
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that pollution from
2 cesspools is harming the public health in the State. Currently,
3 there are roughly eighty-eight thousand cesspools that are
4 contaminating streams, oceans, ground water, drinking water, and
5 marine areas around the State. Additionally, lack of adequate
6 sewer capacity has led to massive sewage discharges into the
7 ocean following heavy rains and has prevented the development of
8 new affordable housing in the urban core.

9 The legislature further finds that new waste management
10 solutions could greatly improve public health. Technologies
11 that are reaching a commercial scale for the first time include
12 solutions for individual homes, as well as multi-unit dwellings,
13 apartment buildings, and entire communities. Self-contained,
14 self-powered, and self-cleaning toilets can be used in homes
15 that do not have the capacity to connect to the existing sewer
16 infrastructure. Large waste management systems can remove
17 sewage from multi-unit dwellings and apartment buildings. At



1 the municipal scale, these technologies can effectively treat
2 sewage from entire communities for a small fraction of the cost
3 of existing technology now employed in Hawaii. Employing these
4 technologies can preserve local water quality and protect our
5 environment.

6 Act 132, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, established the
7 cesspool conversion working group and tasked it with developing
8 a long-range, comprehensive plan for cesspool conversion
9 statewide and with considering methods by which the department
10 of health can ensure that cesspools are converted into more
11 environmentally-responsible waste treatment systems. The
12 legislature believes that funding a pilot project that reviews
13 available waste management technologies across different
14 topographies in Hawaii will assist the working group and the
15 department of health with the objectives of Act 132.

16 The purpose of this Act is to fund a new waste management
17 solution pilot project to demonstrate new toilet and sewage
18 treatment technologies and to expedite demonstration projects.

19 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a new waste
20 management solution pilot project to be conducted by the
21 department of health.



1 (b) The pilot project shall:

2 (1) Review and demonstrate new toilet and sewage treatment
3 technologies at different scales and in different
4 locations across the State; and

5 (2) Examine and implement a range of technologies from
6 individual toilets to significantly larger multi-unit
7 systems, as well as examine options for community-
8 scale solutions as appropriate.

9 (c) The department of health shall expedite demonstration
10 projects conducted as part of the pilot project.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
15 2020-2021 for the purpose of implementing the new waste
16 management solution pilot project.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
18 of health for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 4. The department of health shall submit a report
20 on the status of the pilot project, including its findings and
21 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the



1 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
2 each regular session in 2021 and 2022.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2100, and
4 shall be repealed on June 30, 2022.



Report Title:

Environmental Protection; Department of Health; Pilot Project

Description:

Establishes and funds a pilot project to demonstrate new toilet and sewage treatment technologies and to expedite demonstration projects. (HB1170 HD2)

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