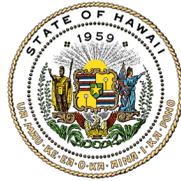


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

10:17 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

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

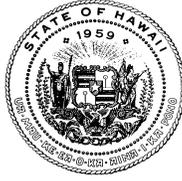
Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

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

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

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

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 03/03/2026, 10:17 am, 211

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



March 1, 2026

To: Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki and the Senate Committee Ways and Means

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.

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

Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i In Strong Support of SB2095 SD1 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM), Chair Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki

Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 10:17 AM Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i submits this testimony in strong support of SB2095 SD1, which establishes a PFAS Working Group within the Department of Health and requires reports to the Legislature.

The Caucus supports this measure for the following reasons:

1. The EPA's National Primary Drinking Water Regulation establishes an enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 4 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and PFOS, reflecting the scientific consensus that even extremely low concentrations of PFAS pose significant risks to human health, including cancer, immune suppression, thyroid disruption, and developmental harm.
2. The United States Navy has reported detections of PFOA at 3–6 ppt and PFOS at 2–5 ppt at the Navy Aiea–Halawa Shaft (NAH). These detections fall at or above the EPA's enforceable 4-ppt MCL. Despite this, the Navy is scheduled to reactivate the Aiea–Halawa Shaft in March 2026 without conducting a community-based Environmental Assessment. This raises significant concerns for public health, environmental protection, and regulatory consistency.
3. The Hawai'i Department of Health's Environmental Action Levels (EALs) for PFOA and PFOS remain at 40 ppt, which is ten times higher than the federal EPA standard. This discrepancy creates confusion for water system operators, undermines public confidence, and risks allowing contaminated water sources to

be deemed acceptable under state guidelines even when they exceed federal health-protective limits.

4. Hawai'i currently lacks a coordinated, statewide structure to identify PFAS sources, track contamination pathways, and develop science-based recommendations. PFAS contamination crosses jurisdictional boundaries, affecting drinking water, wastewater, agriculture, landfills, and fire suppression systems. A DOH-led PFAS Working Group is essential to unify agencies, counties, utilities, and community stakeholders under a single, coherent framework.
5. Federal PFAS regulations, including the EPA's new drinking water standards and forthcoming biosolids guidance, will require substantial planning, monitoring, and compliance. A PFAS Working Group ensures Hawai'i is prepared, proactive, and aligned with federal timelines rather than reacting after contamination becomes more widespread or costly.
6. The reporting requirements in SB2095 SD1 will provide the Legislature with the information necessary to align state standards with federal law, protect vulnerable communities, and guide future policy and funding decisions. Transparent reporting is essential for public trust and effective environmental governance, especially given the imminent reactivation of the Aiea–Halawa Shaft.
7. The effective date of July 1, 2050, inserted for discussion, should be amended to take effect immediately. PFAS contamination is already present in Hawai'i's drinking water sources, wastewater systems, and environmental media. Delaying coordinated action increases long-term public health risks and future remediation costs.

For these reasons, the Environmental Caucus respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB2095 SD1 and restore an immediate effective date.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Alan Burdick, Co-chair

Mike Ewall, Co-chair

Melodie Aduja, Co-chair Emerita

SB-2095-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 2:07:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 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: 3/1/2026 2:57:11 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

SB-2095-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 7:15:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marvin Heskett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai‘i WAM Committee,

As an environmental chemist with over 30 years of professional experience, I write in strong support of SB2095. Advancements in analytical science—and the growing body of peer-reviewed research—have made it clear that per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), which are persistent and toxic are turning up in Hawai‘i's drinking water, biosolids, soils in the vicinity of fire firefighting training locations, in association with compostable food wares, landfill leachates and likely to be discovered in other areas.

The Hawai‘i Department of Health has conducted studies at local wastewater treatment facilities, landfills and along our coastlines and confirm Hawai‘i is not immune to this global issue. Given the persistence, bioaccumulation potential, and health risks associated with PFAS, it is clear that more work must be done to understand and carefully regulate them. SB2095 provides an appropriate and necessary framework to ensure public health and environmental protection.

I respectfully urge the committee to support the passage of SB2095.

Mahalo nui loa,

Marvin Heskett

SB-2095-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 10:53:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2095 SB RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

SB-2095-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:29:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/3/2026 10:17:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucille Morelli-Vine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Hawai'i WAM Committee,

I write in strong support of SB2095. My husband & our friends are scientists, I a Mom & concerned human. Research has made it clear that PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl substances) are toxic. They are turning up in Hawai'i's drinking water, biosolids, soils, in association with compostable food wares, landfill leachates, & with our islands limited size most likely other areas too.

The Hawai'i Department of Health has conducted studies at local wastewater treatment facilities, landfills and along our coastlines and confirm this is not only a Global issue, this is A Hawaii issue.

SB2095 will lay the necessary framework to help ensure our public health and the environmental protection of our islands.

Please support the passage of SB2095.

Mahalo,
Lucille Morelli-Vine



OFFICERS

Alan B. Burdick, President
Juliet Begley, Vice President
Doug Pyle, Secretary
Dave Nagaji, Treasurer

DIRECTORS

Melodie Aduja John Bickel Jovanie D. Dela Cruz
Stephanie Fitzpatrick Robert Kinslow Jan Lubin
Stephen O'Harrow Bill South

MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 23404
Honolulu, HI 96823

March 2, 2026

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
 Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Re: SB 2095 re Environmental Protection (PFAS Working Group)

Hearing: Tuesday, March 3, 2026, 10:17 am, Conference Room 211 & video

Position: SUPPORT

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means!

As you know, Americans for Democratic Action is a nationwide progressive organization dating back to the late 1940s, devoted to carrying on, and expanding on, the critical achievements of the New Deal that took America out of the Great Depression and won World War II. Hawai'i's own U.S. Representative Patsy T. Mink was ADA's national Chairperson from 1978 to 1982.

ADA Hawai'i Chapter supports this bill, which would establish a PFAS working group within the Department of Health to investigate the existence and environmental dangers of the PFAS family of toxic chemicals that are all around us. This is an important step forward for the public and the environment. Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Alan B. Burdick,
President, Hawai'i Chapter
Americans for Democratic Action
Burdick808@gmail.com 808-927-1500