
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 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, the lack of
6 adequate sewer capacity has led to massive sewage discharges
7 into the ocean following heavy rains and has prevented the
8 development of 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 establish and fund a new
17 waste management solution pilot project to demonstrate new
18 toilet and sewage treatment technologies and to expedite
19 demonstration projects.



1 SECTION 2. (a) There is established a new waste
2 management solution pilot project to be conducted by the
3 University of Hawaii water resources research center.

4 (b) The pilot project shall:

- 5 (1) Review and demonstrate new toilet and sewage treatment
6 technologies at different scales and in different
7 locations across the State; and
8 (2) Examine and implement a range of technologies, from
9 individual toilets to significantly larger multi-unit
10 systems, as well as examine options for community-
11 scale solutions as appropriate.

12 (c) The University of Hawaii water resources research
13 center shall expedite demonstration projects conducted as part
14 of the pilot project.

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

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



1 SECTION 4. The University of Hawaii water resources
2 research center shall submit a report on the status of the new
3 waste management solution pilot project, including its findings,
4 recommendations, and any proposed legislation, to the
5 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
6 the regular sessions of 2021 and 2022.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050, and
8 shall be repealed on June 30, 2022.



Report Title:

University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center;
Environmental Protection; Pilot Project; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes a 3-year pilot project by the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center to demonstrate new toilet and sewage treatment technologies and to expedite demonstration projects. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. Repeals on 6/30/2022. (HD1)

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