
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING EACH COUNTY TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE INTEGRATED
WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FINANCIAL STRATEGY TO
UPGRADE, CONVERT, OR CONNECT CESSPOOLS LOCATED WITHIN ITS
RESPECTIVE JURISDICTION BY 2050.

1 WHEREAS, there are approximately 83,000 cesspools across
2 the State, with 48,596 on the island of Hawaii; 14,300 on Kauai;
3 11,038 on Maui; 7,491 on Oahu; and 1,400 on Molokai; and
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5 WHEREAS, Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, requires
6 every cesspool in the State, excluding cesspools granted
7 exemptions by the Director of Health, to be upgraded or
8 converted to a Director-approved wastewater system or connected
9 to a sewerage system by January 1, 2050; and
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11 WHEREAS, according to the Cesspool Conversion Working Group
12 Final Report to the 2023 Regular Session Legislature, the cost
13 of conversions to most private and residential property owners
14 is significant, ranging from an estimated collective total of
15 \$880,000,000 to more than \$5,300,000,000, with only three
16 percent of all residents unburdened by the cost to convert; and
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18 WHEREAS, many properties in rural areas, especially on the
19 neighbor islands, may not have existing county infrastructure
20 that allows for easy upgrade, conversion, or connection; and
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22 WHEREAS, undertaking a massive infrastructure project, such
23 as converting 83,000 cesspools by 2050, requires proper planning
24 and administration across various stakeholders and governmental
25 institutions, including those of the counties; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
28 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
29 Session of 2023, the Senate concurring, that each county is
30 requested to develop a comprehensive integrated wastewater



1 management plan and financial strategy to upgrade, convert, or
2 connect cesspools located within its respective jurisdiction by
3 2050; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each county is requested to
6 include the following information in its comprehensive
7 integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy:
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9 (1) Planned connections to centralized public and private
10 treatment systems;
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12 (2) Locations where individualized treatment systems will
13 be needed;
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15 (3) Locations where smaller-scale cluster treatment
16 systems may be used;
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18 (4) Individual treatment system needs for homes having
19 cesspools, including whether there is appropriate
20 existing infrastructure capacity to handle the
21 upgrade, conversion, or connection of cesspools by
22 2050; and
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24 (5) Financial needs, funding mechanisms, and financing
25 strategies to assist with cesspool upgrades,
26 conversions, or connections; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each county is requested to
29 submit its respective comprehensive integrated wastewater
30 management plan and financial strategy, including any proposed
31 legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior
32 to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
35 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health,
36 Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor of the County of
37 Hawaii, Mayor of the County of Maui, and Mayor of the County of
38 Kauai.

