



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2503
RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

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

Hearing Date: 3/12/2020

Room Number: 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) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities. The Department would need resources to establish a new program to
4 manage the inspection of individual wastewater systems at the time of sale or transfer of
5 ownership of a property.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure. The United States
7 Environmental Protection Agency and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration have
8 indicated that an individual wastewater system inspection program is necessary for Hawaii to
9 receive approval of its coastal nonpoint program pursuant to Section 6217 of the Coastal Zone
10 Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990. The Department and the Department of Business,
11 Economic Development and Tourism could potentially lose approximately \$1.1 million of
12 federal funds if an inspection program is not implemented. This measure would satisfy the
13 federal requirement of having an inspection program for individual wastewater systems and
14 would decrease the number of failing systems, thereby having a beneficial impact on water
15 quality. Requiring the inspection of the individual wastewater systems at the time of sale of a
16 property will protect a potential buyer. Problems with an individual wastewater system can
17 range from simple repairs to very complex replacement which can cost thousands of dollars. The
18 individual wastewater system is considered an extension of the plumbing of a home. During
19 home inspections at the time of sale, it is common for plumbing and electrical systems to be

- 1 inspected for deficiencies. It would only make sense to include the inspection of the individual
- 2 wastewater systems in all home inspections at the time of sale.
- 3 **Offered Amendments:** None.
- 4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

March 12, 2020

The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: S.B. 2503, Relating to Individual Wastewater Systems

HEARING: Thursday, March 12, 2020, at 8:30 a.m.

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

I am Ken Hiraki, Director of Government Affairs, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its over 10,000 members. HAR **opposes** S.B. 2503 which establishes the time of transfer individual wastewater system inspection program to oversee the inspection and repair of any individual wastewater system at the time of sale or transfer of residential real property attached to the wastewater system.

HAR supports the goal of protecting Hawaii's drinking water, streams, ground water and ocean resources. However, it could be years or a property owner may never sell their property. As such, point of sale requirements are not a practical solution to address the issue of cesspool repair.

Furthermore, HAR would note that there are numerous inspection periods during the real estate transaction, which are negotiated between the buyer and seller. Under this measure, this could add delays and financing issues to a real estate transaction, especially if the individual waste water system has to be inspected and possibly renovated within one year to meet construction standards.

Instead we should be focusing on efforts that encourage homeowners to convert their individual wastewater systems, such as educational outreach, tax credits and looking at new cost-effective technologies to support the State's goal of converting all cesspools in the State by 2050, provided they do not have an exemption.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 3/10/2020 6:15:37 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2503. To protect our marine ecosystem by finding ways to limit run-off toxic to the reefs i is not only good for residents but in terms of tourism dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn
Kihei, Maui

SB-2503

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 2:29:03 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dwamato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2503

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 4:36:31 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
arleen velasco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The condition of our coastal waters is deteriorating and affecting human and sea life. We must act now to protect water quality by addressing the known and dangerous threat of ecoli from cesspools entering the ocean or our aquifiers.

SB-2503

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 7:15:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sophia Daniel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am Sophia Daniel, student from Kaiser High School and I am testifying in support of SB2503. Polluted runoff impacts human health, water quality, and marine life. This needs to be managed properly and having a wastewater system inspection program improves health and wellbeing in multiple ways.

Sophia Daniel

(808) 492-0729

LATE

SB-2503

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 5:25:54 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/12/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emelia von Saltza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE