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# HOUSE 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, that each county is requested to develop a  
30 comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan and  
31 financial strategy to upgrade, convert, or connect cesspools  
32 located within its respective jurisdiction by 2050; and



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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each county is requested to include the following information in its comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy:

- (1) Planned connections to centralized public and private treatment systems;
- (2) Locations where individualized treatment systems will be needed;
- (3) Locations where smaller-scale cluster treatment systems may be used;
- (4) Individual treatment system needs for homes having cesspools, including whether there is appropriate existing infrastructure capacity to handle the upgrade, conversion, or connection of cesspools by 2050; and
- (5) Financial needs, funding mechanisms, and financing strategies to assist with cesspool upgrades, conversions, or connections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each county is requested to submit its respective comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Mayor of the County of Hawaii, Mayor of the County of Maui, and Mayor of the County of Kauai.