
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONVENE A REGIONAL
CESSPOOL MODERNIZATION TASK FORCE WITHIN EACH COUNTY OF THE
STATE.

1 WHEREAS, Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, among other
2 provisions, required the Department of Health to investigate and
3 report to the Legislature on:

4
5 (1) The number, scope, and location of cesspools statewide
6 that require:

7
8 (A) An upgrade or conversion to a septic system or
9 aerobic treatment unit system; or

10 (B) Connection to a sewerage system; and

11
12
13 (2) The priority of upgrading, converting, or connecting
14 cesspools; and

15
16 WHEREAS, in December 2017, the Department of Health
17 submitted its report to the Legislature; and

18
19 WHEREAS, the Department of Health's report, among other
20 findings:

21
22 (1) Noted that Hawaii has eighty-seven thousand nine
23 hundred inventoried cesspools, which put an aggregate
24 total of approximately fifty-three million gallons of
25 raw sewage into the State's groundwater and surface
26 waters every day;

27
28 (2) Estimated that the cost of upgrading, converting, or
29 connecting each inventoried cesspool in the State
30 could cost approximately \$20,000 or more per cesspool,
31 or \$1,750,000,000 in the aggregate, with an average



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1 construction investment of \$54,700,000 per year from
2 2018 to 2049; and

- 3
4 (3) Identified fourteen areas within the State, containing
5 an aggregate total of 42,730 cesspools, as priority
6 areas for upgrading, converting, or connecting
7 cesspools; and
8

9 WHEREAS, in its report, the Department of Health noted that
10 issues relating to cesspools are complex and involve access to
11 municipal sewer systems, local geology, cesspool density,
12 receiving waters, and most-appropriate treatment technology;
13 now, therefore,
14

15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
17 of 2018, that the Department of Health is requested to convene a
18 regional cesspool modernization task force within each county of
19 the State for the purpose of investigating the feasibility and
20 potential impacts of the department's findings and
21 recommendations in its December 2017 report to the Legislature
22 on cesspool replacement in light of health, safety, geographic,
23 and economic considerations; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, at a minimum, the following
26 individuals are requested to serve and be included as members of
27 the regional cesspool modernization task force within each
28 county:
29

- 30 (1) One representative of the Department of Health who
31 resides in the respective county, as appointed by the
32 Director of Health;
33
34 (2) One senator from the State Senate who resides in the
35 respective county, as appointed by the President of
36 the Senate;
37
38 (3) One representative from the State House of
39 Representatives who resides in the respective county,
40 as appointed by the Speaker of the House of
41 Representatives;
42



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- 1 (4) One member of the respective county council, as
2 appointed by that county council's chair;
3
- 4 (5) One representative of the respective county's economic
5 development department or office, as appointed by the
6 head of that department or office;
7
- 8 (6) One representative of the respective county's agency
9 or department that is responsible for wastewater
10 management, as appointed by the head of that agency or
11 department;
12
- 13 (7) One representative of agricultural interests who
14 resides in the respective county, as jointly appointed
15 by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
16 House of Representatives; and
17
- 18 (8) One member of the community, as jointly appointed by
19 the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
20 House of Representatives; and
21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of each regional
23 cesspool modernization task force are requested to elect a
24 chair, a vice chair, and any other necessary officers for the
25 task force from among the members of the task force; and
26

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each regional cesspool
28 modernization task force is requested to convene its first
29 meeting no later than July 1, 2018; and
30

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each regional cesspool
32 modernization task force is requested to submit a report of its
33 findings and recommendations to the Legislature, including any
34 proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the
35 convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each regional cesspool
38 modernization task force cease to exist on June 30, 2020; and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health; the
42 President of the Senate; the Speaker of the House of



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1 Representatives; the chair of each county council; the Executive
 2 Director of the Office of Economic Development, City and County
 3 of Honolulu; the Director of the Office of Economic Development,
 4 County of Maui; the Director of the Department of Research and
 5 Development, County of Hawaii; the Director of the Office of
 6 Economic Development, County of Kauai; the Director of the
 7 Department of Environmental Services, City and County of
 8 Honolulu; the Division Chief of the Wastewater Reclamation
 9 Division of the Department of Environmental Management, County
 10 of Maui; the Division Chief of the Wastewater Division of the
 11 Department of Environmental Management, County of Hawaii; and
 12 the County Engineer of the Department of Public Works, County of
 13 Kauai.

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