



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1892, RELATING TO CESSPOOLS.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND ON WATER AND LAND

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2024 **TIME:** 9:05 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Joanna Yeh, Deputy Attorney General

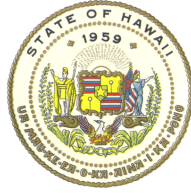
Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The bill is entitled "Relating to Cesspools." Section 8 of the bill, however, would eliminate the auditing requirement on tax credits for organically produced agricultural products.

This bill may be subject to challenge as violating the single subject requirement of section 14 of article III of the State Constitution, which provides that "[e]ach law shall embrace but one subject, which shall be expressed in its title." The subject expressed in this bill's title is "cesspools," but section 8 of this bill proposes to amend section 23-94(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to delete the Auditor's requirement to audit the tax credits relating to organically produced agricultural products (see page 12, lines 13-14), which appears to be beyond the scope of the subject of this bill, "cesspools." To address this possible constitutional concern, the Department recommends that either: (1) section 8 of this bill, which amends section 23-94(c), HRS, be deleted; or (2) wording be added to section 1 of this bill to explain how the repeal of the Auditor's statutorily required review of the income tax credit for organically produced agricultural products is related to the subject of cesspools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the bill.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION
COMMISSION
POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Co-Chairs:
Chair, DLNR
Director, OPSD

Commissioners:
Chair, Senate AEN
Chair, Senate WTL
Chair, House EEP
Chair, House WAL
Chairperson, HTA
Chairperson, DOA
CEO, OHA
Chairperson, DHHL
Director, DBEDT
Director, DOT
Director, DOH
Chairperson, DOE
Director, C+C DPP
Director, Maui DP
Director, Hawaii DP
Director, Kauai DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM

**Testimony of
Leah Laramee
Coordinator, Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission**

**Before the House Committees on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AND
COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

**Tuesday February 13, 2024
9:05 AM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325**

**In support of
House Bill 1892
RELATING TO CESSPOOLS**

House Bill 1892 requires certain priority level 1 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2035, and priority level 2 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2045, rather than before 1/1/2050 and appropriates funds to implement the cesspool compliance pilot grant project established pursuant to Act 153, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022. The bill also establishes an income tax credit for the cost of upgrading or converting a qualified cesspool to a director of health-approved wastewater system or connecting to a sewerage system. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Commission consists of a multi-jurisdictional effort between 20 different departments, committees, and counties. Removal of cesspools for all properties within the Sea Level Rise Exposure Area (SLR-XA), is imperative to the health of nearshore waters and for members of the public accessing coastal resources. Removal may not be achievable by 2050 as directed by state law without viable alternatives for replacement. Cesspools on the shoreline and in the coastal zone will be an increasing source of nonpoint source pollution as groundwater rises and coastal erosion accelerates. The Commission's 2022 update to the *Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report* Recommended Action 6.4 counsels that the State should expand policy directives beyond the existing income tax credits and requirement for removal by 2050. Accelerating the conversion of cesspools of any kind would ensure a more resilient future and safer reefs and waters for kama'āina and visitors alike.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT GOVERNOR



Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority

An Agency of the State of Hawaii

JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA
CHAIR

GWEN S YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawaii Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
and
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 9:05 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325
in consideration of
HOUSE BILL NO. 1892
RELATING CESSPOOLS

Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on House Bill No. 1892 relating to cesspools. The Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) **strongly supports** this bill which provides for staggered deadlines to upgrade priority level 1 and level 2 cesspools ahead of the existing 2050 deadline.

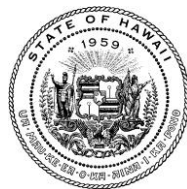
Prioritizing and accelerating conversion dates for systems with the most severe impacts will not only provide more timely protection of our groundwater sources, but it will also provide a sense of urgency while allowing the industry to gear up for increased demand to convert some 13,800 cesspools between 2024 to 2035; 12,400 cesspool conversions between 2036 to 2040, and the remaining 56,800 cesspool conversions between 2041 to 2050.

Providing grants and tax credits on qualified cesspool conversion upgrades will help offset the cost of complying with this statute.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and provide comments on House Bill No. 1892.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. No. 1892, Relating to Cesspools.

BEFORE THE:

House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Water & Land

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 2024

TIME: 9:05 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice-Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Taxation ("Department") offers the following comments regarding H.B. 1892 for your consideration.

Part IV, section 6 of the bill, beginning on page 6, adds a new section to chapter 235, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which reinstates a nonrefundable income tax credit equal to the qualified expenses of the taxpayer, up to a maximum of \$10,000, for the upgrade or conversion of a qualified cesspool to a wastewater system approved by the Director of Health or connection to a sewerage system. The credit will be certified by the Department of Health (DOH) and has an unspecified aggregate cap. The measure is effective upon approval, with the new credit applying to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.

The Department defers to DOH on its ability to certify this credit and administer its aggregate cap, but requests that the third-party certification be maintained, as the Department lacks the subject-matter expertise to properly administer this credit.

The Department further requests that this measure be amended so that the new tax credit in section 6 shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024. This will provide sufficient time for the Department to make the various necessary form,

instruction, computer system, and administrative changes that this proposal contemplates, as well as provide taxpayer education about the credit.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
House Committee on Water & Land
Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 9:05 a.m.

By

Darren T. Lerner, PhD
Director, University of Hawai'i (UH) Sea Grant College Program
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

Thomas Giambelluca, PhD
Director, UH Water Resources Research Center

And

Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1892 – RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees:

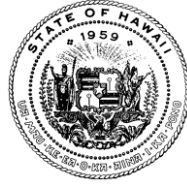
The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program and UH Water Resources Research Center **express support** for HB 1892, a comprehensive bill with the following key provisions:

- It sets deadlines for upgrading, converting, or connecting priority level 1 cesspools by 1/1/2035 and priority level 2 cesspools by 1/1/2045, advancing the previous deadline of 1/1/2050.
- It allocates funds to implement the cesspool compliance pilot grant project established under Act 153, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022.
- It introduces an income tax credit aimed at offsetting expenses related to upgrading or converting a qualified cesspool to a director of health-approved wastewater system or connecting it to a sewerage system.

The Cesspool Conversion Working Group has highlighted that most cesspool owners face financial constraints hindering the upgrade to advanced wastewater treatment systems. Eliminating cesspools promptly is crucial for human and environmental health, necessitating various financial assistance mechanisms for homeowners.

We support a swifter transition and recognize the need for financial support in doing so. While the inclusion of an income tax credit for cesspool transition is crucial, there remains a need to explore additional financial aid options such as subsidies or grants to alleviate the financial burden on homeowners.

Thank you for considering our testimony on this important measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1892
RELATING TO CESSPOOLS**

REPRESENTATIVE NICOLE E. LOWEN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

REPRESENTATIVE LINDA ICHIYAMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Hearing Date: 2/13/2024

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure and concurs with the
5 recommendation of the cesspool conversion working group to accelerate the dates for required
6 upgrades, conversion, and connections to sewers for cesspools located in priority 1 and 2 areas
7 according to the University of Hawai'i 2022 Hawai'i cesspool prioritization tool¹. The
8 Department supports the appropriation of funds to provide financing assistance via the cesspool
9 compliance pilot grant project established pursuant to Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. In
10 addition, the Department concurs with the exemption criteria and the ability to provide
11 extensions that are provided in the measure.

12 The Department supports the re-establishment of the cesspool upgrade, conversion, or
13 connection income tax credit program and recognizes that there is a need to provide a variety of
14 financing options to assist residents for cesspool conversions in addition to the program that was
15 established by Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022.

16 **Offered Amendments:** The Department respectfully suggests the following revision to the
17 proposed HRS amendment. Deletions appear as strikeouts.

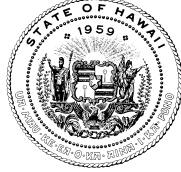
¹ <https://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/cesspools-tool/>

1 SECTION 6, Page 10, lined 4-7: “(A) Located within a priority level 1 or 2 area
2 according to the University of Hawaii’s 2022 Hawaii cesspool ~~hazard assessment and~~
3 prioritization tool; or”

4 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawaii'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawaii'i*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRMAN, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawaii'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION
AND
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 13, 2024 AT 9:05AM IN CR 325

HB 1892, RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

February 13, 2024

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports this bill which
1) Part II: Requires certain priority level 1 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2035, and priority level 2 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2045, rather than before 1/1/2050; **2) Part III:** Appropriates funds to implement the cesspool compliance pilot grant project established pursuant to Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022; and **3) Part IV:** Establishes an income tax credit for the cost of upgrading or converting a qualified cesspool to a director of health-approved wastewater system or connecting to a sewerage system.

Approximately 2,500 cesspools exist on Hawaiian Home Lands and majority of which are ranked as priority level 1 or priority level 2 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected to a sewerage system. The DHHL understands the urgency to complete these conversions and connections before the year 2050.

DHHL also supports an appropriation of funds to implement the cesspool compliance pilot grant project established pursuant to Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. This pilot project will provide the opportunity for alternative, financially feasible, and effective wastewater technologies to be evaluated and published in reports for DHHL, current lessees residing on Hawaiian Home Lands, and potential beneficiaries to understand the challenges and financial costs of cesspool conversions and wastewater technologies.

Lastly, DHHL supports the proposal to establish an income tax credit for the cost of upgrading or converting a qualified cesspool to a director of health-approved wastewater system or connecting to a sewerage system. DHHL understands that there are approximately 88,000 cesspools statewide that will require cesspool conversion approvals. The average cost to convert a small-capacity cesspool to a septic system in Hawai'i can be upwards of \$23,000. Cesspool conversion costs are especially high in remote locations and neighbor islands such as Moloka'i. The DHHL therefore supports this measure as it may assist low- and moderate-income property owners, including lessees on Hawaiian Home Lands, with upgrading, converting, or connecting failing cesspools to more environmentally appropriate systems or sewerage systems.

DHHL understands that there is no simple, one method fits all ahupua'a (land division) solution toward addressing the cesspool conversion and wastewater needs of the State of Hawaii and we support this measure that may improve the implementation of the diverse and feasible ways to fulfill the noted requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Bill DeCosta
Ross Kagawa



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 1, 2024

**TESTIMONY OF ADDISON BULOSAN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL**

**ON
HB 2264, RELATING TO CESSPOOLS
AND
HB 1759, RELATING TO CESSPOOLS
AND
HB 1894, RELATING TO CESSPOOLS
AND
HB 1691, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT
AND
HB 1892, RELATING TO CESSPOOLS
AND
HB 1893, RELATING TO CESSPOOL CONVERSIONS
AND
HB 2738, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
House Committee on Water & Land
Tuesday, February 13, 2024
9:05 a.m.
Conference Room 325
Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Lowen, Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2264, Relating to Cesspools, HB 1759, Relating to Cesspools, HB 1894, Relating to Cesspools, HB 1691, Relating to the Environment, HB 1892, Relating to Cesspools, HB 1893, Relating to Cesspool Conversions, and HB 2738, Relating to Renewable Energy. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council.

I wholeheartedly support the intent of HB 2264, HB 1759, HB 1894, HB 1691, HB 1892, HB 1893, and HB 2738, which would greatly affect the Kaua'i community.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 2264, HB 1759, HB 1894, HB 1691, HB 1892, HB 1893, and HB 2738. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

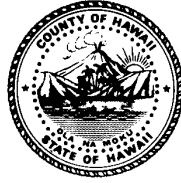
Sincerely,

ADDISON BULOSAN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:ss

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Deanna S. Sako
Managing Director



Ramzi I. Mansour
Director

Brenda Iokepa-Moses
Deputy Director

County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

345 Kekūanāo'a Street, Suite 41 · Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 · cohdem@hawaiiicounty.gov

Ph: (808) 961-8083 · Fax: (808) 961-8086

February 8, 2024

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Water and Land

Dear Chair Lowen, Chair Ichiyama, and Committee Members,

I served as a member of the Cesspool Conversion Working Group. The Department of Environmental Management supports this bill. HB 1892 supports the intent of **Priority A1** of the working group's recommendations, which is to accelerate the deadline for owners of cesspools in certain environmentally sensitive areas.

In Hawai'i County, where 37 percent of the cesspools in the Priority Level 1 group are located (and only 14 percent of the State's population), it is the judgment of this specialized working group that it would be otherwise impossible for residents to meet the 2050 conversion deadline without identifying cesspools in immediate need of conversion. This bill accelerates compliance with the 2050 deadline and protection of our groundwater sources and nearshore environments from the deleterious effects of cesspools.

Please refer to our report (DC175, 2023) for the importance of passing this bill:

“The working group recommends, based on greater understanding of impacts cesspools have on nearshore water quality and human health, that the deadline by which cesspools in the State must be converted should be adjusted to a staggered timeline that would accelerate the mandatory conversion date for cesspools that pose the highest risk of harming human or environmental health, as determined by the Hawai'i Cesspool Prioritization Tool and supporting water quality data. The working group further recommends the adoption of policies and mechanisms that will facilitate this acceleration and the need for an iterative process as new findings are established.”

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Ramzi Mansour, Director

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: INCOME TAX, Tax Credit for Cesspool Upgrade, Conversion, or Connection

BILL NUMBER: HB 1892, SB 2426

INTRODUCED BY: HB by LOWEN, EVSLIN, KAHALOA, KITAGAWA, MARTEN, MATAYOSHI, NAKAMURA, PERRUSO, TARNAS, TODD; SB by GABBARD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Part II: Requires priority level 1 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2035, and priority level 2 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2040, rather than before 1/1/2050. Part III: Appropriates funds to implement the cesspool compliance pilot grant project established pursuant to Act 153, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2022. Part IV: Establishes an income tax credit for the cost of upgrading or converting a qualified cesspool to a director of health-approved wastewater system or connecting to a sewerage system.

SYNOPSIS: As it relates to taxation, part IV of the bill adds a new section to chapter 235, HRS, allowing a nonrefundable income tax credit for a cesspool upgrade, conversion, or connection equal to 100% of qualified expenses of the taxpayer. The maximum credit is \$10,000 and a maximum of one cesspool upgrade, conversion, or connection income tax credit per qualified cesspool.

Qualified expenses are defined as costs that are necessary and directly incurred for upgrading or converting a qualified cesspool to a director of health-approved wastewater system, or connecting a qualified cesspool to a sewerage system, and that are certified as such by the department of health.

The Department of Health (department) is tasked with the responsibility of certifying claims for the credit. The department shall discontinue certifying credits if, in any year, the annual amount reaches \$_____ in the aggregate. Taxpayers whose credit claims are disallowed because of the cap may claim the credit in the following year.

The Director of Taxation shall prepare forms and adopt necessary rules.

If the tax credit exceeds the taxpayer's income tax liability, the excess of the credit over liability may be used as a credit against the taxpayer's income tax liability in subsequent years until exhausted. All claims for the tax credit under this section, including amended claims, shall be filed on or before the end of the twelfth month following the close of the taxable year for which the credit may be claimed. Failure to do so waives the right to the credit.

Definitions for cesspool, qualified cesspool, qualified expenses, residential large capacity cesspool, sewerage system, and wastewater are provided.

Amends section 23-92 HRS, section 23-94, HRS and section 23-95, HRS, which mandate periodic review of credits by the State Auditor.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Part IV (income tax credits) shall be applicable to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2023.

STAFF COMMENTS: Act 120, SLH 2015, enacted a temporary income tax credit, expiring on December 31, 2020, for 100% of the qualified costs of a cesspool upgrade, conversion, or connection, up to \$10,000. Act 182, SLH 2016, made clarifying amendments.

This measure means to reinstate the nonrefundable credit, which is an extension of the current effort to mitigate the public health hazards caused by cesspools, which release millions of gallons of untreated sewage into the ground. Many houses, especially in rural areas, still have them. Converting them is expensive, hence the credit to encourage homeowners to do so.

Lawmakers need to keep in mind two things. First, the tax system is the device that raises the money that they, lawmakers, like to spend. Using the tax system to shape social policy merely throws the revenue raising system out of whack, making the system less than reliable as there is no way to determine how many taxpayers will avail themselves of the credit and in what amount.

The second point to remember about tax credits is that they are nothing more than the expenditure of public dollars, but out the back door. If, in fact, these dollars were subject to the appropriation process, would taxpayers be as generous about the expenditure of these funds when there isn't enough money for social service programs, funding is needed for wildfire relief, or our state hospitals are on the verge of collapse?

If lawmakers want to subsidize the conversion of cesspools, then a direct appropriation would be more accountable and transparent.

Furthermore, the additional credit would require changes to tax forms and instructions, reprogramming, staff training, and other costs that could be massive in amount. A direct appropriation may be a far less costly method to accomplish the same thing.

As drafted, the income tax credit is "available only for the taxable year in which the taxpayer's qualified expenses are certified by the department of health." Though unusual in that most credits based on expenses need to be claimed in the return for the taxable year in which the expenses are incurred, this approach makes sense and does solve the problem of what to do about expenses straddling taxable years.

Digested: 2/7/2024



To: The Honorable Chairs Nicole Lowen, and Linda Ichiyama, the Honorable Vice Chairs Elle Cochran and Mahina Poepoe, and Members of the Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Water and Land.

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing **HB1892 RELATING TO CESSPOOLS**

Hearing: Tuesday February 13, 2024 9:05 a.m.

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Committees on Energy and Environmental Protection and Water and Land:

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. Hawai'i has over 80,000 cesspools that discharge about 50 million gallons of raw sewage into our groundwater every day! HIROC is deeply concerned about the impact the state's cesspools have on Hawaii's marine life, especially coral reefs.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1892!

This bill is needed now because pollution from cesspools is harming the public health, the quality of Hawaii's waters and marine life, including especially coral reefs, and the State's reputation for pristine waters.

Cesspools are antiquated, substandard systems that damage public health, pollute drinking water, and lower water quality in streams, ground waters, nearshore marine areas, and the ocean. This **discharge of sewage pathogens from cesspools can make people sick**. Sea level rise will further exacerbate the public health and environmental problems, as it will cause more cesspools to overflow onto the surface.

The release of **nutrients from cesspools causes algae growth, which can smother the precious coral reefs that are essential to protecting our shorelines, nurturing our fisheries and native species, and enabling our lucrative recreational and visitor economy**. A study reported in Nature Journal last August found that “Coral reef ecosystems are being fundamentally restructured by local human impacts and climate-driven marine heatwaves that trigger mass coral bleaching and mortality.” Coral reefs benefit from reduced land–sea impacts under ocean warming. Gove, J.M., Williams, G.J., Lecky, J. *et al. Nature* **621**, 536–542 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-023-06394-w>.

Under Act 125 (2017), all cesspools are mandated to be converted by 2050. The cesspool conversion working group, established pursuant to Act 132 of 2018, gathered and considered new scientific and policy data, studies by wastewater experts, activities in other jurisdictions, owners' ability to pay, financing mechanisms, and the latest technologies for treating wastewater. Based on this work, **the working group recommended ways to facilitate the upgrading of cesspools in Hawai'i**.

Prioritizing cesspool upgrades: **The first and most important recommendation of the working group was to stagger the timing of upgrades of cesspools, creating earlier deadlines for the most polluting cesspools (in Priority Areas 1 & 2) to minimize pollution more quickly**. These cesspools pose the more serious threats to public health, drinking water supplies, coral reefs and water quality in nearshore areas. Earlier deadlines for these priority cesspools **would also make more possible the timely completion of all cesspool upgrades by 2050**.

The report categorized **13,821 cesspools** as **causing the greatest amount of pollution (priority level 1) and recommended that they be upgraded, converted, or connected to sewers by 2030**. This bill provides an extra five years until **2035**.

Priority level 2 cesspools are those cesspools that represent the next most significant contamination hazard. The report categorized **12,367 cesspools in the State as priority level 2 and recommended that they be upgraded, converted, or connected to sewers by 2035**. This bill provides an extra five years until **2040**. **Note that the bill's description contains a typographical error that needs correction; it says Priority 2 cesspools shall be upgraded by 2045, when the bill in fact says 2040.**

About 30% of cesspools are priority 1 or 2. The remaining priority 3 (approximately 70%) would have to be upgraded by 2050.

Financial Assistance Grants: The bill would also extend the successful funding support program under Act 153 (to assist low-moderate income homeowners with the costs of cesspool conversion). **This bill currently does not include the establishment of two staff positions at DOH or an appropriation to fund those positions. It may be easier to add that establishment and appropriation for the two positions to implement the Act 153 grants to Part III of this bill rather than passing a second bill.**

Income Tax Credit: The bill also would reestablish an income tax credit for the cost of converting cesspools to an approved system.

This bill is critically needed to phase in the cesspool upgrades, with the most polluting cesspools upgraded first. This will make it feasible to follow the law requiring all cesspools to be upgraded by 2050. Substantial financial support will be needed; this bill provides some of the needed assistance in grants and income tax credits.

Please pass this excellent bill!

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



**PUAKŌ FOR
REEFS**

A Community Dedicated to Saving Puakō Reef

Return the reef to its historic 70% coral coverage from its existing 7%.

www.puako4reefs.org

February 11, 2024

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2024. 9:05am. Conference Room 325, State Capitol

**TO: Energy and Environmental Protection Committee Chair, Nicole Lowen,
Vice-Chair, Elle Cochran and
Members Cedric Asuega Gates, Kirstin Kahaloa, Amy Perruso, Justin Woodson, Gene Ward**

**TO: Water and Land Committee Chair, Linda Ichiyama
Vice-Chair, Mahina Poepoe and
Members, Cory Chun, Sonny Ganaden, Mark Hashem, May Besarion Mizuno, Dee Morikawa,
Gregg Takayama, Kanani Souza**

**RE: House Bills 2264, 2066, 1759, 1894, 1691, 1892, 1893, and 1898. Relating to Cesspools,
Financing, the Environment, and Cesspool Conversions.**

Aloha, my name is Barbara Bell, a resident of Puakō, South Kohala and a member of the Board of a newly formed 501 (c) 3 organization, Puakō for Reefs. Puakō is a low-lying residential community with the majority of houses having their original cesspools which continue to damage the reef and near-shore waters.

Puako for Reefs (PFR) is in strong support of all the cesspool, and environment House Bills on your agenda today, as well as the financing to support these measures.

As you probably know, wastewater is the primary contributor to degraded water quality. It is not the only factor, but it is the biggest one the community and the government have control over. Since tourism, the State's #1 industry, is in large part drawn to the oceans surrounding Puakō, our request is that the State House joins us in supporting all the cesspool abandonment bills, as well as financial incentives, loan programs, and the balance of the package the cesspool working group has identified.

A recent survey conducted by Carollo Engineers in January 2024 in the Puako community, demonstrated that over 50% of the homes have cesspools, 90% of the respondents indicated they support a sewer system, and that the community's top two concerns are that the sewer will be implemented too late to save the reef and that the government will not help make it affordable.

All of the bills listed below speak directly to these concerns.

House Bill 1892, moving the deadline for abandonment of all Priority One cesspools from 2050 to 2035 is a huge step in stopping the damage to the reef and to allowing the reef to begin regrowth. PFR is working diligently, with the community, to install a sewer system in Puakō to which all homes could connect. This bill helps motivate residents with cesspools to connect to this new sewer.

House Bill 2066, establishing a cesspool conversion financing program with low-interest loans. This is critical, as it is not always obvious who needs financial assistance, and assumptions that some neighborhoods are more affluent doesn't mean everyone in that neighborhood is able to upgrade on their own. In the recent Carollo survey, Puakō property owners were asked, "If affordable, would you switch your current wastewater system to a sewer system in Puakō to protect the reef and reverse its decline?" 96.5% of respondents said YES. A key concept in this question is affordability, as that's what property owners need to know so they can act.



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House Bill 1759, requiring transient accommodations, to be upgraded to current requirements in their area. This is well overdue, as lodging that is charging a fee for short term housing, is a business, even if it is a small business. Their businesses are dependent on healthy reefs and shoreline waters. They have a vested interest in protecting the environment, and this is one way to do that.

There is another concept for upgrading our wastewater discharges in **HB 1691**. This bill specifically targets new construction, near the shoreline or near groundwater sources, to add denitrification capacity to their wastewater systems.

Did you know?

- Dr. Greg Asner determined that in the 1970s coral cover of Puakō reef was 70%. it is now 7%.
- Puakō hosts the largest amount of marine tourism on the Big Island. There are daily dive and snorkel boats, kayak tours, SUP tours, whale watching, and manta ray trips.
- The problem and solution are led by science. The damage to the reef by and solutions to the wastewater problem at Puakō have been documented for over 20 years.
- All of the science demonstrates that sewer systems are the only guaranteed way to remove waste and all damaging nutrients from the reef.
- Both carrot and stick approaches are needed to inspire people to act. Financial incentives to replace cesspools are an absolutely necessary. To have homeowners abandon cesspools in time to save the reef must also be driven by a deadline. Moving the deadline by 15 years, to 2035 gives the reef, and the entire big island economy, a chance.
- 96.5% of Puako residents would abandon their cesspools and connect to a sewer if it was affordable.

Thank you for all your help and for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Barbara Bell

bbellster@gmail.com

808.937.2573

February 13, 2024

The Honorable Nicole Lowen, Chair

House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair

House Committee on Water & Land

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

RE: House Bill 1892, Relating to Cesspools

HEARING: Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 9:05 a.m.

Aloha Chair Lowen, Chair Ichiyama, and Members of the Joint Committees:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawaii and its over 11,000 members. HAR provides **comments** on House Bill 1892, which Part II: Requires certain priority level 1 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2035, and priority level 2 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2045, rather than before 1/1/2050. Part III: Appropriates funds to implement the cesspool compliance pilot grant project established pursuant to Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. Part IV: Establishes an income tax credit for the cost of upgrading or converting a qualified cesspool to a director of health-approved wastewater system or connecting to a sewerage system.

Hawai'i REALTORS® supports the goal of protecting our drinking water, streams, ground water, and ocean resources. We recognize that cesspool conversion is important to preserve our environment. According to the Cesspool Working Group Final Report¹, there are 13,821 cesspools categorized as Priority Level 1 and 12,367 cesspools categorized as Priority Level 2. To convert Priority Level 1 and 2 cesspools by 2045, **1,878 cesspools would need to be converted per year** (see table below.) Additionally, to convert the remaining Priority Level 2 cesspools would be an additional 727 conversions per year over the subsequent 10 years. This of course is not including the 55,237 Priority Level 3 cesspools that will still need to be converted by 2050, if we wait to convert Priority Level 3 cesspools until after 2045, there will be 5 years left to convert them all which averages to 11,047 conversions a year.

Year:	Priority Level 1	Priority Level 2	Convert Per Year
2024	1,151	727	1,878
2025	1,151	727	1,878
2026	1,151	727	1,878
2027	1,151	727	1,878

¹ Cesspool Conversion Working Group. (2022). *Final Report to the 2023 Regular Session Legislature*. State of Hawai'i Department of Health. <https://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/files/2022/12/Act-170-SLH-2019-Nov-2022.pdf>

2028	1,151	727	1,878
2029	1,151	727	1,878
2030	1,151	727	1,878
2031		727	727
2032		727	727
2033		727	727
2034		727	727
2035		727	727
2036		727	727
2037		727	727
2038		727	727
2039		727	727
2040		727	727

While it may vary greatly depending on existing infrastructure and property location, it can take 8 to 9 months or longer for a homeowner to convert their cesspool to a Department of Health (“DOH”) approved wastewater system. Steps include but are not limited to, architects drawing up site plans, civil engineers drawing up and submitting the proposed system, obtaining DOH preliminary approval, engaging a contractor, obtaining a review and approval from the State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), obtaining permits, construction, and engineers getting final approval from DOH. As such, it is crucial that we properly plan and find ways to assist communities and homeowners as **resources and manpower are limited, especially on the neighbor islands and in rural areas.**

Moreover, moving up the mandate does not solve the financial dilemma for homeowners. The Cesspool Conversion Working Group conducted an affordability analysis² for homeowners. Based on the analysis, **97% of homeowners would be financially burdened by cesspool conversion costs.** Equally concerning, even with a \$10,000 rebate 82% of homeowners would still be financially burdened. Most homeowners will not be able to afford to do this alone.

As such, the focus should be on efforts to aid communities and homeowners with cesspool conversion, which includes financial assistance in addition to wastewater infrastructure planning and development. We believe the income tax credit and cesspool compliance pilot grant project can help homeowners who may be financially burdened to convert their cesspools to a DOH wastewater system or connect to a sewerage system.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

² Cesspool Conversion Working Group. (2022). *Final Report to the 2023 Regular Session Legislature*. State of Hawai‘i Department of Health. <https://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/files/2022/12/Act-170-SLH-2019-Nov-2022.pdf>



Feb. 12, 2024

In Support of **HB1892** Relating to Cesspools
House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection (EEP) and Water & Land (WAL)
Hearing on Feb. 13, 9:05am, Rm. 325

Aloha, Chairs Lowen & Ichiyama, Vice-Chairs Cochran & Poepoe, and Committee Members:

On behalf of the non-profit WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations and the Cesspool Legislative Task Force, I am writing in **strong support of HB1892**. This practical and needed bill would do three very important things: 1. create earlier deadlines for cesspool conversions in Priority Areas 1 (2035) and 2 (2045) to help the state meet its mandate under Act 125; 2. extend the successful funding support program under Act 153 (to assist low-moderate income homeowners with the costs of cesspool conversion); and 3. Establish an income tax credit for those converting their cesspools to an approved system.

Under Act 125 (2017), all cesspools are mandated to be converted by 2050. The only way to accomplish this mandate is to stagger the phases of conversion and create earlier deadlines for the most polluting cesspools in Priority Areas 1 & 2. Cesspools in these areas pose serious threats to drinking water supplies, coral reefs and water quality in nearshore areas. To help homeowners with financing these conversions, the bill would create rebates of up to \$20,000 for low-income households and then tax breaks to higher income households to help defray the costs.

Hawaii has more than 83,000 cesspools across the state, discharging 52 million gallons of raw sewage each day into Hawaii's waters. That's similar to a massive sewage spill every day! Along with threats to public health and drinking water resources, new research in *Nature* shows that this polluted wastewater poses significant harm to coral reefs and the near-shore environment. The people of Hawaii need this law to make sure their wastewater systems aren't polluting the groundwater or nearby surface waters. This pollution threatens our environment, public health and our economy, damaging Hawaii's reputation as a world class destination with pristine waters.

WAI is an environmental non-profit dedicated to protecting our drinking water, groundwater and near-shore ecosystems by reducing sewage pollution from cesspools and failing septic systems. Our goal is to help find more innovative, affordable, and eco-friendly solutions to wastewater management and help homeowners with the conversion process. Better sanitation systems reduce sewage and nutrient pollution and make properties more valuable, while also protecting public health and valuable natural resources like groundwater, streams, coral reefs and coastal areas.

Hawaii is struggling with serious sewage pollution problems, and the state has a mandate to make sure all cesspools are converted in the next three decades. This bill will provide the necessary deadlines and funding needed to convert cesspools across the state. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue and support of this bill.

Aloha,

Stuart Coleman

Stuart H. Coleman, Executive Director



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 13, 2024

To: House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Hon. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Hon. Elle Cochran, Vice Chair

House Committee on Water and Land
Hon. Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Hon. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Re: HB 1892 relating to CESSPOOLS

Hearing: Tuesday, February 13, 2024, 9:05 a.m., Room 325 & videoconference

Position: Strong support

Aloha, Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama, Vice Chairs Cochran and Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection and Committee on Water and Land:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, which has over 7,500 active members statewide, strongly supports HB 1892 because conversions of the State's 80,000 cesspools are long overdue. This bill would advance the deadlines for conversions by short periods and provide much needed financial incentives. These are helpful.

Marine scientists have advised us that **the coral reefs will die before 2050 if the bombardment of pollution by cesspools on them is not abated before then. We have run out of time.** The public has taken advantage of the generous lead time previously provided by the law to remediate the cesspool pollution problem, and basically, they have done nothing. Now, we must catch up by advancing the deadlines.

Hawaii faces significant environmental challenges due to its approximately 83,000 cesspools, which is more than any other U.S. state. There are severe and oftentimes irreversible dangers associated with cesspools:

- 1. Groundwater Contamination.** Cesspools are untreated and contain pathogens, bacteria, and viruses that can spread diseases. The effluent from cesspools also contains nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. **When these pollutants infiltrate the groundwater, they can harm the sensitive ecosystems of Hawaii, including nearshore coral reefs as we have seen in the deterioration of the once pristine Kaneohe Bay, once the home of many ancient Hawaiian fishponds, such the He'eia Fishpond, dating back 800 years.**

Kahalu`u Fishpond: Historically known as Kohouna Fishpond on Kane`ohe Bay is one of only four surviving ancient Hawaiian fishponds on O`ahu that are still in use today. At one point in time, there were around 100 fishponds around the island.

2. **Coastal Impact:** Many of these cesspools are located close to the shoreline. Rising sea levels due to climate change are eroding Hawaii's coast near homes with cesspools. As the island's groundwater rises, it allows the cesspool effluent to mix with the water table and flow into the ocean. Coastal erosion can remove sand surrounding cesspools, pulling sewage out to sea. **Inland cesspools near aquifers can also contaminate groundwater, affecting springs beaches, and the ocean.**
3. **Coral Reef Damage.** The toxic mixture of waste, pharmaceuticals, and other contaminants from cesspools seep into the groundwater and often ends up in the ocean. These harms nearshore coral reefs and can sicken swimmers. **Hawai`i's coral reefs are essential for the economy, shoreline protection, recreation, fisheries, and native species, making cesspool pollution a critical concern.**

While efforts are underway to address these issues, the task of removing all cesspools by 2050 is daunting, costly, and way too late. Measures must be taken much earlier to preserve and let the environment recover from the pollution damage that it has already sustained. This bill assists in this recovery by advancing the applicable deadlines.

It is also crucial to find sustainable solutions to protect Hawai`i's environment and public health. Some approaches to protect the environment and public health include:

1. **Wastewater Treatment Upgrades:**
 - a. **Replace Cesspools:** Gradually phase out cesspools by replacing them with modern wastewater treatment systems. These systems treat sewage more effectively, removing harmful pathogens and pollutants before discharge.
 - b. **Septic System Improvements.** For areas where cesspool replacement is challenging, upgrade existing septic systems to meet higher standards. Regular maintenance and proper sizing are essential.
2. **Advanced On-Site Systems:**
 - a. **Aerobic Treatment Units (ATUs):** These compact systems use oxygen to break down organic matter, producing cleaner effluent. ATUs can be a viable alternative to cesspools.
 - b. **Constructed Wetlands:** Create natural wetland areas that filter and treat wastewater. Wetland plants absorb nutrients and purify water, benefiting both the environment and public health.
3. **Incentives and Regulations:**
 - a. **Financial Incentives:** Offer financial assistance or tax breaks to homeowners who voluntarily upgrade their wastewater systems. Encourage adoption of eco-friendly alternatives.
 - b. **Stricter Regulations:** Enforce regulations that limit new cesspool installations and encourage transition to better systems. Regular inspection can ensure compliance.

4. **Ocean-Friendly Practices:**

- a. **Ocean Outfalls:** Consider ocean outfalls for treated wastewater. Properly designed and monitored outfalls can disperse treated effluent far from sensitive coastal areas.
- b. **Reef-Friendly Products:** Promote the use of reef-safe cleaning products and discourage harmful chemicals that can end up in cesspools.

By advancing the cesspool conversion deadlines according to Priority 1 and 2 designations, implementing sustainable practices under the cesspool compliance pilot grant project, and establishing an income tax credit for the cost of upgrading or converting a qualified cesspool to a DOH-approved wastewater system or connecting to a sewage system, Hawai'i can safeguard its unique environment and the well-being of its residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this very important measure.

Melodie Aduja legislativepriorities@gmail.com

Alan B. Burdick burdick808@gmail.com

Co-Chairs,
Environmental Caucus of the
Democratic Party of Hawai'i

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 2:06:47 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Funds are needed for this pilot project that is established by Act 153

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 5:15:48 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorothy Norris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The goals of the cesspool conversion are doable. This measure will ensure that the process is well planned, executed and funded.

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/5/2024 11:27:01 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Neal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lowen and Ichiyama and members of the EEP/ WAL

I support HB1892

To prevent further harm, cesspool conversion must begin sooner than later. Furthermore, doing so will attract more private businesses to do this work as the cost of their equipment will have longer to amortize over.

Suspend new all building permits that do not include a health-approved wastewater system or connection to a sewerage system.

Thank you for you consideration,

Keith Neal

Waimea

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/8/2024 6:54:21 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ina Solum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii needs clean. Cesspools create bacteria and problems. Please pass this bill

ina solum

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 8:37:09 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hilary Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass **HB1892!** We need to accelerate the timeline on cesspool conversions in the State of Hawaii, which is already long overdue.

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 9:45:58 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Becker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 10:40:43 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to clean up our water and convert cesspools.

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/9/2024 10:51:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Brooke Foreman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this legislation to clean up our water and convert cesspools. I am frustrated by the lack of progress up to now.

As an Eastern and Functional Medicine doctor practicing on the beautiful island of Kauai, I have witnessed firsthand the detrimental effects of water pollution and the use of cesspools on the health and well-being of our patients. Clean water is not just a basic necessity; it is the foundation upon which we build our health and future. The transition from cesspools to more sustainable waste management solutions is imperative to safeguard the health of our citizens and protect the fragile ecosystem of our island. I strongly advocate for legislative action to prioritize clean water initiatives and cesspool conversion projects. Such measures are essential to ensure the long-term health, safety, and prosperity of Kauai's residents and the preservation of its natural beauty for generations to come.

Dr. Brooke Foreman

LAc, DACM, NBC-HWC

Eastern & Functional Medicine

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 4:59:34 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mirah Horowitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this legislation to clean up our water and convert cesspools. The residents of our island deserve clean water, and the lack of progress to date is unacceptable.

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 8:31:46 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lenore Horowitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this legislation to clean up our water and convert cesspools. The residents of our island deserve clean water, and the lack of progress to date is unacceptable. Our population is increasing. we have to conrol water quality !

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:49:56 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
synnora bettencourt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as cesspools are harming the environment

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 11:50:15 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camile Cleveland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 12:52:46 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Nishimura	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I support HB 1892, to convert cesspools and to prevent sewage from contaminating our neighborhoods, streams, beaches and oceans.

The health of the public and our aina and wai depend on this legislation. Please act now.

Mahalo in advance.

Sincerely,

Kelly Nishimura

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 10:15:01 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of this legislation to clean up our water and cesspools. I am frustrated by the lack of progress up to now. Thank you.

Elizabeth Nelson

Kaneohe

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 11:44:45 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
stuart a. scolnik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My neighbors house sends fecal matter directly into the Moloaa stream. Ive called everyone, but no one cares. No one does anything about it. Other homes have cess pools that are overflowing. I am in favor of this legislation to clean up our water and convert cesspools. I am frustrated by the lack of progress up to now.

HB-1892

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 8:01:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2024 9:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Shimei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

IN SUPPORT