

HCR 97

HD1



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR 97 H.D.1**

**REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ASSURE THAT ANY  
SUBSTANTIAL LAND DISCHARGE OF WASTEWATER, OCCURRING BY  
INJECTION WELL OR OTHER MEANS, IS IN ALL CASES, ADEQUATELY  
REVIEWED AND PERMITTED.**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT  
Hearing Date: 4/16/2015 Room Number: 225

- 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 this resolution. To protect drinking water
- 4 sources from contamination, the Department currently issues permits for the discharge of treated
- 5 domestic wastewater with design flows of 1,000 gallons per day or greater into injection wells
- 6 which are below the Underground Injection Control (UIC) line. New injection wells for sewage
- 7 or industrial discharges are prohibited above the UIC line.
  
- 8 Based on available resources, the Department will try its best to work towards the development
- 9 of a permitting program for the land discharge of domestic wastewater into seepage ponds and/or
- 10 seepage pits. If resources are not available, the Department will consider adopting rules to
- 11 prohibit the use of seepage ponds and seepage pits for domestic wastewater treatment plants with
- 12 design flows of 1,000 gallons per day or greater.
  
- 13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR97 on Apr 16, 2015 14:50PM  
**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2015 3:04:32 PM

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## **HCR97**

Submitted on: 4/13/2015

Testimony for ENE on Apr 16, 2015 14:50PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steve Holmes	Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Gabbard and committee members: Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter supports HCR97 HD1. The Kealakehe Wastewater Treatment Plant in Kona presently discharges 1.5 MGD of effluent into a disposal pit. Testing by USGS has shown the plume from this sewage dumping ends up in Honokohau Harbor and into nearshore coastal waters which are now federally listed as impaired. The Department of Health has allowed this to go on for 20 years even though the plant was intended to treat for reuse. It is the position of Sierra Club that an NPDES permit is required since a direct hydrologic connection has shown that the pollutants are carried to the ocean. presently, DOH has no permitting scheme for these discharges. These discharges are impacting high value recreational waters and the marine science community has written to DOH expressing concern about the degradation of the coastal ecosystem. This needs to end. Thank you for your support. Steve Holmes  
Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter Conservation Chair

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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