAS contamination. A DOH-led working group is critical to create a centralized framework to tackle this cross-boundary environmental threat effectively.