

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CESSPOOLS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are
2 approximately 83,000 cesspools across the State, with 48,596 on
3 Hawaii Island, 14,300 on Kauai, 11,038 on Maui, 7,491 on Oahu,
4 and 1,400 on Molokai. Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017,
5 requires every cesspool in the State, excluding cesspools
6 granted exemptions by the director of health, to be upgraded or
7 converted to a director-approved wastewater system or connected
8 to a sewerage system by January 1, 2050.

9 The legislature further finds that undertaking a massive
10 infrastructure project, such as converting 83,000 cesspools by
11 2050, requires proper planning and administration across various
12 stakeholders and governmental institutions, including those of
13 the counties. According to the Cesspool Conversion Working
14 Group Final Report to the 2023 Regular Session Legislature, the
15 cost of conversions to most private and residential property
16 owners is significant, ranging from \$880,000,000 to more than
17 \$5,300,000,000, with only three per cent of all residents



1 unburdened by the cost to convert. Moreover, conversion
2 programs take time and require concerted long-term efforts,
3 planning, outreach, and adaptation. Many properties in rural
4 areas, especially on the neighbor islands, may not be in areas
5 where existing county infrastructure allows for easy conversion
6 and connection to sewer systems. Therefore, the legislature
7 finds that requiring each county to identify its respective
8 infrastructure requirements is an important first step towards
9 fulfilling the State's mandate to successfully upgrade or
10 convert all cesspools in the State by 2050.


11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require each
12 county to develop a comprehensive integrated wastewater
13 management plan and financial strategy, including where
14 connections to centralized public and private treatment systems
15 are planned, locations where individual treatment systems will
16 be needed, and where smaller-scale cluster treatment systems may
17 be utilized.

18 SECTION 2. (a) Each county shall develop a comprehensive
19 integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy
20 specific to the county. Each plan shall identify within the
21 county:



- 1 (1) Planned connections to both centralized public and
- 2 private treatment systems;
- 3 (2) Locations where individual treatment systems will be
- 4 needed;
- 5 (3) Locations where smaller-scale cluster treatment
- 6 systems may be utilized;
- 7 (4) Individual treatment system needs for homes with
- 8 cesspools, including whether there is appropriate
- 9 existing infrastructure capacity to handle the
- 10 conversion of cesspools by 2050; and
- 11 (5) Financial needs, funding mechanisms, and financing
- 12 strategies to assist with cesspool conversions.
- 13 (b) Each county shall submit its respective comprehensive
- 14 integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy,
- 15 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later
- 16 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
- 17 of 2024.

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

19 INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 428

Report Title:

Cesspools; Wastewater Management; Financial Strategy; Plans;
Counties; Reports

Description:

Requires each county to develop a comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy. Requires each county to submit its respective plan and financial strategy to the Legislature.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

