

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING EACH COUNTY TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY TO UPGRADE OR CONVERT CESSPOOLS LOCATED WITHIN ITS RESPECTIVE JURISDICTION BY 2050.

1 WHEREAS, there are approximately eighty-three thousand
2 cesspools across the State, with 48,596 on the island of Hawaii;
3 14,300 on Kauai; 11,038 on Maui; 7,491 on Oahu; and 1,400 on
4 Molokai; and

5
6 WHEREAS, Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, requires
7 every cesspool in the State, excluding cesspools granted
8 exemptions by the Director of Health, to be upgraded or
9 converted to a Director-approved wastewater system or connected
10 to a sewerage system by January 1, 2050; and

11
12 WHEREAS, according to the Cesspool Conversion Working Group
13 Final Report to the 2023 Regular Session Legislature, the cost
14 of conversions to most private and residential property owners
15 is significant, ranging from an estimated collective total of
16 \$880,000,000 to more than \$5,300,000,000, with only three
17 percent of all residents unburdened by the cost to convert; and

18
19 WHEREAS, many properties in rural areas, especially on the
20 neighbor islands, may not be in areas where existing county
21 infrastructure allows for easy conversion and connection to
22 sewer systems; and

23
24 WHEREAS, undertaking a massive infrastructure project, such
25 as converting eighty-three thousand cesspools by 2050, requires
26 proper planning and administration across various stakeholders
27 and governmental institutions, including those of the counties;
28 now, therefore,

29
30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
32 that each county is requested to develop a comprehensive
33 integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy to



1 upgrade or convert cesspools located within its respective
2 jurisdiction by 2050; and

3

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each county is requested to
5 include the following information in its comprehensive
6 integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy:

7

8 (1) Planned connections to both centralized public and
9 private treatment systems;

10

11 (2) Locations where individualized treatment systems will
12 be needed;

13

14 (3) Locations where smaller-scale cluster treatment
15 systems may be utilized;

16

17 (4) Individual treatment system needs for homes having
18 cesspools, including whether there is appropriate
19 existing infrastructure capacity to handle the
20 conversion of cesspools by 2050; and

21

22 (5) Financial needs, funding mechanisms, and financing
23 strategies to assist with cesspool conversions; and

24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each county is requested to
26 submit its respective comprehensive integrated wastewater
27 management plan and financial strategy, including any proposed
28 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
29 to the convening of the regular session of 2024; and

30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
32 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Mayor of
33 the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Hawaii,
34 Mayor of the County of Maui, and Mayor of the County of Kauai.

35

36

37

OFFERED BY: 

