



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

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**Testimony COMMENTING on HR 90**

**SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS BY THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF  
HAWAII AUTHORITY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO WORK  
TOGETHER TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR THE DISPOSAL OF SEAWATER.**

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
Hearing Date: 3/19/2015 Room Number: 325

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** This resolution may impact the priorities as set forth in the Governor's
- 2 Executive Budget.
  
- 3 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports the intent of this resolution to develop
- 4 guidelines for the disposal of seawater. However, the Department currently does not have the
- 5 resources available to dedicate to the development of these guidelines. An additional staff
- 6 position would need to be established to better support this initiative.
  
- 7 Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution.



# **NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY**

*An Authority of the State of Hawaii attached to the Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism*

Statement of  
**Gregory P. Barbour**  
**Executive Director**  
Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority  
before the

## **COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Thursday, March 19, 2015  
8:30 am  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of

### **HR 90** **SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS BY THE NATURAL ENERGY LABORATORY OF HAWAII AUTHORITY** **AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO WORK TOGETHER TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR THE** **DISPOSAL OF SEAWATER.**

The Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawaii Authority (NELHA) strongly supports HR 90 that encourages NELHA and the Department of Health to work together, along with various other State entities and stakeholders, to define a set of guidelines and rules within the framework of Chapter 11, similar to current rules for livestock waste management, and which specifically address the means, methods, and parameters associated with treatment and disposal of seawater in all of the applications for which it is used. This measure would assist NELHA in attracting new projects and businesses to our ocean science park and in turn help create new jobs and grow our economy.

NELHA's 870 acre ocean science park in Kona is very unique in that it is the only facility in the State that has an extensive pipeline system that distributes seawater to the businesses in the park. These businesses are engaged in renewable energy research, aquaculture, mariculture production, and seawater extractive activities and rely on the seawater for their livelihood. There is no centralized disposal system and each business is responsible for the disposal of the seawater on their property. As the park is very unique there are no specific rules and regulations governing the disposal of seawater that can be applied during the review process. General rules developed for non-domestic wastewater from agriculture (livestock management for example); commercial and industrial activities; and, human waste disposal are applied on a case-by-case basis to ensure proper environmental protection.

New regulations and rules could be developed and potentially lead to a formal permitting process to address the distinctive disposal issues of seawater from aquaculture and other ocean science activities in the park. Such clarity would streamline the review process and provide significant benefits to these potential new small businesses. For example, NELHA receives about 7 to 8 proposals annually from prospective clients, which exhibit real potential for commercial viability. Many of these small businesses have limited start up funds and increased clarity will assist them reducing costs associated with the design of proper seawater disposal methods. In addition, we believe that clearer best management practices will assist in shortening the lead-time in the review process. This will save these businesses as well as the regulatory agencies time and money.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 7:45 AM  
To: EEPtestimony  
Cc: carl.campagna@kamakagreen.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HR90 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM\*



**HR90**

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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