STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1540

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 24 , 2023

RE: S.B. No. 285

S.D. 2 H.D. 2

Honorable Scott K. Saiki Speaker, House of Representatives Thirty-Second State Legislature Regular Session of 2023 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred S.B. No. 285, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish within the Department of Health's Wastewater Branch a Cesspool Conversion Section dedicated to facilitating the conversion of cesspools within the State, including the establishment and funding of positions; and
- (2) Establish and appropriate funds for a three-year New Wastewater System Demonstration Pilot Program within the University of Hawaii's Waste Resources Research Center.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; Department of Health; University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center; University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program; Hawai'i Association of REALTORS; Coral Reef Alliance; Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition; Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; Surfrider Foundation, Hawai'i Region; Ulupono Initiative; WAI: Wastewater

Alternatives & Innovations; and five individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that cesspools are a major source of pollution to Hawaii's waters. Cesspools discharge untreated sewage, which may reach the groundwater and flow into drinking water sources, streams, and the ocean. Since a significant portion of drinking water in the State comes from groundwater sources, these discharges pose a serious risk of harm to public health and the environment.

Your Committee further finds that the Legislature, through Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, mandated the upgrade or conversion of all cesspools in the State to certain wastewater management systems or connection to a sewerage system by 2050. To accomplish this mandate, further support is necessary to facilitate the transition of cesspools to approved wastewater systems or connection to municipal sewer systems. This measure establishes a dedicated unit in the Department of Health to provide this essential support.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Appropriating funds out of general funds, rather than the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, for three specific positions within the Cesspool Conversion Section; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 285, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 285, S.D. 2, H.D. 2.

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Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

MARK M. NAKASHIMA, Chair

State of Hawaii House of Representatives The Thirty-second Legislature

HSCR 1540

Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Bill/Resolution No.:	Committee Referral:	Date	03-21-	
SB 285 SD2 HD1	EEP/L/AL, CPC	FIN	05-21-	<u> </u>
The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: Pass, unamended (as is) Pass, with amendments (HD) Hold				
Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
CPC Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. NAKASHIMA, Mark M. (C)	/			_
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2. SAYAMA, Jackson D. (VC)				
3. AMATO, Terez		- 36 ° · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		2 (1.00 - 1.00 (1.00
4. BELATTI, Della Au	A CONTRACT OF THE CONTRACT OF			
5 HASHEM Monk I				
5. HASHEM, Mark J.				<u>4</u> 11.1277 F.
6. HUSSEY-BURDICK, Natalia				
7. GATES, Cedric Asuega				4 h et (45 h (4 h
8. LOWEN, Nicole E.		PUNICE WHILE THE PROPERTY OF THE PURICE OF T		<u> </u>
			特别在 社会区制	
9. ONISHI, Richard H.K.	_			
The state of the s				
10. TAM, Adrian K.				
11. PIERICK, Elijah				
TOTAL (11)	i i			
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The recommendation is: Adopted Not Adopted If joint referral, did not support recommendation.				
committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature:				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				