
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CESSPOOLS.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that public health and
3 the quality of Hawaii's drinking water, streams, ground waters,
4 nearshore marine areas, and ocean are being harmed by water
5 pollution from cesspools. Drinking water, public recreation,
6 and the State's precious coral reefs, on which Hawaii's economy,
7 shoreline, recreation, fisheries, and native species depend, are
8 or may be harmed by such pollution.

9 The purpose of this part is to commission a comprehensive
10 statewide outreach program by the University of Hawaii sea grant
11 college program that provides science-based information and
12 understanding of sewage contamination sources in nearshore
13 marine areas; increases understanding of sewage capacity needs;
14 and informs all stakeholders, including the department of
15 health, of appropriate solutions that support converting all
16 cesspools in the State by 2050.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The University of Hawaii sea grant college
2 program, in cooperation and consultation with the department of
3 health, shall develop and conduct a two-year comprehensive
4 statewide outreach program that provides science-based
5 information and understanding of sewage contamination sources in
6 nearshore marine areas; increases understanding of sewage
7 capacity needs; and informs all stakeholders, including the
8 department of health, of appropriate solutions that support
9 converting all cesspools by 2050.

10 (b) The comprehensive statewide outreach program shall
11 have the following objectives:

- 12 (1) Develop a plan for conducting a two-year, statewide,
13 systematic outreach plan focused on providing
14 education and communication about sewage contamination
15 and the need for statewide conversion of cesspools to
16 protect the coastal and nearshore environment; and
- 17 (2) Conduct a stakeholder needs assessment to identify
18 physical, practical, and financial impediments that
19 may be encountered by land owners who are required to
20 connect pre-existing cesspools to a sewer system or
21 convert cesspools to an individual waste treatment



1 system and recommend solutions to inform the cesspool
2 conversion working group and its finance, technology,
3 and research subgroups about the gaps and sewage
4 capacity needs for the conversion of all cesspools by
5 2050.

6 (c) The University of Hawaii sea grant college program
7 shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
8 including any proposed legislation, to the cesspool conversion
9 working group established pursuant to Act 132, Session Laws of
10 Hawaii 2018, and the legislature by October 1 of every year,
11 with a final report due no later than October 1, 2022.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
15 University of Hawaii sea grant college program, in cooperation
16 and consultation with the department of health, to carry out the
17 purposes of this part.

18 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
19 Hawaii for the purposes of this part.



1 PART II

2 SECTION 4. The University of Hawaii water resources
3 research center shall conduct research on wastewater system
4 technologies to determine the most cost-effective way to upgrade
5 cesspools in the State and reduce the impact of cesspools on
6 drinking water and groundwater.

7 The University of Hawaii water resources research center
8 shall submit a report of its findings and recommendations,
9 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
10 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
11 of 2021.

12 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the
15 University of Hawaii water resources research center to conduct
16 research on wastewater system technologies to determine the most
17 cost-effective way to upgrade cesspools in the State and reduce
18 the impact of cesspools on drinking water and groundwater.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of
20 Hawaii for the purposes of this part.



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PART III

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

INTRODUCED BY: Nicole E. Louer

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Report Title:

University of Hawaii; Cesspools; Outreach Program; Research; Wastewater Systems; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Sea Grant College Program, with the Department of Health, to develop and conduct a two-year comprehensive statewide outreach program that provides science-based information and understanding of sewage contamination sources in nearshore marine areas; increases understanding of sewage capacity needs; and informs all stakeholders of appropriate solutions for cesspool conversion. Requires the Water Resources Research Center to research wastewater system technologies to determine the most cost-effective way to upgrade cesspools in Hawaii and reduce their impact on drinking water and groundwater. Appropriates funds.

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