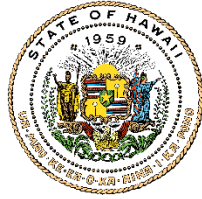
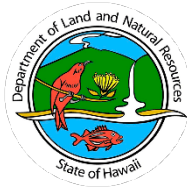


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Wednesday, February 15, 2023
2:00 PM

State Capitol, VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 329

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 181, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

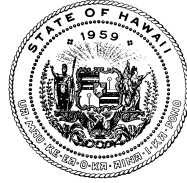
House Bill 181, House Draft 1 proposes to implement the recommendation of the Cesspool Conversion Working Group to accelerate the dates for required upgrades, conversions, or connections of priority level 1 cesspools and priority level 2 cesspools by requiring priority level 1 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2030, and priority level 2 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2035, rather than before 1/1/2050. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill.**

Cesspools can cause harm to water quality within adjacent groundwater, anchialine, and coral reef systems by introducing elevated amounts of organic nitrogen and phosphorus, pathogens, and other contaminants. Contaminants emitted from cesspools can harm aquatic ecosystems by encouraging algal blooms and can also pose a threat to human health. The Department supports the acceleration of upgrades for identified high priority cesspools that pose the greatest threat to nearshore water quality and human health (i.e., identified Priority Levels 1 and 2) to help minimize future contamination of Hawai'i's fragile aquatic areas.

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

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY
M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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 HB0181 HD1
RELATING TO CESSPOOLS**

REPRESENTATIVE MARK M. NAKASHIMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Hearing Date: 2/15/2023 Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (Department) strongly supports this
3 measure. The Department concurs with the recommendation of the cesspool conversion working
4 group to accelerate the dates for required upgrades, conversion and connections to sewers for
5 cesspools located in priority 1 and 2 areas according to the University of Hawaii's 2022 Hawaii
6 cesspool hazard assessment and prioritization tool.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

8 **Offered Amendments:** None.



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, Hawai'i DP
Director, Kaua'i DP
The Adjutant General
Manager, CZM

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

**Before the House Committee on
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2023
2:00 PM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 329

**In support of
House Bill 181 House Draft 1
RELATING TO CESSPOOLS**

House Bill 181 HD1 implements the recommendation of the cesspool conversion working group to accelerate the dates for required upgrades, conversions, or connections of priority level 1 cesspools and priority level 2 cesspools by requiring priority level 1 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2030, and priority level 2 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2035, rather than before 1/1/2050. **The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) supports this measure.**

The Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation 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. The Commission's 2022 update to the *Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report* Recommended Action 6.1.1 states that the state should sponsor research and development efforts to expand affordable and actionable conversion options for shoreline property owners. Recommended Action 6.1.1 also counsels that options should account for SLR-XA projections of coastal erosion and associated land loss, and potential failure of onsite sewage treatment systems resulting from sea level rise-induced groundwater inundation.

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. Recommended Action 6.4 counsels that the state should expand policy directives beyond the existing income tax credits and requirement for removal by 2050.

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



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

GWEN S. YAMAMOTO LAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HAWAII GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AUTHORITY

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, Suite 501, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-3868
Web site: gems.hawaii.gov

Testimony of
Gwen Yamamoto Lau
Executive Director
Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329
in consideration of
House Bill No. 181, HD1
RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama and Members of the Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee:

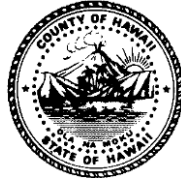
Thank you for the opportunity to testify and provide comments on House Bill No. 181, HD1 relating to cesspools. The Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority (HGIA) **supports** this bill which provides for staggered deadlines to upgrade priority level 1 and level 2 cesspools ahead of the existing 2050 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 from roughly 2,300 cesspool conversions annually (between 2024 to 2030); to 2,500 cesspool conversions annually (between 2031 to 2035) to 3700 cesspool conversions annually (between 2036 to 2050).

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and provide comments in support of House Bill No. 181, HD1.

Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Lee Lord
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 15, 2023

Rep. Mark Nakashima, Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Chair Nakashima and Committee Members,

I am a member of the Cesspool Conversion Working Group. The Department of Environmental Management supports this bill. HB 181 HD1 codifies **Priority A1** of the working group's recommendations into statute.

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) 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



Feb. 14, 2023

In Support of **HB181 HD1** Relating to Cesspools
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC)
Hearing on Feb. 15, 2:00pm, Rm. 329

Aloha, Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the non-profit WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations, I am writing in **strong support of HB181 HD1**. This bill will provide accelerated conversion deadlines for cesspools in Priority 1 & 2 areas as identified by Hawai'i Cesspool Prioritization Tool. The accelerated deadlines are: Priority 1 by 2030 and Priority 2 by 2035. These earlier deadlines will ensure that cesspools posing a greater risk (higher priority) to coastal ecosystems and public health are converted sooner rather than later to help reduce sewage pollution and ensure clean water for the people of Hawaii.

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! The people of Hawaii need this law to make sure their wastewater systems aren't polluting the groundwater or nearby surface waters.

As a member of the State's Cesspool Conversion Working Group over the last four years, we believe that accelerating the deadlines for higher priority cesspools is essential to reduce sewage and nutrient pollution in coastal waters which impact Hawaii's reef ecosystems. In addition, converting these higher priority cesspools will also reduce the contamination of groundwater and drinking water resources as well.

WAI is 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. Better sanitation systems reduce sewage pollution and make properties more valuable, while also protecting our groundwater, streams and the health of our 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. Accelerated deadlines is the only way to help ensure that Hawaii reaches that goal by 2050, paying specific attention to converting higher priority cesspools sooner, those which have a higher impact to the environment.

This bill creates a practical and expedient phased deadline approach to start the conversion process as soon as possible, and it's the only way the state will be able to meet the mandate to convert all cesspools by 2050. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue and support of this bill.

Aloha,

Stuart Coleman

Stuart H. Coleman, Executive Director



To: The Honorable Chair Mark Nakashima, the Honorable Vice Chair Jackson Sayama and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

From: Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing HB181 RELATING TO CESSPOOLS.**

Hearing: Wednesday February 15, 2023, 2:00 p.m., room 329

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

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.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB181 HD1!

This bill is needed now because the health of Hawaii's people and quality of Hawaii's waters and aquatic life are being harmed by pollution from cesspools. Hawaii has more than eighty thousand cesspools that discharge about fifty million gallons of wastewater into the State's groundwater every day. 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. Cesspool pollution also harms public

recreation and the precious coral reefs on which Hawaii's economy, shoreline, fisheries, and native species depend.

A cesspool conversion working group (working group) was established pursuant to Act 132 of 2018 to develop a long-range, comprehensive plan for conversion of cesspools statewide by 2050 and consider and recommend means by which the Department of Health can ensure that cesspools are converted to more environmentally-responsible waste treatment systems or connected to sewer systems.

In its final report, the working group indicated that over the past four years, it had 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 Hawaii.

The working group recommended staggering the timing of upgrades of cesspools and prioritizing them based on updated information about their pollution impacts. The Hawaii cesspool hazard assessment and prioritization tool was developed for the working group and applied to determine which cesspools should be upgraded first.

Priority level 1 cesspools are those that represent the greatest contamination hazard. The report categorized 13,821 cesspools in the State as priority level 1. Priority level 2 cesspools are those cesspools that cause the next most pollution and represent a significant contamination hazard. The report categorized 12,367 cesspools in the State as priority level 2.

This bill implements the recommendation of the working group to accelerate the dates for required upgrades, conversions, or connections of priority level 1 cesspools and priority level 2 cesspools:

- (1) priority level 1 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected by 2030; and
- (2) priority level 2 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected by 2035.

The working group recommended that the remaining cesspools categorized as priority level 3 (55,237, or approximately sixty-nine per cent of the total) not be required to upgrade until 2050, pursuant to existing law.

It makes sense to stagger the cesspool conversions, starting with the highest pollution impact first (priority level 1). This will both ensure reductions in the pollution to waters and facilitate implementation of the large number of wastewater system installations.

The bill authorizes the Director of Health to grant exemptions for homeowners who show it is infeasible to upgrade, convert or connect their cesspools. Legitimate reasons it is infeasible include small lot size, steep topography, poor soils, or accessibility issues.

The working group also investigated technology issues. New technologies are being developed and may be an important part of the conversion effort.

The working group also investigated financing issues. Upgrades, conversions and connections will all be expensive. Financing from federal, State, county and private resources will be needed to alleviate the financial burden on homeowners.

This bill will begin to address Hawaii's serious cesspool pollution problem in a reasonable way. The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** this bill and asks the committees to pass it.

Mahalo!

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

February 15, 2023

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

RE: House Bill 181, HD1, Relating to Cesspools

HEARING: Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee:

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 Hawai'i and its over 11,000 members. HAR provides **comments expressing strong concerns** on House Bill 181, HD1, which implements the recommendation of the cesspool conversion working group to accelerate the dates for required upgrades, conversions, or connections of priority level 1 cesspools and priority level 2 cesspools by requiring priority level 1 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2030, and priority level 2 cesspools to be upgraded, converted, or connected before 1/1/2035, rather than before 1/1/2050. Effective 6/30/3000.

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 2030 over **2,679 cesspools would need to be converted per year** (see table below.) Additionally, to convert the remaining Priority Level 2 cesspools would be an additional 951 conversions per year over the subsequent 5 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 2035, there will be 15 years left to convert them all which averages to 3,683 conversions a year.

Year:	Priority Level 1	Priority Level 2	Convert Per Year
2023	1,728	951	2,679
2024	1,728	951	2,679
2025	1,728	951	2,679
2026	1,728	951	2,679
2027	1,728	951	2,679
2028	1,728	951	2,679

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>

2029	1,728	951	2,679
2030	1,728	951	2,679
2031		951	951
2032		951	951
2033		951	951
2034		951	951
2035		951	951

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 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.

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. We respectfully recommend that efforts to aid communities and homeowners with cesspool conversion focus on financial assistance in addition to wastewater infrastructure planning and development.

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>

HB-181-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 10:43:57 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and CPC Committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB181, HD1 that implements the recommendations of the cesspool conversion working group to accelerate the dates for required cesspools upgrades, conversions or connections.

Hawaii has over 88,000 cesspools that must be converted in the near future, so waiting until the last minute to get things going is not an option. The expert, reasoned and achievable recommendations of the cesspool conversion working group are the best way forward to accomplish tiered conversion goals that will greatly improve public and environmental health.

Please pass HB181, HD1!

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop

President

Friends of Hanauma Bay



2/15/2023

CPC Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

Position: Support HB181 HD1

The Surfrider Foundation is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of our ocean, waves, and beaches. Surfrider maintains a network of over 150 chapters and academic clubs nationwide, including 4 chapters in the Hawaiian Islands. The Surfrider Foundation focuses on many aspects of the environment such as coastal protection, plastic pollution, and water quality.

The Surfrider Foundation, Hawai'i region, is testifying in **strong support of HB181 HD1**, which would implement the recommendation of the cesspool conversion working group to accelerate the dates for required upgrades, conversions, or connections for priority one and two cesspools.

With an estimated 83,000 cesspools, Hawai'i has one of the highest per capita number of cesspools in the nation. The cesspool conversion working group recommends the removal of the 14,000 worst ("priority one") cesspools by 2030; removal of the 12,000 "priority two" cesspools by 2035; and removal of the remaining "priority three" 55,000 cesspools by the current 2050 deadline. Targeting the worst polluting cesspools first will help reduce sewage pollution, protect groundwater and coastal ecosystems, and ensure clean water for the people of Hawai'i.

Surfrider Foundation maintains a citizen-science water quality monitoring program called the Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) on Kaua'i, Maui, and O'ahu that tests for enterococcus, a fecal indicator bacteria. Since 2018, the O'ahu BWTF has been monitoring water quality in Kāne'ohe bay at Kahalu'u due to the high concentration of coastal cesspools in this area. Due to these cesspools, the water near and around Kahalu'u regularly exceeds state public health standards (see [2021 annual results](#)). Without policies requiring a faster phase out of the cesspools with the greatest environmental threat, we will continue to pollute our coastal and freshwaters, threatening both environmental and public health.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB181 HD1, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawai'i and all of our members who live in the state and visit to enjoy the many coastal recreational opportunities offered by all of the islands' coastlines.

Sincerely,

Camile Cleveland
Volunteer Policy Coordinator
Surfrider Foundation, O'ahu Chapter

HB-181-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 4:54:05 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano	Kingdom Pathways	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members of the committee,

My name is Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano, and I want to express grave concern and **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB181 "Cesspools; Mandatory Upgrade, Conversion, or Connection; Cesspool Conversion Working Group; Prioritization."

I am pleading a bit here. I am a Surfrider and Blue Water Task Force water quality sampler volunteer and a life long resident of the Wai'anae Coast community. I am also the Director of Kingdom Pathways, which works closely with the Department of Health and Clean Water Branch on various other projects.

Our community members who swim at Pōkaī Bay Beach Park have been hospitalized and sickened for over a decade due to water-borne illnesses contracted from swimming in the bay. As a result, we have started strategically testing for enterococcus at three different sites to narrow down a source point. Kaupuni Stream has shown a steadily high level of enterococcus through testing, the latest result being 24,196. In addition, Kaupuni Stream portions which are concreted directly, feed into the open body of water at Pōkaī Bay and are encompassed by hundreds of cesspools classified as priority level 1 to be upgraded, converted, or connected by 2050.

I strongly urge the committee to forward this measure to ensure communities like mine obtain timely efforts to be implemented by 2030 to rectify our poor water quality to ensure the health and well-being of my community and others in our state of Hawai'i.

Mahalo Nui for the opportunity to testify,
Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano
Director of Kingdom Pathways

HB-181-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 12:07:00 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Geyer	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Please help accelerate the transition away from cesspools, and support HB181 HD1

HB-181-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 10:03:45 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Blickley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. As the Cesspool Working Group noted, we must shorten the timeline for cesspool conversions. Currently 88,000 cesspools pollute our environment and communities with over 56 million gallons of untreated sewage per day.

Mahalo for your support of this bill.

HB-181-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2023 11:08:01 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Amato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Dr. Daniel Amato support HB181. As a professional environmental scientist and coral reef researcher at the University of Hawaii , I have personally detected cesspool related pollution on reefs statewide. We can not wait until 2040 to take action, there are too many sites and too much logistics involved to meet the 2050 deadline. This bill makes sense, upgrade the most problematic sites first, low hanging fruit. Then we can work together to get the rest done. The reefs can not wait 25 more years, they need our help now, this decade. Mahalo -Daniel

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE
Hearing on Feb. 15, 2023 at 2:00 pm

SUPPORTING HB 181 HD 1

My name is John Kawamoto, and I support SB HB 181 HD 1.

Although Hawaii is considered to have a relatively clean environment, there are 83,000 cesspools throughout the state that release 53 million gallons of untreated sewage into the ground every day. Tens of thousands of cesspools are located within watersheds. Cesspools have significant impact on the quality of drinking water, general water quality, the health of Hawaii's residents, and the health of reefs.

In 2018 the Legislature authorized the Department of Health to create a working group to develop a comprehensive plan to convert cesspools. The cesspool conversion working group issued its final report, which includes recommendations for upgrading, converting, or connecting. This bill implements those recommendations.

HB-181-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 12:17:45 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Hixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. It is well-documented that the many cesspools in Hawaii leak waste into coastal waters, and nutrients from that waste fertilize seaweeds, allowing them to overgrow and smother corals. No coral = no reef = no fisheries, no ocean tourism, and no coastal protection. We must solve the cesspool issue before we lose our reefs. Please pass this bill. Mahalo.

HB-181-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2023 2:52:19 PM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Morin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Committee members,

I'm in STRONG SUPPORT of HB181 HD1. Please enable an aggressive deprecation of cesspools. Our ocean environment, its inhabitants, and visitors (including our keiki) will benefit from the proper management of our waste.

Sincerely,
Noel Morin
Climate, Sustainability, and Resilience Advocate
Hilo

HB-181-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 1:00:57 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No. Just no