
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING COUNTY DISTRICT HEALTH OFFICERS 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:

4
5 (1) The number, scope, and location of cesspools statewide
6 that require:

7
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

12
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

18
19 WHEREAS, the Department of Health's report, among other
20 findings:

21
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;

27
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,
31 or \$1,750,000,000 in the aggregate, with an average
32 construction investment of \$54,700,000 per year from
33 2018 to 2049; and



1
 2 (3) Identified fourteen areas within the State, containing
 3 an aggregate total of 42,730 cesspools, as priority
 4 areas for upgrading, converting, or connecting
 5 cesspools; and
 6

7 WHEREAS, in its report, the Department of Health noted that
 8 issues relating to cesspools are complex and involve access to
 9 municipal sewer systems, local geology, cesspool density,
 10 receiving waters, and most-appropriate treatment technology;
 11 now, therefore,
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
 14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
 15 that the county district health officers are requested to
 16 convene a regional cesspool modernization task force within
 17 their respective county of the State for the purpose of
 18 investigating the feasibility and potential impacts of the
 19 department's findings and recommendations in its December 2017
 20 report to the Legislature on cesspool replacement in light of
 21 health, safety, geographic, and economic considerations; and
 22

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, at a minimum, the following
 24 individuals are requested to serve and be included as members of
 25 the regional cesspool modernization task force within each
 26 county:
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- 28 (1) The respective county district health officer;
- 29
- 30 (2) One member of the Senate who resides in the respective
- 31 county, as appointed by the President of the Senate;
- 32
- 33 (3) One member of the House of Representatives who resides
- 34 in the respective county, as appointed by the Speaker
- 35 of the House of Representatives;
- 36
- 37 (4) One member of the respective county council, as
- 38 appointed by that county council's chair;
- 39
- 40 (5) One representative of the respective county's economic
- 41 development department or office, as appointed by the
- 42 head of that department or office;



- 1
- 2 (6) One representative of the respective county's agency
- 3 or department that is responsible for wastewater
- 4 management, as appointed by the head of that agency or
- 5 department;
- 6
- 7 (7) One representative of agricultural interests who
- 8 resides in the respective county, as jointly appointed
- 9 by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
- 10 House of Representatives; and
- 11
- 12 (8) One member of the community, as jointly appointed by
- 13 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
- 14 House of Representatives; and
- 15

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

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

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each regional cesspool
 26 modernization task force is requested to work in collaboration
 27 with a third-party consultant hired to conduct a study on issues
 28 relating to the upgrade, conversion, or connection of cesspools
 29 required by section 342D-72, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and

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

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

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



1 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.

