



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1802
RELATING TO CESSPOOLS**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: February 2, 2018
Time: 8:30am

Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure. Cesspools are a major source of
- 3 pollution to Hawaii's waters. There are approximately 88,000 cesspools in the State, discharging
- 4 approximately 53 million gallons of untreated sewage into the groundwater every day.
- 5 Groundwater flows into drinking water sources; since ninety-five percent of all drinking water in
- 6 Hawaii comes from ground water sources, this cesspool pollution can potentially harm human
- 7 health. Groundwater also flows into streams and the ocean, harming public health and the
- 8 environment, including beaches, recreational waters, and coral reefs. Cesspools should be phased
- 9 out in order to eliminate threats to drinking water and recreational waters. There is an urgent need
- 10 to protect the public health and environment with cesspool upgrades as soon as feasible. These
- 11 upgrades can be to sewer or individual wastewater systems that comply with the Department's
- 12 Chapter 11-62, Hawaii Administrative Rules.
- 13 The cost of upgrades will be high, averaging \$20,000 to \$30,000, The Department is open to
- 14 various forms of financial support for homeowners who upgrade. Expanded tax credits and grants
- 15 are two possible options that would help homeowners afford the phasing out of cesspools.
- 16 The Department supports this measure of removing the restriction of certifying more than two
- 17 residential large capacity cesspools as qualified cesspools because it should increase the number of
- 18 cesspools that will be upgraded in the State and improve the utilization rate of the income tax credit
- 19 program.
- 20 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



LINDA CHU TAKAYAMA
DIRECTOR

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To: The Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Health and Human Services

Date: Friday, February 2, 2018
Time: 8:30 A.M.
Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

Re: H.B. 1802, Relating to Cesspools

The Department of Taxation (Department) appreciates the intent of the measure, defers to the Department of Health (DOH) on the merits of the bill, and offers the following comments for your consideration.

H.B. 1802 amends the cesspool upgrade, conversion, or connection income tax credit under Hawaii Revised Statutes section 235-16.5, by repealing the provision that restricts the DOH from certifying more than two residential large capacity cesspools as qualified cesspools. The measure is effective on July 1, 2018, and applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017.

This measure does not have a significant administrative impact on the Department and as such, the Department will be able to implement it with its current effective date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

HB-1802

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 8:35:10 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/2/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Kucharski		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chairperson Lee and Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection:

The County of Hawaii (COH) supports HB 1802. Allowing any residential cesspool closure to be able to access a tax credit or other form of financial support is appropriate use of State funds.

If possible, the \$5,000,000 cap on tax credits in any one fiscal year ought to be increased to \$10,000,000 given the extremely negative impact these closures will have on citizens of the state.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

William A. Kucharski, Director Department of Environmental Management, COH

LATE

HB-1802

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 7:11:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/2/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018**

Friday, February 2, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1802, RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

To the Honorable John M. Mizuno, Chair; the Honorable Bertrand Kobayashi, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 1802, relating to cesspools and income tax credit. The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 1802 and supports its passage.

House Bill No. 1802, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it amends the cesspool upgrade, conversion, or connection

income tax credit pilot program by repealing the provision that restricts DOH from certifying more than two residential large capacity cesspools as qualified cesspools.

The DPH Platform states that “[t]he Democratic Party of Hawai’i believes that the preservation and restoration of our natural environment are essential. We support a sustainable society that utilizes the earth in such a way that future generations will benefit from the practices of our generation. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of our native ecosystems on each island. We believe in integrated approaches, practices, and support public policies that create and maintain a sustainable way of life in Hawai’i. (Platform of the DPH, P. 8, Lines 406-411 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 1802 amends the cesspool upgrade, conversion, or connection income tax credit pilot program by repealing the provision that restricts DOH from certifying more than two residential large capacity cesspools as qualified cesspools, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure as more conversions can be had to prevent further damage to the environment.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

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