

MAR 09 2018

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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:

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

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

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11 (B) Connection to a sewerage system; and

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:

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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;

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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

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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

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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 Senate of the Twenty-ninth  
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,  
17 that the Department of Health is requested to convene a regional  
18 cesspool modernization task force within each county of the  
19 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;  
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34 (2) One senator from the State Senate who resides in the  
35 respective county, as appointed by the President of  
36 the Senate;  
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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;  
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- (4) One member of the respective county council, as appointed by that county council's chair;
- (5) One representative of the respective county's economic development department or office, as appointed by the head of that department or office;
- (6) One representative of the respective county's agency or department that is responsible for wastewater management, as appointed by the head of that agency or department;
- (7) One representative of agricultural interests who resides in the respective county, as jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- (8) One member of the community, as jointly appointed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

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

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

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

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

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



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Representatives; the chair of each county council; the Executive Director of the Office of Economic Development, City and County of Honolulu; the Director of the Office of Economic Development, County of Maui; the Director of the Department of Research and Development, County of Hawaii; the Director of the Office of Economic Development, County of Kauai; the Director of the Department of Environmental Services, City and County of Honolulu; the Division Chief of the Wastewater Reclamation Division of the Department of Environmental Management, County of Maui; the Division Chief of the Wastewater Division of the Department of Environmental Management, County of Hawaii; and the County Engineer of the Department of Public Works, County of Kauai.

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