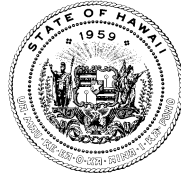


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS
DECISION MAKING ON APRIL 8, 2022 AT 10:30AM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HB 2195, HD2, RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

April 8, 2022

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports this bill establishing a cesspool compliance pilot grant project to assist low- and moderate-income property owners, including lessees on Hawaiian home lands, with the costs of upgrading, converting, or connecting a cesspool identified as failing by the Department of Health.

DHHL is especially supportive of the inclusion of low- and moderate-income lessees on Hawaiian Home Lands to access funding through this pilot grant project. Lessees are experiencing increased costs because of septic system requirements and given limited financing options on Hawaiian Home Lands, this measure provides a much needed resource. The Hawaiian Homes Commission in the past two years approved a measure establishing a low-interest loan program to offer financial assistance for lessees on Hawaiian Home Lands with cesspools to be ungraded or converted to septic systems or aerobic treatment unit systems or connected to existing sewer systems or any other wastewater treatment systems approved by the Department of Health, but DHHL hasn't been able to design the appropriate mechanism to accomplish the result.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2195, H.D. 2

April 8, 2022
10:30 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 2195, H.D. 2:

- Establishes the cesspool compliance pilot grant project (CCPGP) in the Department of Health (DOH) to assist property owners, including lessees on Hawaiian home lands, with upgrading, converting, or connecting a cesspool that DOH has identified as failing.
- Requires DOH to adopt rules as necessary to carry out the CCPGP, provided that the rules shall include a method of calculating a sliding scale grant amount based upon the federal adjusted gross income of the owner of the property with a failing cesspool.
- Appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to DOH to implement the CCPGP.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that

states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

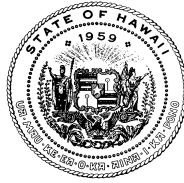
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2195 HD2
RELATING TO CESSPOOLS**

SENATOR DONAVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: 4/8/2022

Room Number: 211/Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (Department) would need at least one full-time
2 temporary position to implement the proposed cesspool compliance pilot project. This measure
3 may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive Budget Request for the
4 Department's appropriations and personnel priorities.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure as long as it does not impact
6 the priorities requested in the Executive Budget. The Department also prefers that a tax credit be
7 offered instead of a grant. The Department is unsure how we would be able to administer a grant
8 program to the general public if this measure is passed.

9 Cesspools are a major source of pollution to Hawaii's waters. There are approximately
10 88,000 cesspools in the State, discharging millions of gallons of untreated sewage into the
11 groundwater every day. The sewage polluted groundwater flows into drinking water sources,
12 streams and the ocean, harming public health and the environment, including beaches and coral
13 reefs. Ninety-five percent of all drinking water in Hawaii comes from groundwater sources.
14 Cesspools should be phased out to eliminate threats to drinking water and recreational waters.

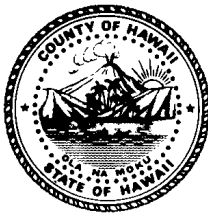
15 The Department believes the pilot project should focus on low and moderate-income
16 homeowners. The 2017 legislature report should not be referenced because the Department is
17 working on updating the report. In addition, the Department has concerns regarding the staff
18 support for the proposed grant program. It typically takes two to three years to establish
19 positions. The Department also recognizes that contracting can also be a lengthy process that

1 can take six months to one year to complete. To expedite the process, we recommend that the
2 contract be exempted from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

3 **Offered Amendments:** Revise measure to implement a tax credit program similar to HB1805
4 HD1 instead of a grant program. Revise SECTION 3. (2) to read, “Contract for services to
5 establish and administer the project. Any contract executed pursuant to this Act shall be exempt
6 from chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes.”

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

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiiicounty.gov



HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

April 7, 2022

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB 2195 HD2, RELATING TO CESSPOOLS
Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, April 8, 2022 10:30 a.m.

Aloha Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB 2195 HD2. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai'i County Council and Chair of the Hawai'i County Council Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Management Committee.

The requirement to upgrade or convert a cesspool imposes a financial burden on low- and moderate-income families, therefore the purpose of this Act is to assist low- and moderate-income property owners, including lessees on Hawaiian home lands, with upgrading, converting, or connecting their failing cesspools to more environmentally appropriate systems or sewerage systems by creating a pilot grant project to assist with conversion costs.

Failing cesspools are contaminating the State's ground water, streams, and coastal ecosystems. Public health and the quality of drinking water, streams, ground waters, marine areas, and the ocean is being harmed by water pollution of cesspools. Without this temporary income tax credit many families will not be able to afford to convert their systems or it will cause drastic financial harm to them. By assisting with expenses related to the costs of cesspool conversion we will be able to protect our environment and provide further protection to public health

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Ways and Means to SUPPORT this measure. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Villegas".

Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai'i County Council

HB-2195-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 2:46:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Wolfendale	Testifying for Rotary Club Hanelie Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Rotary Club of Hanalei Bay strongly support all actions that contribute towards making our rivers and bays safe for recreational use. Cesspools in low lying communities like Hanalei often overflow directly into our recreational waters during heavy rains and high tides. The major obstacle to conversion is the availability of funding for working class families. This bill is an important step towards solving this major health threat to residents and visitors.

HB-2195-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 4:39:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair, The Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

Re: Hearing **HB2195 HD2 RELATING TO CESSPOOLS.**

Hearing: Friday, April 8, 2022, 10:30 a.m., CR 211 and by videoconference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition is a group focused on protecting corals and other ocean species. **The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB2195 HD2!**

Cesspools need to be phased out in order to protect Hawaii's drinking waters, surface water quality, and coral reefs and other aquatic life! But, it can cost over \$30,000 to upgrade a cesspool by connecting to a sewer or installing a septic system, aerobic treatment unit (ATU), or other system approved by the Department of Health.

This bill would establish a cesspool compliance **pilot grant** program to **help some low and moderate income property owners, including some lessees on Hawaiian homelands, afford the costs of upgrading, converting or connecting a failing cesspool.** Similar grant programs in New York and Rhode Island have increased the rate of conversions.

Providing grants to low and moderate income folks who upgrade failing cesspools will help reduce marine pollution that harms corals and other ocean species. This bill would help remove some water pollution from the environment and help some low and moderate income property owners and Hawaiian homelands lessees financially.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

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



4/8/2022

WAM Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee,

Position: Support HB2195 HD2.

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.

With an estimated 88,000 cesspools, Hawaii has one of the highest per capita number of cesspools in the nation. While the state has recognized the crucial need to convert these cesspools to newer technology, one of the primary roadblocks to increasing rates of cesspool conversion is financing: the conversion to septic or sewer can be upwards of \$30,000. Without this bill, low- and moderate-income (LMI) homeowners likely won't have options for financing these conversions and mandated upgrades. HB2195 HD2 creates a system of state grants to offset the cost of cesspool conversion for LMI homeowners.

With the significant environmental impact of cesspools on Hawaii's water quality, we need all the tools and options available to tackle this major issue. HB2195 HD2 expands those options via a grant program, and serves as a step towards making widespread cesspool conversion a reality. HB2195 HD2 is a critical measure to support low- and moderate-income (LMI) homeowners with this expensive conversion, while helping the state reach its mandate under Act 125 of converting all cesspools by 2050. Similar grant programs in New York and Rhode Islands have been successful in increasing rates of conversion.

Surfrider Foundation maintains a citizen-science water quality monitoring program called the Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) on Kauai, Maui, and Oahu that tests for enterococcus, a fecal indicator bacteria. Since 2018, the Oahu BWTF has been monitoring water quality in Kaneohe 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](#) attached). Without mechanisms and tools to help finance and convert cesspools and other failing wastewater systems, 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 HB2195 HD2, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawaii 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, Oahu Chapter

HB-2195-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 9:30:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurel brier	Testifying for Kauai women's caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Important issue that has been ignored for too long.



April 7, 2022

In Support of **HB2195 HD2** Relating to Cesspools
Senate Committee on Ways And Means (WAM)
Hearing on April 8, 10:30am

Aloha, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran & Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the non-profit WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations, I am writing in **strong support of HB2195 HD2**. This bill would help homeowners with the costs of replacing their cesspools and other essential upgrades by creating a pilot grant project to assist low- and moderate-income homeowners with the cost of converting their failing cesspools or connecting them to sewer. Mahalo for scheduling a final hearing for this desperately needed bill.

Hawaii has more than 88,000 cesspools across the state, discharging 53 million gallons of raw sewage each day into Hawaii's waters. That's similar to a massive sewage spill every day! Homeowners across the state need this law to make sure their wastewater systems aren't polluting the groundwater, our drinking water or nearby surface waters. As a member of the State's Cesspool Conversion Working Group and the Cesspool Task Force, I believe this bill provides an important economic tool for the state to fulfill its mandate under Act 125 to convert all cesspools by 2050.

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, drinking water, streams and the health of our coral reefs and coastal areas. Converting cesspools will also improve water quality for locals and visitors alike and help protect our environment and promote Hawaii as a world-class destination.

Hawaii is struggling with serious sewage pollution problems and needs to meet the mandate to upgrade all cesspools in the next three decades. Most homeowners don't have enough money to convert their individual cesspools, but this law will help by creating grants to help low- and moderate-income homeowners with the cost of conversion. Similar grant programs in New York and Rhode Island have dramatically increased the rate of conversions.

Based on successful bills in other states, this bill creates a practical and expedient way to convert cesspools with state grants. It will provide needed assistance to struggling homeowners who need to upgrade their systems, while also helping the state to meet the mandate under Act 125 to convert all cesspools by 2050. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue and support of common sense policies like this one to help the people of Hawaii.

Aloha,

Stuart Coleman

Stuart H. Coleman, Executive Director

HB-2195-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 10:58:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise E Antolini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of WAM,

I write in **strong support** of HB2195 HD2 - Cesspool Compliance Pilot Grant Project.

We need "all hands on deck" to help Hawai'i address the cesspool conversion challenge.

Thank you for hearing and passing this bill!

Denise Antolini

HB-2195-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 10:59:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Wiegner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Cesspools do not treat household wastewater and instead release it untreated. This is known to pollute drinking water and coastal oceans, causing public health hazards and environmental damage. There is a mandate to convert all cesspools by 2050, but the costs of conversion pose a financial burden to low and mid-income homeowners. The pilot Cesspool Grant Program would provide a way for qualifying homeowners to access financial assistance to make this important conversion. With a focus on Hawaiian Home Lands, this grant program helps to address the environmental equity issues of cesspool pollution, including pollution of fishponds, lo'i, and degraded nearshore habitat and subsistence fisheries.

HB-2195-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 12:16:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicolas Vanderzyl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Measure: HB 2195

Title: RELATING TO CESSPOOLS.

Dear Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means:

I SUPPORT HB 2195 which will appropriate the funds needed for a cesspool compliance grant project to assist low- and moderate-income property owners with the costs of upgrading, converting, or connecting a cesspool.

My name is Nicolas Storie and I am a marine scientist currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Oceanography at UH-Mānoa. Prior to moving to O‘ahu, I lived in Hilo for over seven years and consider this area my home. My current research uses microbial community signatures to differentiate between sewage pollution sources (i.e., cesspools, sewage infrastructure) along the Hilo coastline, a Priority 3 Upgrade Area for the State’s cesspool conversion plan. As a Priority 3 Upgrade Area, there is a potential threat of sewage contamination to sensitive waters that are important culturally, ecologically, and economically. Cesspool pollution is a complex cocktail of pathogens, nutrients, toxic metals, and pharmaceuticals that travels via groundwater into the ocean and is a direct threat to human and environmental health.

The district of Hilo houses over 10,000 cesspools leaking over an estimated 5 million gallons of untreated sewage into its coastal waters each day. I have been working closely with the Keaukaha community which houses over 200 cesspools within 1 km of the coast to address their concerns of sewage pollution, and while in the exploratory phase of data analysis, patterns highlight Keaukaha struggles with chronic cesspool pollution. The Keaukaha community consists of primarily low- and mid-income homeowners, with an average income of ~\$60,000, and It is estimated that a cesspool conversion can cost upwards of \$20,000. It simply is not financially feasible for much of the Keaukaha and Hilo community to convert their cesspools in the allotted time without some form of assistance.

Although my research is primarily focused in Hilo, the issue of cesspool pollution is a state-wide issue (with over 10 priority areas identified) that must be addressed ASAP. Providing financial assistance to low- and mid-income households is an important first step if we are to meet our goal of state-wide cesspool conversions by 2050. **I implore the Committee to pass HB 2195 as it helps address the environmental equity issues of cesspool pollution, including pollution of fishponds, lo'i, and degraded nearshore habitat and subsistence fisheries.**

Thank you for your consideration,

Nicolas Storie

nvanderz@hawaii.edu

HB-2195-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 1:15:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Ways and Means Committee members

I am writing in support of HB2195, and appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony. This bill is step towards finding fiscal solutions to the mandated upgrades for cess pools due in 2050. Without financial assistance, homeowners will be challenged to make the switch.

Poor wastewater systems threaten our drinking water quality, and also our coastal water quality. Swimming on a beach with high untreated wastewater is no one's idea of a good Hawaiian vacation, and coral reefs don't withstand this type of pollution well either.

Thank you for supporting this measure and for protecting our water quality.

Kim Falinski, PhD

HB-2195-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 1:41:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tapani Vuori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, and The Honorable Michael Gabbard, Chair, The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Tapani Vuori

Re: Hearing HB2195 HD2 RELATING TO CESSPOOLS. Friday, April 8, 2022

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Baker and Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2195 HD2 !

HB-2195-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 7:28:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Cesspool conversion is expensive but necessary. This bill is important because it addresses the problems low and medium income residents have in being able to afford the conversion. Please support.

HB-2195-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 9:47:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joel Burgess	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

April 6, 2022

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

I support HB2195 because there is a state mandate to convert all cesspools by 2050, but the costs of conversion for homeowners poses a serious financial burden to low and mid-income homeowners. The bill's pilot Cesspool Grant Program will provide a way for certain homeowners to receive financial support to make this important conversion. By focusing on DHHL homes, this grant program will help to address environmental equity issues of cesspool pollution, including pollution of fishponds, lo'i, and degraded nearshore habitat and subsistence fisheries. For these reasons I support HB2195. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Joel Burgess

HB-2195-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2022 10:02:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2195 HD2 that establishes a cesspool compliance pilot grant project to assist low- and moderate-income property owners, including lessees on Hawaiian home lands, with the costs of upgrading, converting, or connecting a cesspool. Please pass this important measure. Mahalo!

HB-2195-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 10:24:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Comfort	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Christina Comfort and I am a coastal oceanographer and expert in wastewater pollution to nearshore ecosystems. Currently, cesspools are leaching 53 million gallons per day of untreated wastewater across Hawaii, and much of this pollution reaches the aquifer and coastal ecosystems. The pollution problem has been recognized and acted on by the state with the 2050 mandate to convert all cesspools; however, there are several bottlenecks that prevent cesspool conversions from happening at a rate that will allow us to meet this goal. One of those critical bottlenecks is that cesspool conversions are unaffordable for Hawaii residents. With the cost of \$30,000-\$40,000 per conversion compared to the household incomes of local families, over 85% of cesspool conversions are categorized as unaffordable according the EPA's criteria for affordable sanitation, even with a small subsidy. We need grant programs to support local families with the cost of conversion with significant subsidies. This is critically important so that cesspool conversions can move forward and reduce pollution to the nearshore ocean and aquifer, where wastewater causes public health hazards and degrades Hawaii's precious coral reefs.

Mahalo,

Christina Comfort

LATE

HB-2195-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2022 2:36:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/8/2022 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Cesspools are not the Problem . The County and State are the problem there system does not work and is the biggest Cause of Polution in Hawaii. When are you going to Investegate this Problem witch there is tons of Evedince of polution. Remember who you work for stop scrweing the people of Hawaii. This is just another Rip off of the People for your Benifite!!!