

JAN 25 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CESSPOOLS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has more than
2 eighty thousand cesspools. These cesspools discharge
3 approximately fifty million gallons of wastewater into the
4 State's groundwater each day, causing harm to the health of
5 Hawaii's people and the quality of Hawaii's waters.

6 The legislature further finds that the cesspool conversion
7 working group recently issued recommendations to facilitate the
8 statewide conversion of all cesspools. The implementation of
9 these recommendations will require a significant effort and a
10 commitment of additional personnel resources. This investment
11 will also help to ensure that the State complies with the
12 mandate of Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, to upgrade,
13 convert, or connect all cesspools in the State by 2050.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

15 (1) Create a new cesspool conversion section within the
16 department of health's wastewater branch that is



1 dedicated to facilitating the conversion of cesspools
2 within the State; and

3 (2) Establish and appropriate moneys for two new full-time
4 equivalent permanent positions within the new cesspool
5 conversion section in fiscal year 2023-2024, and two
6 additional full-time equivalent positions in fiscal
7 year 2024-2025.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 342D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new section to part IV to be appropriately
10 designated and to read as follows:

11 "§342D- Wastewater branch; cesspool conversion section.

12 There is established a cesspool conversion section within the
13 wastewater branch of the department, which shall:

14 (1) Manage and facilitate various state financing options
15 for the conversion of cesspools in the State;

16 (2) Develop and manage public outreach and education
17 regarding the conversion of cesspools;

18 (3) Inform cesspool owners of available options and
19 assistance for compliant conversions of cesspools;

20 (4) Manage any federal, state, or other available grants
21 to assist with the conversion of cesspools;



- 1 (5) Secure available federal funding that may be used to
- 2 assist in the conversion of cesspools; and
- 3 (6) Facilitate partnerships with counties, non-
- 4 governmental organizations, and the private sector
- 5 relating to the department's responsibilities under
- 6 this section."

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
10 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
11 year 2024-2025 to establish two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE)
12 permanent positions within the cesspool conversion section.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
14 of health for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
18 establish two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent positions
19 within the cesspool conversion section.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
21 health for the purposes of this Act.

1 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 1556

Report Title:

DOH; Wastewater Branch; Cesspool Conversion; Appropriations

Description:

Creates within the Department of Health's wastewater branch a cesspool conversion section, which will be responsible for facilitating the conversion of cesspools within the State. Establishes 2.0 full-time equivalent positions within the cesspool conversion section in fiscal year 2023-2024, and 2.0 additional full-time equivalent positions within the section in fiscal year 2024-2025. Appropriates moneys.

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