

**Mitchell D. Roth**  
*Mayor*

**Lee Lord**  
*Managing Director*



**Ramzi I. Mansour**  
*Director*

**Brenda Iokepa-Moses**  
*Deputy Director*

# County of Hawai'i

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 · cohdem@hawaiiicounty.gov

Ph: (808) 961-8083 · Fax: (808) 961-8086

February 10, 2022

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair, and  
Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Chair Gabbard,

The Department of Environmental Management appreciates the opportunity to support SB 3363. We operate the Hilo Wastewater Treatment Plant, which treats approximately 3 million gallons of wastewater per day and serves the Hilo area.

Within the next two fiscal years we expect to spend capital costs of \$150 million to \$200 million to upgrade the Hilo WWTP, which includes design and construction for preliminary treatment, primary treatment, and secondary treatment processes.

The condition of the plant is in dire need of replacement due to chronic underfunding for maintenance and upkeep. The County has completed an assessment plan and has started the initial design for replacing treatment processes that were identified as high priority. The programmatic planning and design effort is costing the County close to \$17 million, in addition to the above-mentioned capital costs.

Currently no recovery is done on the treated wastewater and 100 percent of it is discharged to an ocean outfall outside the Hilo breakwater. The historical practice of individual wastewater systems in new residential developments over sewer line extensions to the sewer collection system has contributed to the underfunding.

The condition assessment of the Hilo WWTP has identified multiple systems that are at the end of their useful lifespan with no redundancy should they fail or become taken offline due to a natural disaster. However, funding remains a key obstacle.

We look forward to participating in this hearing to address other questions as you may have.

Brenda Iokepa-Moses, Deputy Director  
Eric Takamura, Deputy Wastewater Division Chief