

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Tuesday, March 24, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411

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

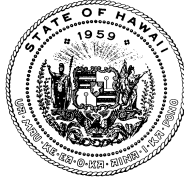
Senate Bill 3053, Senate Draft 2, proposes to appropriate moneys to the Department of Health (DOH) for the development and implementation of the Comprehensive Watershed-based Water Quality Monitoring Pilot Program for the Waikele Watershed; require a report to the Legislature; and appropriate moneys to the Division of Aquatic Resources of the Department of Land and Natural Resources 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 of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

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.

The Department supports the appropriation of funds to DOH for more comprehensive water quality monitoring for the Waikele watershed and supports the legislature providing funding

for the Department's ongoing native habitat restoration efforts as proposed in the original bill. Together, these efforts will accelerate the restoration of these impaired waters.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment 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 in SUPPORT of SB3053 SD2
RELATING TO NATURAL RESOURCES**

REPRESENTATIVE MARK J. HASHEM, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 03/24/2026, 9:00 am, 411

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 Governors executive budget request.

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

5 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Management Division, Clean Water Branch (EMD-
6 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 Senate Standing Committee Report No. 2524, the Department respectfully
2 requests that the Committee on Ways and Means considers an appropriation amount of
3 \$230,000 to implement this measure in regards to the monitoring pilot program.

4 **Offered Amendments:** None.

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

SB-3053-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 2:53:38 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/24/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kala'e Correa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support protecting Hawaii's streams and shorelines. They are vital to the health and well-being of our community.

Mahalo