

# SCR141

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

**Report Title:** DOH; Cesspools; Upgrades; Conversions; Connections; Task Forces

**Package:** None

**Current Referral:** CPH/PSM

**Introducer(s):** BAKER, ENGLISH, GABBARD, KEITH-AGARAN, NISHIHARA, S. Chang, Galuteria, K. Kahele, Wakai

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on SCR 141 and SR 91**

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

SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL,  
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH  
SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR

Hearing Date: March 22, 2018  
Time: 1:30 p.m.

Room Number: 229

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (Department) would need resources to support the
- 2 cesspool task forces that are covered under these measures and defers to the Governor's
- 3 Supplemental Budget Request for appropriation priorities.
  
- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports the concept of these measures, but we do not
- 5 have the personnel and financial resources needed to convene the task forces within each county of
- 6 the State. However, the Department prefers the approach taken in HB2626, which requires the
- 7 Department to hire a third-party consultant to conduct a study on issues relating to the upgrade or
- 8 conversion of cesspools. HB2626 also establishes a cesspool conversion working group to assist
- 9 the third-party consultant on the study.
  
- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on these measures.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR



LORI M.K. KAHIKINA, P.E.  
DIRECTOR

TIMOTHY A. HOUGHTON  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

ROSS S. TANIMOTO, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
WAS 18-103

March 20, 2018

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs  
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health  
State Senate  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara, Chair Baker, and Members:

Subject: SCR141/SR91: Cesspool Modernization Task Force

The Department of Environmental Services, City and County of Honolulu, supports SCR 141/SR 91 and the concept of a regional cesspool modernization task force within each county for the purpose of investigating the feasibility and potential impacts of the Department of Health's December 2017 report to the Legislature on cesspool replacement. We believe that is important to find the best approach to cesspool replacement in each community before rushing to replace individual cesspools. Further, we encourage considering all impacts to the environment and not assume that replacing cesspools is the solution to near shore and ground water quality issues.

We hope that this proposed task force and the conversion working group proposed in HB 2626, HD1, if approved, will work closely together for the benefit of our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori M.K. Kahikina", is written over a printed name and title. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract.

Lori M.K. Kahikina, P.E.  
Director



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March 22, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE  
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

**TESTIMONY ON SCR 141 / SR 91**  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A REGIONAL  
CESSPOOL MODERNIZATION TASK FORCE WITHIN EACH COUNTY OF THE  
STATE.

Room 229  
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Chair Baker, Vice-Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Tokuda and  
Members of the Committees:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB strongly supports SCR141/SR91**, which requests DOH to convene regional cesspool modernization task forces in each County.

Cesspools are common in rural areas across the State. While cesspool impacts at shoreline areas are clear, the impacts in areas far from the ocean and at high elevations are less evident. Recent groundwater contamination findings in Upcountry Maui have raised concern about sites far from the ocean. It is clear that other sources of contamination than residential cesspools exist. For example, the land over one of the wells was irrigated with wastewater from the surrounding subdivision. Given the significant costs associated with retrofits, a better understanding of contamination sources and solutions is needed. It is not a one size fits all situation. This warrants the regional task forces as proposed in this measure.

The 2050 deadline and requirements as home renovations occur should also be addressed by the task force. Clarification of federal requirements is needed.

For these reasons HFB respectfully request your strong support of this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

**SCR-141**

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 1:17:08 PM

Testimony for CPH on 3/22/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments: