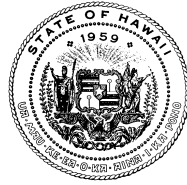


SB 696



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0696
RELATING TO CESSPOOLS**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Hearing Date: February 13, 2019 Room Number: CR 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) supports this measure. Act
4 132, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2018, appropriated \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 for
5 the Department to conduct research or gather technical assistance on other issues as identified by
6 the Cesspool Conversion Working Group (CCWP) in completing its comprehensive cesspool
7 conversion plan. To date, the CCWP has held four meetings on September 13, 2018,
8 October 9, 2018, November 15, 2018, and January 18, 2019. The CCWP is currently working on
9 the research and technical support contracts and recognizes that it would be challenging to
10 encumber the entire \$1,000,000 by the end of fiscal year 2018-2019 and to submit an interim
11 report due to the legislature no later than December 31, 2019. This measure provides the
12 additional time and funding that will be needed to develop a comprehensive cesspool conversion
13 plan and to complete all tasks and reports required under Act 132, SLH 2018.

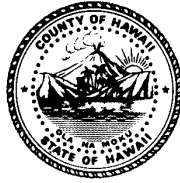
14 The staff from the University of Hawaii (UH) Water Resources Research Center
15 (WRRC) also supports this measure. They stated to the Department that they would need the
16 additional time and funding to conduct a comprehensive state study of sewage contamination in
17 nearshore marine areas.

18 **Offered Amendments:** None.

19 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Harry Kim
Mayor

Wilfred M. Okabe
Managing Director



William A. Kucharski
Director

Diane A. Noda
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

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Email: cohdem@hawaiicounty.gov

February 7, 2019

Committee On Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Hawai'i State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Support for SB 696
(Relating to Cesspools)
Hearing: February 13, 2019 (Wednesday)
Time: 1:25 p.m.

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

The County of Hawai'i (COH) supports SB 696.

Senate Bill 696 extends the life of the cesspool conversion working group through 2023 and it provides additional fiscal resources to the working group. Both of these additions to the cesspool conversion working group are welcome. The impact of Act 132 on the residents of our state will be fiscally significant and will affect many of the public who have lower incomes. This means it is of paramount importance to provide the best possible information and recommendations to the legislature. The time extension and additional funding supports this goal.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Sincerely,

William A. Kucharski
Director

cc: Andrew Levin, Executive Assistant, Mayor's Office



ONE WORLD ONE WATER
677 Ala Moana Blvd, Suite 1100
Honolulu, Hi 96713

Testimony in Support of SB696
Relating to Cesspools

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
February 13th, 2019
1:25pm
Conference Room 224

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 696 Relating to Cesspool Conversions

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

At One World One Water we are dedicated to reinvesting in water infrastructure and restoring natural environments, and we strongly support **SB696** that extends lapse dates for cesspool conversion research in the state. By extending the lapse date for funds appropriated for University of Hawaii's study of sewage contamination and extending the Department of Health's date for research relating to cesspool conversion more time will be allotted for an in-depth study of how to convert Hawaii's cesspools.

With thousands of cesspools in the state potentially contaminating water supplies, coral reefs, and public health thorough research is required to figure out the best way forward to convert these systems to more sustainable ones while considering the burden on Hawaii's economy and local households. **We ask your support of SB696** to allow more time for these cesspool studies so that the most well vetted solutions can be determined.

Please contact us at globalwater@gmail.com should you have any questions or require additional information regarding this matter.

Sincerely,
One World One Water



CORAL REEF ALLIANCE

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair Committee on Agriculture and Environment (AEN)

Re: SB 696: Relating to Cesspools
Wednesday, February 13, 2019
Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.

From: Erica Perez- Program Manager (Hawai'i Island)
eperez@coral.org
Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)

Subject: I am testifying in Support with comment of SB 696 Relating to Cesspools: extends various reporting deadlines and the sunset date of the cesspool conversion working group established pursuant to Act 132

I am testifying in Support of SB 696 relating to cesspools on behalf of the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL). CORAL is an international coral reef conservation organization that works with communities, businesses, and governments to save coral reefs. With field offices on Maui and Hawai'i Island, and projects throughout the Main Hawaiian Islands, CORAL uses a science-based approach to improve coastal water quality. Throughout the state, CORAL's programs mitigate land-based sources of pollution, such as wastewater discharge and stormwater runoff. CORAL is happy to be a member of the State Cesspool Working Group.

As a working group member, I can attest to the tight timeline and long list of objectives required from the committee. Any action that will provide flexibility in spending and allow the group additional time to make critical decisions would be of great help. The task of researching sewage contamination in nearshore marine areas is critical to the prioritization of communities in the statewide cesspool transition and identification of technology alternatives. Quality research takes time and will be critical in the decision making process of that transition. While there is urgency an extension would be helpful.

In closing, CORAL Supports SB 696. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Erica Perez, Program Manager (Hawai'i Island)
eperez@coral.org
Coral Reef Alliance



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 224
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019 AT 1:25 P.M.**

To The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair;
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair; and
Members of Committee on Agriculture and Environment;

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 696 RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, with approximately 650 members. I am writing share our support of SB 696.

There are significant challenges in our community with cesspools and we appreciate the work of the Cesspool Conversion Working Group to complete studies and research. We support this bill to grant an extension as we want to ensure that the work by this group gets completed and completed well.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this matter and ask that this bill be passed.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 1:25 p.m.

By
Darren Lerner, Director
Water Resources Research Center
and
Michael Bruno
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 696 – RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) strongly supports this measure. In light of the fact that Hawai'i has the the largest concentration of coastal cesspools in the nation and understanding the importance of clean, healthy ocean waters to Hawai'i's people, communities and economy, Act 132, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2018, appropriated \$500,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the WRRC to conduct a comprehensive statewide study of sewage contamination in nearshore marine areas. The WRRC recognizes that this research and the information that WRRC would be able to provide the Cesspool Conversion Working Group (CCWG) established by Act 312, SLH 2018, and organized by the State of Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH) would be significantly more robust and informative by the proposed appropriation of an additional \$500,000 and the provision of additional time to conduct these studies for fiscal year 2020-2021. In consideration of the additional funding in support of continued research, the proposed extension of the date for reporting to the legislature is also recognized as appropriate and is well appreciated.

From our discussions with the University of Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology and DOH, they also support this measure. DOH specifically stated that they would need the additional time and funding to conduct research or gather technical assistance on other issues as identified by the CCWG in completing its comprehensive cesspool conversion plan and they understand the need for additional funds as detailed in this bill to carry out our collective charge to fruition.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-696

Submitted on: 2/6/2019 1:49:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Winslow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-696

Submitted on: 2/12/2019 12:22:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/13/2019 1:25:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments: