



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
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Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
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WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB0736 HD1  
RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS.**

SENATOR DONNA MERCADO KIM, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 17, 2025; 1:00 pm; Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) requests that this measure be  
2 considered as a vehicle to provide this needed funding so long as it does not supplant the  
3 priorities and requests outlined in the Governors executive budget request.

4 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Management Division Wastewater Branch  
6 (EMD-WWB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

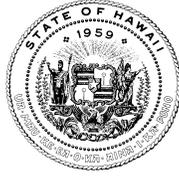
7 The Department supports this measure “to facilitate the certification of new wastewater  
8 technologies in Hawaii that could reduce the costs of cesspool conversions by establishing and  
9 appropriating funds for a new wastewater system technology testing pilot program within the  
10 university of Hawaii water resources research center.”

11 **Offered Amendments:** None

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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

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



KALI WATSON  
CHAIRPERSON, HHC  
*Ka Luna Ho'okele*

KATIE L. LAMBERT  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR  
*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, CHAIR  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND  
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT  
HEARING ON MARCH 17, 2025 AT 1:00PM IN CR 224

**HB 736, HD 1, RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

March 15, 2025

Aloha Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani & Richards, and Members of the Committees:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) **supports** this bill which establishes and appropriates funds for a three-year new wastewater system and individual wastewater system technology testing pilot program within the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center and 2) requires interim and final reports to the Legislature.

Approximately 2,500 cesspools exist on Hawaiian Home Lands. Pursuant to Act 125 (SLH 2017), these cesspools are required to be converted to a septic system or aerobic treatment unit system or connected to a sewerage system before January 1, 2050.

DHHL supports the establishment of a three-year new wastewater system and individual wastewater system technology testing pilot program within the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center because it will provide the opportunity to test new wastewater technology systems and review and evaluate the affordability, feasibility, and efficiency of the treatment technologies 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.

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 stand ready to work collaboratively on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

**LATE**

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Monday, March 17, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

By  
Tao Yan, PhD  
Director, Water Resources Research Center  
And  
Michael Bruno, Provost  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 736 HD1 – RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

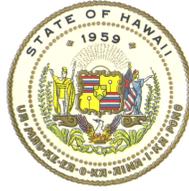
Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center (UH Mānoa WRRC) supports the intent of HB 736 HD1. This legislation proposes to establish a pilot program to evaluate and demonstrate new wastewater technologies and appropriates funding to address the critical issue of cesspool conversion in Hawai'i. The estimated total costs are \$745,325 for the three years.

The UH Mānoa WRRC is committed to implementing the pilot program should adequate funds are appropriated. UH Mānoa WRRC has extensive technical expertise in wastewater management, and has been instrumental in supporting the evaluation and demonstration of new wastewater technologies. Therefore, UH Mānoa WRRC is well-positioned to lead the technical aspects of this project, ensuring that the pilot program is executed with scientific rigor and practical effectiveness. We welcome the opportunity to take on this role and collaborate with relevant stakeholders to advance wastewater solutions in Hawai'i.

We strongly support the appropriation of funds for the UH Mānoa WRRC to establish and implement this pilot program, including necessary infrastructure, equipment, and administrative support, provided its adoption does not impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

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Director, OPSD

**Commissioners:**  
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Chair, Senate WTL  
Chair, House EEP  
Chair, House WAL  
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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  
Climate Change Coordinator on behalf of  
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission Co-Chair Mary Alice Evans and  
Co-Chair Dawn N.S. Chang**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
HIGHER EDUCATION  
&  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Monday, March 17, 2025  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 736 HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

House Bill 736 House Draft 1 establishes and appropriates funds for a three-year new wastewater system and individual wastewater system technology testing pilot program within the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center and requires interim and final reports to the Legislature. The Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission (Commission) **supports** this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request. The Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission consists of a multijurisdictional 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 and options should account for SLR-XA projections of coastal erosion and associated land loss, and potential failure of sewage treatment systems due to sea level rise groundwater inundation. Cesspools in the coastal zone will be an increasing source of nonpoint

source pollution as groundwater rises and coastal erosion accelerates. The *Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report* Recommended Action 6.4 urges the state to expand policy directives beyond the existing income tax credits and requirement for removal by 2050. Specifically, policy must address existing cesspools in the coastal zone in relation to enforcement of existing laws and regulations and removal of unpermitted shoreline hardening.

Connection to sewer lines is not always feasible and septic tanks while preferred to cesspools are not a perfect alternative. New innovative wastewater treatment systems designed for Hawai'i's unique landscape that are cost effective and protect our waters are needed. This bill will provide funding to ground truth this technology.

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

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
Supporting HB736 HD1, Relating to Wastewater Systems.  
Committee on Higher Education  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
March 17, 2025 at 1:00 pm  
Conference Room 224 and via Videoconference**

Dear Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Members of the Committee:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Hawai'i and Palmyra supports HB736 HD1, which would establish and appropriate funds for a three-year new wastewater system and individual wastewater system technology testing pilot program within the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center. This bill would also require reports to the Legislature.

Science conducted by TNC and partners has shown that wastewater are detrimental to the coral reefs which protect our coastlines and underpin our economy. Without clean coastal waters reef ecosystems are put at even greater risk in the face of growing global stressors including climate change.

Wastewater can cause harm to water quality within adjacent groundwater, anchialine, coral reef systems and fisheries by introducing elevated amounts of organic nitrogen and phosphorus, pathogens, and other contaminants. Contaminants emitted from cesspools can harm aquatic ecosystems by encouraging excess algal and bacterial growth and can also pose a threat to human health. Our research in He'eia, Maunaloa, Olowalu, Hana and South Kohala has shown direct evidence of cesspool contamination in streams and coastal waters using a variety of bioindicators and chemical signatures.

The Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa has historically provided technical support to creating advanced onsite wastewater systems. This bill would allow the WRRC to support new innovative technologies to be permitted in the State through advanced testing and pilot measures. New technologies could potentially offer substantial cost savings by clustering adjacent homes, or reducing the amount of excavation needed. The cost of the program would be small compared to the potential savings.

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB736 HD1.**

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*Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.*

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March 17, 2025

**The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair**

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

**The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair**

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

**RE: House Bill 736, HD1, Relating to Wastewater Systems**

**HEARING: Monday, March 17, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Gabbard, 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 10,000 members. HAR **supports** House Bill 736, HD1, which establishes and appropriates funds for a three-year new wastewater system and individual wastewater system technology testing pilot program within the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center. Requires interim and final reports to the Legislature. Effective 7/1/3000.

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. There are approximately 83,000 cesspools divided into three priorities<sup>1</sup> across the State and to convert 83,000 cesspools by 2050, at least 3,320 cesspools would need to be converted per year. 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. Costs will vary greatly depending on resources, labor, permitting delays, property terrain, and other variables. According to the Cesspool Conversions Finance Research Report prepared for the Department of Health, "historical costs of cesspool upgrades to approved systems range widely from approximately \$9,000 to \$60,000 or more depending on the wastewater system capacity (based on bedroom count), technology, and location or site constraints."<sup>2</sup>

As such, new wastewater and cesspool technology systems would be an important solution to help the State reach the goal of converting 83,000 cesspools by 2050, and to help address the large costs to convert.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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<sup>1</sup> University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program. *Hawai'i Cesspool Prioritization Tool*.  
<https://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/cesspools-tool/>

<sup>2</sup> Carollo. (January 21, 2021). *Cesspool Conversion Finance Research Report*.  
<https://health.hawaii.gov/wastewater/files/2021/02/financefinalreportr.pdf>



March 15, 2025

Senate Committee on Higher Education  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Hawai'i State Legislature  
Via Electronic Transmission

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 736, Relating to Wastewater Systems  
Hearing: March 17, 2025 at 1:00 PM, CR 224 via Videoconference

To: The Honorable Chair Kim, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Richards and  
Members of the Committees

**Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region strongly supports HB736 HD1** which would establish a pilot program to test new wastewater technologies at the University of Hawai'i's Water Resources Research Center. Surfrider Foundation is a grassroots activist network dedicated to the protection of our oceans, waves, and beaches. We support research on new wastewater technologies for the following reasons:

- (1) **Protecting our Reefs** - 83,000 cesspools in Hawai'i discharge over 50 million gallons per day of sewage into our oceans, polluting our coral reefs and threatening the health of our marine ecosystems. Our reefs desperately need action to avoid further degradation.
- (2) **Protecting the Health of Recreational Ocean Users** - As part of our water quality initiative, we maintain 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 at 80 sites regularly. BWTF sites are often selected to monitor water quality around sites with high concentrations of coastal cesspools. We have data that shows areas with high cesspool concentrations regularly exceed state public health standards. This is unhealthy for our members, many of whom regularly use the ocean for recreational purposes.
- (3) **Promoting Science-Based Policy Solutions** - To ensure our oceans are adequately protected from wastewater pollution, we need solutions that incorporate scientific research into policy plans. This bill would appropriate the necessary funding to support

ongoing research on wastewater alternatives and cesspool conversion, informing future policy to support Hawai'i's transition from cesspools to more sustainable alternatives.

Your committee's support of HB736 would provide the Department of Health with the resources it needs to explore alternative solutions to our state's wastewater problems. Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB736, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's three 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' coastline.

Mahalo for your consideration and leadership on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Hanna Lilley  
Hawai'i Regional Manager  
Surfrider Foundation



To: The Honorable Chairs Donna Mercado Kim and Mike Gabbard, the Honorable Vice Chairs Michelle Kidani and Herbert M. “Tim” Richards, III, and Members of the Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environmental Protection.

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

Re: Hearing **HB736 HD1 RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

Hearing: Monday March 17, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Rm. 224

Aloha Chairs Kim and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Richards, and Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment Committee Members:

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 HB736 HD1!**

There are about 83,000 cesspools in Hawaii that are dumping about 50 million gallons every day into Hawaii's groundwater, drinking water, streams, and ocean and harming our coral reefs. By law (the mandate of section 342D-72, Hawaii Revised Statutes), all 83,000 cesspools must be upgraded to a system approved by the Department by 2050.

Cesspool upgrades are expensive. The cost depends on site-specific conditions, but the cost to convert a cesspool to a septic system or an aerobic treatment unit system is often over \$30,000. We need to try to find ways to make upgrades more affordable to homeowners and governments.

At a time when many residents of Hawaii are struggling to make ends meet, **our State has an excellent opportunity to save cesspool owners and governments money by introducing new wastewater technologies. There are new wastewater technologies in cluster sewers, in**

**individual wastewater systems, and in other wastewater systems that can potentially reduce the costs of cesspool upgrades substantially without harming water quality and protect coral reefs by reducing nutrients.**

The Department of Health must certify the new technology systems. The Department does not have sufficient resources and expertise to perform those certifications promptly and effectively, however.

The University of Hawaii's Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) has previously had a testing program for wastewater systems. Guidance and studies by a revived UH WRRC testing program for new technologies can facilitate and accelerate DOH's certification of new technologies.

**The bill funds a three-year pilot program to test wastewater systems and individual wastewater systems technology at UH WRRC. UH WRRC, in coordination with other departments at UH, DOH, county agencies and others will review, document, and evaluate the affordability, feasibility, and efficiency of treatment technologies, perform tests and studies and submit results to the Department.**

I understand that the testing program is estimated to cost **\$745,000 over three years**, with potential cost reduction benefits projected to be many times larger.

**This bill will enable Hawaii to achieve its goal of upgrading cesspools MORE AFFORDABLY without compromising water quality.**

**Please pass this bill!**

Mahalo!

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



**LATE**

March 16, 2025

In Support of **HB736 HD1 Relating to Wastewater Systems**  
Sen. Committees on Higher Educ. (HED) & Agriculture & Enviro. (AEN)  
Hearing on Mon., March 17th, 1:00pm, CR224

Aloha, Chairs Kim & Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Kidani & Richards and Committee Members:

On behalf of the non-profit WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations, I am writing in **strong support of HB736**. This bill funds a three-year pilot program to test wastewater technology at the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center (WRRC). The goal is to introduce more efficient and affordable sanitation technologies to the state. WRRC will work in coordination with other departments at UH and the Dept. of Health to evaluate the efficiency of treatment technologies, perform tests and submit results to the Department.

The Department of Health must certify the new technology systems, but the Department doesn't have sufficient resources to perform those certifications promptly and effectively. Research and studies by the WRRC testing program can facilitate and accelerate DOH's certification of new technologies. The costs are modest, and the benefits in reducing costs will be many times larger. Based on a previous program run by Dr. Roger Babcock and WRRC, the pilot program will build on existing resources and staff at WRRC and UH. Once the program is up and running again, it will generate revenues from companies that pay testing fees to get their treatment systems approved in Hawai'i. This will bring revenues to the state, be self-sustaining and help solve our cesspool crisis.

Hawaii has more than 83,000 cesspools across the state, discharging 52 million gallons of raw sewage each day into Hawaii's waters. Along with threats to public health and drinking water resources, new research shows that polluted wastewater poses significant harm to coral reefs and the near-shore environment. Many of our reefs have declined dramatically, and places like Ma'alaea have seen their reefs basically destroyed. The people of Hawaii need this law to make sure their wastewater systems aren't polluting the groundwater or nearby surface waters.

WAI is an environmental non-profit dedicated to protecting our water resources by reducing sewage pollution from cesspools. We support more innovative, affordable, and eco-friendly solutions to wastewater management. Better sanitation systems protect public health and valuable natural resources like groundwater, streams, coral reefs and coastal areas.

Hawaii is struggling with serious sewage pollution, and the state has a mandate to make sure all cesspools are converted in the next two decades. This bill will provide the necessary testing of new treatment technologies that are needed to convert cesspools across the state more efficiently and affordably. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue and support of this bill.

Aloha,

*Stuart Coleman*

Stuart H. Coleman, Executive Director

**HB-736-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:33:15 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The need to convert Hawaii's 80,000+ cesspools to non-polluting alternatives is urgent, but is being stymied by the lack of affordable and efficient alternatives. This program is badly needed to bring alternative treatment options to availability. I strongly support HB736.

**HB-736-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 2:24:26 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This sounds exciting! We desperately need new modes of disposing of sewage. Too bad the ones that burn it are so \$\$\$. New technology could save our reefs and our pocketbooks! It would be amazing to swim in the ocean without getting MRSA.

**HB-736-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 1:26:32 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Betsy Scolnik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

PASS THIS ALREADY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Approve the necessary budget for this!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**HB-736-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 9:12:57 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tasman Kekai Mattox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support improved wastewater treatment.

**HB-736-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2025 4:11:48 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Becker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation.

**HB-736-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2025 2:11:17 PM

Testimony for HRE on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this to protect our reefs and health of recreational ocean users, and to promote science-based policy solutions.

Mahalo,

Bobbie Best, Wailuku

**HB-736-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 11:35:56 AM

Testimony for HRE on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauren R. Kaiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

As a resident of Hawai‘i who deeply values our ocean resources, I am writing in strong support of HB736 HD1, which would establish a pilot program to test new wastewater technologies at the University of Hawai‘i's Water Resources Research Center.

Living in the islands, I have witnessed firsthand the deterioration of our coastal waters and coral reefs. The 83,000 cesspools across our state discharge over 50 million gallons of sewage daily into our groundwater and eventually our oceans. This is not just an environmental issue but a serious public health concern that affects my family and community.

I frequently swim, surf, and fish in our coastal waters. The knowledge that many of our beaches regularly exceed state health standards due to fecal bacteria from cesspools is deeply troubling. As citizen science water quality monitoring programs have shown, areas with high concentrations of cesspools often have unsafe levels of enterococcus bacteria, posing risks to anyone who enters the water.

Our coral reefs, which are vital to our island way of life, culture, and economy, cannot withstand the continued stress from this pollution. These reefs provide food, coastal protection, and are central to our tourism industry. Their degradation affects not just marine life but our livelihoods and sense of place.

The cost of traditional cesspool conversion is prohibitive for many local families, including mine. With mandated cesspool conversion deadlines approaching, we urgently need affordable alternatives that are scientifically proven to protect our waters while being financially accessible to residents.

By supporting HB736 HD1, you would help advance critical research into affordable wastewater technologies that could provide practical solutions for our communities. This bill represents a science-based approach to addressing one of our state's most pressing environmental challenges.

I respectfully urge your committee to support this important legislation. The research enabled by this pilot program would provide the Department of Health with essential data to guide policy decisions and help Hawai‘i transition away from outdated cesspool systems to more sustainable wastewater management.

Your support of this bill would demonstrate a commitment to protecting our precious ocean resources and public health for generations to come.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**LATE**

**HB-736-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2025 9:20:01 PM  
Testimony for HRE on 3/17/2025 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Suparna Vashisht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am writing to convey my strong support for HB736 HD1 which would establish a pilot program to test new wastewater technologies at the University of Hawai‘i’s Water Resources Research Center.

Over 80,000 cesspools in Hawai‘i discharge over 50 million gallons per day of sewage into our oceans, polluting our ocean, harming our coral reefs and threatening the health of our marine life. Our marine ecosystem desperately need saction to avoid further degradation.

Your committee’s support of HB736 would provide the Department of Health with the resources it needs to explore alternative solutions to our state’s wastewater problems.

Mahalo for your consideration of this testimony in support of HB736,

Suparna Vashisht