



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0368**  
**RELATING TO CESSPOOL CONVERSION**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: 2/9/2022

Room Number: 224

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) supports this measure with
- 3 comments. Wastewater systems are approved by the Director of Health and not the Department.
- 4 Suggested amendment to the bill is provided below.
- 5 **Offered Amendments:** The proposed amendment to §342D-72(a)(1), “a department-approved
- 6 wastewater system;” should be revised to “a *director*-approved wastewater system;”
- 7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**SB-368**

Submitted on: 2/4/2022 9:01:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

More Rip offs. We the people will not Stand for any of this any longer. Aloha



2/7/2022

AEN Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

**Position: Support SB368.**

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 4 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. The Surfrider Foundation focuses on many aspects of the environment such as coastal protection, plastic pollution, and water quality.

With an estimated 88,000 cesspools, Hawaii has one of the highest per capita number of cesspools in the nation. While the state has recognized the crucial need to convert these cesspools to newer technology, the conversion to septic or sewer can be upwards of \$30,000. Fortunately, advances in wastewater technology have increased substantially in the last few years and there are more affordable systems available.

By removing limits on cesspool upgrades, SB368 allows property owners access to more efficient and affordable systems. With the significant environmental impact of cesspools on Hawaii's water quality, we need all the tools and options available to tackle this major issue. SB368 provides us with expanding those options and making widespread cesspool conversion a reality.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of SB368, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawaii and all of our members who live in the state and visit to enjoy the many coastal recreational opportunities offered by all of the islands' coastlines.

Sincerely,

Lauren Blickley  
Hawaii Regional Manager  
Surfrider Foundation

**SB-368**

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 8:47:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Maui OFR	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill

**SB-368**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:05:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Gladys C Baisa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need the options in this bill. A septic system will not work for everyone!



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

**SB368**  
RELATING TO CESSPOOL CONVERSION

Wednesday, February 9, 2022, 1:00 PM  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB368** to remove the limitation on specific types of wastewater systems to which cesspools must be upgraded or converted, and instead requires a cesspool to be upgraded or converted to a wastewater system approved by the department of health, prior to 1/1/2050. We support the ability for conversion to other options besides septic tanks, and this bill will allow for that.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director



**SB-368**

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 11:56:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support removing the limitation on specific types of wastewater systems to which cesspools must be upgraded or converted. I support that the director of Health may grant exemptions to property owners who apply and present documentation showing legitimate reasons why they should not be required to upgrade, or convert. I pray that the Department of Health will come up with yet more acceptable conversion choices, such as composting toilets, which would remove the blackwater from the system, and satisfy the need to lower the nitrate level in a cesspool.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

**SB-368**

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:49:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/9/2022 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Pieter Meinster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the amended language that creates some opportunities for residents to explore alternative means of waste water management.