



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
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Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3053 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS TODD, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 4/2/2026, 2:00 pm, 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) requests that this measure be
2 considered as a vehicle to provide this needed funding so long as it does not supplant the
3 priorities and requests outlined in the Governor’s executive budget request.

4 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure.

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

7 The Department supports this measure which would appropriate funds for the
8 development and implementation of the comprehensive watershed-based water quality
9 monitoring pilot program for the Waikele watershed, including Waikele stream and the
10 Kapakahi stream watershed. Waikele and Kapakahi Streams are considered impaired water
11 bodies, meaning that there is known pollution and that water in the streams has failed to meet
12 water quality standards. The Department is developing a new comprehensive water monitoring
13 program for polluted waters, that would include monitoring of both streams and their
14 associated watersheds, as stream health begins at the watershed level. This new program is
15 intended to increase monitoring and identify possible sources of pollutants, which would
16 inform actions that can help to improve water quality.

1 As noted in House Standing Committee Report No. 1430, the Department respectfully
2 requests that the Committee on Finance considers an appropriation amount of \$230,000.00 to
3 implement this measure regarding the monitoring pilot program.

4 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Thursday, April 2, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3053, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES

Senate Bill 3053, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate moneys to the Department of Health (DOH) for the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Watershed-based Water Quality Monitoring Pilot Program for the Waikele Watershed; require a report to the Legislature; and appropriate moneys to the Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for mangrove removal and shoreline and stream maintenance in the Nineteenth Senatorial District and nearby areas, including the West Loch and Middle Loch shorelines. **The Department supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department has been actively working in West Loch Pearl Harbor since approximately 2018, conducting invasive mangrove removal, native wetland and shoreline restoration, and ongoing water quality and biological monitoring within the Honouliuli, Waikele, and adjacent watershed areas. Pearl Harbor is the largest estuary in Hawai'i and represents a high-priority aquatic resource that supports native fish, waterbirds, and important cultural and community uses. Through coordination with community groups and state and federal partners, the Department's efforts improve water quality, restore habitat function, and support long-term, place-based watershed stewardship. This measure would provide additional resources to continue this important work.

The Department also supports the appropriation of funds to DOH for the development and implementation of more comprehensive water quality monitoring for the Waikele watershed. Together, these efforts will accelerate the restoration of these impaired waters.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-3053-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 3:06:26 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reina Krueger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I support this bill because it focuses on improving water quality and restoring ecosystems using a science-based approach. The watershed monitoring program is especially important because it collects consistent data on stream health, pollution sources, and overall watershed conditions. Having that kind of information is essential for making informed decisions and creating effective environmental policies.

I also support the efforts to remove invasive mangroves and restore native vegetation along the Pearl Harbor shoreline. Invasive species can significantly disrupt local ecosystems, and replacing them with native plants helps improve habitat quality, biodiversity, and overall ecosystem resilience.

Combining monitoring with active restoration is one of the most effective ways to address environmental issues long-term. This is a strong step toward protecting Hawai'i's water resources and coastal ecosystems.

Overall, I believe this is a well-rounded and important investment in environmental health and sustainability.

Thanks!

Reina Krueger

SB-3053-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 11:26:57 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalae Correa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our streams are struggling, especially in areas overrun by invasive species like mangrove. Right now, communities don't have the tools or resources to properly clean and restore these waterways. This bill gives us a real way to remove invasive species, protect native ecosystems, and improve water quality