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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WASTEWATER.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has  
2 approximately eighty-three thousand cesspools that discharge an  
3 estimated fifty million gallons of untreated sewage into the  
4 State's groundwater and surface waters every day. This  
5 antiquated technology threatens drinking water, increases the  
6 risk of human illness, and causes significant harm to streams  
7 and coastal resources, including coral reefs.

8           The legislature also finds that, although the counties are  
9 responsible for constructing and maintaining wastewater systems,  
10 the State presently does not require the counties to develop  
11 wastewater management plans nor are the counties required to  
12 identify neighborhoods that could be connected to existing and  
13 planned wastewater treatment facilities.

14           Due to this lack of formal wastewater management planning,  
15 individual landowners, the counties, and the department of  
16 health currently do not know which cesspools are situated in  
17 areas that will eventually be connected with existing and



1 proposed county wastewater facilities, and when those  
2 connections can be made. The legislature notes that although  
3 the university of Hawaii established the Hawaii cesspool  
4 prioritization tool to prioritize cesspools for connection and  
5 conversion, landowners and government agencies are currently  
6 unable to identify which priority cesspools are located in areas  
7 where wastewater facilities will be expanded. This lack of  
8 information makes it difficult for individuals currently served  
9 by cesspools to decide whether to invest in cesspool conversions  
10 or to wait to connect with existing or proposed county  
11 wastewater systems.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 13 (1) Require the university of Hawaii water resources  
14 research center and the university of Hawaii sea grant  
15 college program to develop an overlay with the Hawaii  
16 cesspool prioritization tool to identify specific  
17 priority areas in which the county sewer system or  
18 other centralized treatment system may most feasibly  
19 be expanded or constructed to reduce or eliminate  
20 cesspools before January 1, 2050; and



1           (2) Appropriate moneys to the university of Hawaii to  
2           develop the overlay.

3           The legislature declares that the actions required of the  
4 university of Hawaii water resources research center and sea  
5 grant college program pursuant to this Act are a matter of  
6 statewide concern.

7           SECTION 2. (a) The university of Hawaii water resources  
8 research center and the university of Hawaii sea grant college  
9 program shall develop an overlay with the Hawaii cesspool  
10 prioritization tool to identify specific priority areas in which  
11 the county sewer system or other centralized treatment system  
12 may most feasibly be expanded or constructed to reduce or  
13 eliminate cesspools before January 1, 2050.

14           (b) In developing the overlay pursuant to this section,  
15 the university of Hawaii water resources research center and the  
16 university of Hawaii sea grant college program shall:

17           (1) Consult with relevant stakeholders; and

18           (2) Consider factors such as density of development,  
19           proximity to wastewater infrastructure, existing  
20           county plans, timing, cost, and any other factors  
21           deemed relevant and necessary.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$350,814 or so much  
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the  
4 university of Hawaii water resources research center and the sea  
5 grant college program to develop an overlay with the Hawaii  
6 cesspool prioritization tool to identify specific priority areas  
7 in which the county sewer system or other centralized treatment  
8 system may most feasibly be expanded or constructed to reduce or  
9 eliminate cesspools before January 1, 2050.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of  
11 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act; provided that the moneys  
12 appropriated shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium  
13 for which the appropriation is made; provided further that all  
14 moneys from the appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2026,  
15 shall lapse as of that date.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.



**Report Title:**

UH; Cesspools; Wastewater; Hawaii Cesspool Prioritization Tool Overlay; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center and the Sea Grant College Program to develop an overlay with the Hawaii Cesspool Prioritization Tool to identify specific priority areas in which the county sewer system or other centralized treatment system may most feasibly be expanded or constructed to reduce or eliminate cesspools before 1/1/2050. Makes an appropriation. (CD1)

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