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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CESSPOOL CONVERSIONS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that all cesspools are  
2 required to be upgraded or converted to a wastewater system  
3 approved by the director of health or connected to a sewerage  
4 system by 2050. The legislature further finds that Act 153,  
5 Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, established a cesspool compliance  
6 pilot grant project to assist certain low- and moderate-income  
7 property owners, including lessees on Hawaiian home lands, with  
8 the costs of upgrading or converting cesspools. However,  
9 although certain property owners may be eligible for grant  
10 funding, it may not be sufficient to cover all upgrade or  
11 conversion costs. The legislature also finds that the  
12 appropriation under Act 153 lapsed as of June 30, 2024.

13       The purpose of this Act is to:

- 14       (1) Increase the maximum grant amount for the cesspool  
15 compliance pilot grant project from \$20,000 to  
16 \$30,000;



- (2) Establish positions within the department of health for the cesspool compliance pilot grant project; and
- (3) Appropriate funds for the cesspool compliance pilot grant project.

SECTION 2. Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, is amended by amending section 2 as follows:

1. By amending subsection (b) to read:

"(b) The department of health shall not grant awards to any owner of real property with a cesspool or lessee on Hawaiian home lands with a cesspool unless:

- (1) The cesspool is located in an area identified as priority level 1 or 2 in the University of Hawaii's ~~[2021]~~ 2022 Hawaii cesspool hazard assessment and prioritization tool;

- (2) The owner or lessee provides the department with the tax return required by this section; and

- (3) An application, the form of which shall be decided by the department, is submitted and deemed completed by the department of health."

2. By amending subsection (f) to read:



1        "(f) The department of health shall grant awards not to  
2 exceed [~~\$20,000~~] \$30,000 based on receipts of payment submitted  
3 under subsection (e)(4); provided that cesspools that have been  
4 upgraded or converted to a director of health-approved  
5 wastewater system before the passing of this Act shall not be  
6 eligible for this grant."

7        3. By amending subsection (h) to read:

8        "(h) The department of health shall submit to the  
9 legislature a report on the pilot grant project, including any  
10 findings and recommendations, and any proposed legislation, no  
11 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular  
12 [~~session~~] sessions of 2024[~~-~~] and 2026."

13        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$151,000 or so much  
15 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
16 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
17 2026-2027 to establish one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)  
18 permanent program specialist V position and one full-time  
19 equivalent (1.0 FTE) permanent planner IV position within  
20 department of health for the cesspool compliance pilot grant  
21 project.



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

3       SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much  
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the  
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
7 2026-2027 to fund the cesspool compliance pilot grant project.

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

10       SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12       SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Lisakita Agnew*  
JAN 21 2025



# H.B. NO. 879

**Report Title:**

Cesspool Compliance Pilot Grant Project; Positions;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Increases the maximum grant amount for the Cesspool Compliance Pilot Grant Project from \$20,000 to \$30,000. Establishes positions within the Department of Health for the Cesspool Compliance Pilot Grant Project. Appropriates funds.

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