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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A REGIONAL  
CESSPOOL MODERNIZATION TASK FORCE WITHIN EACH COUNTY OF THE  
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, among other  
2 provisions, required the Department of Health to investigate and  
3 report to the Legislature on:

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5 (1) The number, scope, and location of cesspools statewide  
6 that require:

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8 (A) An upgrade or conversion to a septic system or  
9 aerobic treatment unit system; or

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11 (B) Connection to a sewerage system; and

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13 (2) The priority of upgrading, converting, or connecting  
14 cesspools; and

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16 WHEREAS, in December 2017, the Department of Health  
17 submitted its report to the Legislature; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Department of Health's report, among other  
20 findings:

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22 (1) Noted that Hawaii has eighty-seven thousand nine  
23 hundred inventoried cesspools, which put an aggregate  
24 total of approximately fifty-three million gallons of  
25 raw sewage into the State's groundwater and surface  
26 waters every day;

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28 (2) Estimated that the cost of upgrading, converting, or  
29 connecting each inventoried cesspool in the State  
30 could cost approximately \$20,000 or more per cesspool,



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1 or \$1,750,000,000 in the aggregate, with an average  
2 construction investment of \$54,700,000 per year from  
3 2018 to 2049; and  
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- 5 (3) Identified fourteen areas within the State, containing  
6 an aggregate total of 42,730 cesspools, as priority  
7 areas for upgrading, converting, or connecting  
8 cesspools; and  
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10 WHEREAS, in its report, the Department of Health noted that  
11 issues relating to cesspools are complex and involve access to  
12 municipal sewer systems, local geology, cesspool density,  
13 receiving waters, and most-appropriate treatment technology;  
14 now, therefore,  
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
17 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
18 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is  
19 requested to convene a regional cesspool modernization task  
20 force within each county of the State for the purpose of  
21 investigating the feasibility and potential impacts of the  
22 department's findings and recommendations in its December 2017  
23 report to the Legislature on cesspool replacement in light of  
24 health, safety, geographic, and economic considerations; and  
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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, at a minimum, the following  
27 individuals are requested to serve and be included as members of  
28 the regional cesspool modernization task force within each  
29 county:  
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- 31 (1) One representative of the Department of Health who  
32 resides in the respective county, as appointed by the  
33 Director of Health;  
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35 (2) One senator from the State Senate who resides in the  
36 respective county, as appointed by the President of  
37 the Senate;  
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39 (3) One representative from the State House of  
40 Representatives who resides in the respective county,  
41 as appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
42 Representatives;



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- (4) One member of the respective county council, as appointed by that county council's chair;
- (5) One representative of the respective county's economic development department or office, as appointed by the head of that department or office;
- (6) One representative of the respective county's agency or department that is responsible for wastewater management, as appointed by the head of that agency or department;
- (7) One representative of agricultural interests who resides in the respective county, as jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- (8) One member of the community, as jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of each regional cesspool modernization task force are requested to elect a chair, a vice chair, and any other necessary officers for the task force from among the members of the task force; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each regional cesspool modernization task force is requested to convene its first meeting no later than July 1, 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each regional cesspool modernization task force is requested to submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature, including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each regional cesspool modernization task force cease to exist on June 30, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health;

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1 the President of the Senate; the Speaker of the House of  
 2 Representatives; the chair of each county council; the Executive  
 3 Director of the Office of Economic Development, City and County  
 4 of Honolulu; the Director of the Office of Economic Development,  
 5 County of Maui; the Director of the Department of Research and  
 6 Development, County of Hawaii; the Director of the Office of  
 7 Economic Development, County of Kauai; the Director of the  
 8 Department of Environmental Services, City and County of  
 9 Honolulu; the Division Chief of the Wastewater Reclamation  
 10 Division of the Department of Environmental Management, County  
 11 of Maui; the Division Chief of the Wastewater Division of the  
 12 Department of Environmental Management, County of Hawaii; and  
 13 the County Engineer of the Department of Public Works, County of  
 14 Kauai.

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OFFERED BY:

*[Handwritten Signature]*

*Nadine K. Nak*

*Richard Lyons*

*[Handwritten Signature]*

*[Handwritten Signature]*

*[Handwritten Signature]*

*[Handwritten Signature]*

*[Handwritten Signature]*

*Cindy Evans*

*[Handwritten Signature]*

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