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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are  
2 approximately eighty three thousand cesspools across the state,  
3 with 48,596 on the island of Hawaii, fourteen thousand three  
4 hundred on Kauai, eleven thousand thirty eight on Maui, 7,491 on  
5 Oahu, and one thousand four hundred on Molokai. The legislature  
6 recognizes that pursuant to section 342D-72, Hawaii Revised  
7 Statutes, every cesspool in the State, excluding cesspools  
8 exempted by the director of health, shall be upgraded or  
9 converted to a director-approved wastewater system or connected  
10 to a sewerage system by January 1, 2050.

11           The legislature further finds that converting, upgrading,  
12 or connecting eighty three thousand cesspools by 2050 will be a  
13 massive infrastructure project and require proper planning and  
14 administration across various stakeholders and governmental  
15 entities, including several counties. According to the Cesspool  
16 Conversion Working Group Final Report, which was submitted to  
17 the legislature before the 2023 regular session, the cost of



1 conversion for most private and residential property owners is  
2 significant, from \$880,000,000 to more than \$5,300,000,000.  
3 More than ninety seven per cent of all residents in the State  
4 will be financially burdened by the costs of conversion.  
5 Moreover, conversion programs are time-consuming and require  
6 concerted long-term effort, planning, outreach, and adaptation.  
7 Many properties in rural areas, especially on the neighbor  
8 islands, are located in areas where existing county  
9 infrastructure inhibits cesspool conversion or connection to  
10 sewer systems. Accordingly, the legislature finds that each  
11 county should identify its wastewater management infrastructure  
12 needs, so that residents can comply with the mandate to  
13 successfully upgrade or convert all cesspools by January 1,  
14 2050.

15       The purpose of this Act is to require each county to submit  
16 to the legislature a comprehensive integrated wastewater  
17 management plan report that addresses and identifies the  
18 county's wastewater management needs, including financial needs.

19       SECTION 2. No later than twenty days prior to the  
20 convening of the regular session of 2024, the mayor of each  
21 county shall submit to the legislature a comprehensive



1 integrated wastewater management plan report. The report shall  
2 address the county's wastewater management and shall  
3 specifically identify:

4 (1) Planned connections to centralized public and private  
5 treatment systems;

6 (2) Locations where individual treatment systems will  
7 continue to be necessary;

8 (3) Locations where smaller-scale cluster treatment  
9 systems might be used;

10 (4) The individual treatment system needs of homes having  
11 cesspools, and whether there is an appropriate  
12 infrastructure capacity to handle the conversion of  
13 cesspools by January 1, 2050; and

14 (5) Financial needs, funding mechanisms, and financing  
15 strategies to assist with cesspool conversions in the  
16 county.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Michelle E. Loven  
JAN 20 2023



# H.B. NO. 587

**Report Title:**

Wastewater Management; Cesspools; Conversion; Upgrades; Counties

**Description:**

Requires each county to submit to the Legislature a comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan report that addresses and identifies the county's wastewater management needs, including financial needs.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

