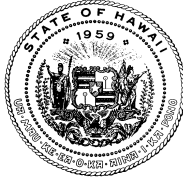


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



ELIZABETH A. CHAR, M.D.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

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

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1806 HD2 SD1
RELATING TO CESSPOOL CONVERSION**

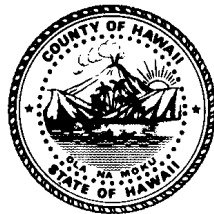
SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: 4/1/2022

Room Number: 211/Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) supports this measure. The
- 3 bill removes the limitation on specific types (septic and aerobic treatment unit systems) that may
- 4 be installed to replace cesspools. The Department agrees with the current language of this
- 5 measure that states all cesspools shall be upgraded or converted to a director-approved
- 6 wastewater system.
- 7 **Offered Amendments:** None.
- 8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

LATE

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy. Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 31, 2022
TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB1806 HD2 SD1, RELATING TO CESSPOOL CONVERSION
Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, April 1, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

I support the amendments to Section 342D-72, Hawaii Revised Statutes that are proposed in HB1806 HD2 SD1.

The State of Hawaii Department of Health Wastewater Branch website indicates that almost half of the 88,000 cesspools in Hawaii pose a risk to water resources. Cesspools in Hawai'i release approximately 53 million gallons of untreated sewage into the ground each day.

There are approximately 6,700 cesspools that are located within 200 feet of a perennial stream channel throughout the State. There are approximately 31,000 cesspools that are located within the perennial watersheds on the islands of Hawai'i, Kauai, Maui, and Molokai.

Failing cesspools are contaminating the State's ground water, streams, and coastal ecosystems. Public health for Hawaii's residents and visitors and the quality of drinking water, streams, ground waters, marine areas, and the ocean is being harmed by water pollution of cesspools.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Ways and Means to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

HB-1806-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 5:24:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

RE: Hearing HB1806 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO CESSPOOL CONVERSION,

Friday, April 1, 2022, 10:30 am

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition is a group focused on protecting corals and other ocean species. **The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1806 HD2 SD1!**

Hawaii has nearly eighty-eight thousand cesspools that release more than fifty million gallons of raw sewage into the State's groundwater and surface waters every day! Cesspools need to be phased out in order to protect Hawaii's drinking waters, surface water quality, and coral reefs and other aquatic life!

Although the State established a requirement for the upgrade, conversion, or connection of all cesspools in the State by 2050, **the mandate's language should be clarified, as this bill does, to ensure that cesspools are upgraded or converted to a Director of Health-approved wastewater system, rather than limiting the upgrades to current technologies of just septic systems or aerobic treatment units.**

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



March 31, 2022

In Support of **HB1806 HD2 SD1** Relating to Cesspool Conversion
Senate Committee on Ways And Means (WAM)
Hearing on April 1, 10:30am

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the non-profit WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations, I am writing in **strong support of HB1806 HD1 SD2**. This bill would remove the limitation on specific types of wastewater systems to which cesspools must be upgraded or converted to and instead simply requires them to be upgraded to a wastewater system approved by the Department of Health.

Hawaii has more than 88,000 cesspools across the state, discharging 53 million gallons of raw sewage each day into Hawaii's waters. That's similar to a massive sewage spill every day. As a member of the Cesspool Conversion Working Group, I believe this bill provides needed flexibility for DOH's Wastewater Branch to update their rules to allow for innovative and efficient wastewater systems. This will help the state fulfill its mandate under Act 125 to convert all cesspools by 2050 and give homeowners better and often more affordable options.

WAI is a non-profit dedicated to protecting our drinking water, groundwater and near-shore ecosystems by reducing sewage pollution from cesspools and failing septic systems. Our goal is to help find more innovative, affordable and eco-friendly solutions to wastewater management. Better sanitation systems reduce sewage pollution, protect public health and make properties more valuable, while also protecting our groundwater, streams, coral reefs and coastal areas.

Hawaii is struggling with serious sewage pollution problems, and we need to convert 88,000 cesspools in the next three decades. Previously, DOH required cesspools be converted only to septic systems or Aerobic Treatment Units (ATU's) without allowing for other more efficient and affordable technologies. Though septic systems offer more treatment of pathogens, they do not reduce nutrient pollution, and elevated nitrogen levels can lead to higher risks of cancer and threats to our coral reefs. ATU's offer nutrient reduction but require pumps, annual maintenance fees and increased utility costs to run properly. The good news is that new passive, nature-based systems also offer nutrient reduction but without pumps, maintenance or increased utility costs. This bill would allow for more innovative new treatment systems like these.

Based on successful bills in other states, this bill creates a practical and expedient way to convert cesspools by allowing for more efficient and affordable options. It will also help homeowners, the counties and the state meet the mandate to convert all cesspools by 2050. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue and consideration of this bill.

Aloha,

Stuart Coleman

Stuart H. Coleman, Executive Director

HB-1806-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manuel Mejia	Testifying for CORAL (Coral Reef Alliance)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear WAM Committee,

The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) supports HB 1806 to require cesspool in the State to be upgraded or converted to a wastewater system approved by DOH before 1/1/2050. This would be a giant step towards ensuring that Hawaii's coral reefs, an incredibly productive resource we all rely on, will survive into the future.

We thank you for your bold and innovative leadership in creatively finding ways to find solutions for one of Hawaii's biggest problems-wastewater pollution which costs our state in health, environmental damage and lost revenues as a result of decreased benefits from our coral reefs (tourism, fisheries, coastal protection). Measures like this will ensure that we can provide clean water to our reefs, which safeguards Hawaii's beauty and sustainability.

Mahalo,
Manuel Mejia

LATE



**Written Statement of Elemental Excelerator
before the Senate Committees on Ways and Means**

In consideration of HB 1806, HD2 SD1 RELATING TO CESSPOOL CONVERSION

April 1, 2022

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

Elemental Excelerator respectfully submits **strong support** for HB 1806, HD2 SD1.

Elemental Excelerator is a Honolulu-based non-profit organization that supports climate positive startup companies that are helping solve Hawai'i's most urgent environmental problems. Each year, we select 15-20 companies annually that best fit our mission and fund each company up to \$1 million. To date, we have awarded over \$48 million to 135 companies resulting in 80 demonstration projects in Hawai'i & the Asia Pacific.

We strongly support HB 1806, HD2 SD1 and the effort to provide more flexibility in technologies that would assist the state to meet our goal of eliminating cesspools by 2050. Elemental Excelerator has invested directly in clean tech solutions that can help eliminate the pollution that results from cesspools, and we welcome the flexibility to allow the Director of the Department of Health to evaluate and approve different types of innovative systems.

Elemental Excelerator has helped support dozens of climate tech solution companies that create good jobs, help transition our economy to 100% clean energy, and advance progress in the areas of local agriculture, water security, circular economies, and clean transportation. HB 1806, HD2 SD1 will help foster continued progress for the State of Hawai'i as well as help increase the number of green jobs in our economy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

HB-1806-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2022 9:00:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Wolfendale	Testifying for Rotary Club Hanelie Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Rotary Club of Hanalei Bay continues to actively work for the conversion of cesspools on Kauai's Northshore. There are approximately 250 cesspools in the Hanalei area that flow directly the Hanalei River and/or Hanalei Bay after our frequent heavy rains. These waters are the primarily recreation areas for both visitors and residents endangering both health as well as the our local tourist generated economy. In our view, passage of HB1806 is a step towards a solution for this long lingering health danger.

HB-1806-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 10:38:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1806 removes an important limitation on advancing our treatment of wastewater in Hawaii. By allowing the DOH to approve additional technologies it opens the door for use of composting & incinerating toilets and other technologies that may be more appropriate in many cases than septic systems, which are not practical on all properties.

HB-1806-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 2:20:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/1/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The biggest Enviromental problem is the Wast Water system that is poluting our Oceans with Raw crap. They have bin doing this for Decades. There is always problems at the plant were some body lets the Crap in to the Ocean and it polutes the bay here in Hilo. Cespools were never the problem.The Government is just trying to Force the people to Pay more so they get to Rip more people off. It is to late the people are finding out just how crooked the Government is and will not STAND FOR IT. Put and end to the Forced Wast Water problem or WE WILL HAVE TO !! Stop lying to the People before it is to LATE!!