
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 Hawaii 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 by requiring the counties to authorize
11 composting toilets in areas that are inaccessible to municipal
12 wastewater systems, thereby benefiting the people living in
13 those communities and the health and welfare of the State as a
14 whole.

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

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

- 20 (1) The medical care of inmates of county jails;
21 (2) The rendering of medical investigatory services
22 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) The counties shall authorize the installation and
16 use of composting toilets in areas that are
17 inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems. As
18 used in this subparagraph, "composting toilet"
19 means a toilet that uses no water or very little
20 water and uses natural processes to treat waste."

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.



Report Title:

Counties; Wastewater; Individual Systems

Description:

Requires a county to authorize the installation and use of composting toilets in areas that are inaccessible to municipal wastewater systems. Defines composting toilet. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

