

JAN 17 2014

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WASTEWATER.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. California legislators were the first to
2 recognize the use of composting toilets as a water conservation
3 mechanism and enacted legislation to regulate its use. After
4 facing devastating drought in Tuvalu, the Global Environment
5 Facility supported the Pacific integrated water resources
6 management project to address their serious water issues by
7 installing composting toilets on the main island of Funafuti.
8 According to the project manager, the current flush and septic
9 systems are ill-suited to Tuvalu's geography and scarce water
10 supplies.

11 Flush toilets use up one-third of a family's water supply,
12 and poorly constructed septic systems pollute the ground water.
13 Alternatively, composting toilets use no water and produce
14 compost that can be used to enrich the soil so that families can
15 plant their own crops. A lot of the fresh vegetables in Tuvalu
16 are imported and expensive, so families save on costs by
17 adopting the use of composting toilets.



1 At first people were reluctant to adopt the use of the
2 toilets. However, once they saw how the toilets worked and
3 understood the benefits, demand for the toilets increased. The
4 work in Tuvalu has generated interest in the Pacific. Tonga has
5 built demonstration toilets, and Nauru has installed them in
6 schools. The Marshall Islands are planning construction soon.
7 Composting toilets are a way for Pacific Islanders to find
8 solutions to some of the impact of climate change by conserving
9 water, increasing food security, and managing wastewater.

10 Across the Asia-Pacific region, millions of people have
11 inadequate access to sanitation infrastructure. In the
12 Philippines, twenty-eight million people do not have access to
13 sanitation services needed to prevent contamination and disease.
14 Therefore, people suffer from preventable diseases.

15 The Water, Agroforestry, Nutrition and Development
16 Foundation, a Philippine-based organization focused on eco-based
17 solutions to human development challenges, has developed a low-
18 cost composting toilet that uses local materials to minimize
19 water contamination and create fertilizers from human waste.
20 Their innovation addresses two challenges that prevail in
21 developing countries: the unsustainable and costly use of
22 water-sealed toilets, and the hygienic management of wastewater.



1 Water-sealed toilets require pumping mechanisms to transport
2 water and sewage away from a home, a method that is economically
3 and environmentally unsustainable. Inadequate management of
4 waste can lead to a host of health problems and impact the
5 quality of life.

6 Although Hawai'i is not classified as a developing country,
7 there are regions in the State that lack adequate sewer lines or
8 sewage treatment plants.

9 The purpose of this Act is to address the lack of such
10 waste disposal systems and provide for individual wastewater
11 treatment systems for the benefit of the people living in those
12 communities and the health and welfare of the State as a whole.

13 SECTION 2. Section 27-21.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 **"§27-21.6 Functions reassigned to the counties.** The
16 following functions are hereby reassigned to the several
17 counties:

- 18 (1) The medical care of inmates of county jails;
19 (2) The rendering of medical investigatory services
20 requested by the police;



1 (3) Physical examinations of employees to the extent that
2 such functions had been performed immediately prior to
3 the adoption of Act 97, Session Laws of Hawaii 1965;

4 (4) The care and treatment of county workers' compensation
5 cases to the extent that such functions had been
6 performed immediately prior to the adoption of Act 97,
7 Session Laws of Hawaii 1965; and

8 (5) The regulation of the design, construction, and
9 operation of individual wastewater systems and private
10 wastewater treatment works[-]; provided that [~~the~~]:

11 (A) The transfer of this function to each county
12 shall take place on the date that the expenditure
13 of start-up funds is made by the State to such
14 county for this purpose[-]; and

15 (B) No county shall prohibit, based upon proximity to
16 a county operated wastewater treatment system,
17 the use of an otherwise authorized individual
18 wastewater treatment system as an on-site means
19 of wastewater disposal in lieu of wastewater
20 treatment works."

21 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
22 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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Report Title:

Counties; Wastewater; Individual Systems

Description:

Provides that a county may not prohibit, based upon proximity to a county sewer system, the use of an otherwise authorized individual wastewater system as an on-site means of wastewater disposal in lieu of wastewater treatment works.

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