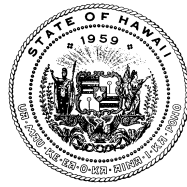


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'AINA O KA MOKU'AINA 'O HAWAII



KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. BOX 3378
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

In reply, please refer to:
File:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB0428 HD1
RELATING TO CESSPOOLS**

REPRESENTATIVE MARK M. NAKASHIMA, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Hearing Date: 3/21/2023 Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** None.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health strongly supports this measure but defers to
- 3 the counties to address the resource and fiscal implications that would be involved with the
- 4 implementation of this measure.
- 5 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
- 6 **Offered Amendments:** None.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Tuesday March 21, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Darren T. Lerner, PhD

Director, University of Hawai'i (UH) Sea Grant College Program,
School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

And

Thomas Giambelluca

Director, UH Water Resources Research Center

And

Michael Bruno, Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 428 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) and UH Water Resources Research Center **support** SB 428 SD1 HD1.

This bill would require each county to submit to the Legislature a comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan report that addresses and identifies the county's wastewater management needs, including financial needs. Each plan would compel the counties to assess the infrastructure needs of each region and the appropriate wastewater management systems based on local conditions. This step would promote improvement and standardization of wastewater management and would help the state meet its mandate to protect environmental resources and human health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

March 21, 2023

The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
State Capitol, Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

RE: Senate Bill 428, SD1, HD1, Relating to Cesspools

HEARING: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i and its over 11,000 members. HAR **strongly supports** Senate Bill 428, SD1, HD1, which 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. Effective 6/30/3000.

Hawai'i REALTORS® supports the goal of protecting our drinking water, streams, ground water, and ocean resources. We recognize that cesspool conversion is important to preserve our environment. There are approximately 83,000 cesspools divided into three priorities¹ across the State (48,596 on Hawai'i Island; 14,300 on Kauai; 11,038 on Maui; 1,400 on Molokai; and 7,491 on O'ahu) with only 27 years to meet the state's mandate to convert all cesspools to a Director of Health approved wastewater system. To convert 83,000 cesspools by 2050, at least 3,000 cesspools would need to be converted per year. It is crucial that we properly plan and find ways to assist communities and homeowners as resources and manpower are limited, especially on the neighbor islands.

Affordability and financial planning are key. The Cesspool Conversion Working Group conducted an affordability analysis² for homeowners. Based on the analysis, **97% of homeowners would be financially burdened by cesspool conversion costs.** Equally concerning, even with a \$10,000 rebate 82% of homeowners would still be financially burdened. Most homeowners will not be able to afford to do this alone.

Undertaking such a massive infrastructure project will require proper planning across various stakeholders and government institutions, including state and local

¹ University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program. *Hawai'i Cesspool Prioritization Tool*. <https://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/cesspools-tool/>

² Cesspool Conversion Working Group. (2022). *Final Report to the 2023 Regular Session Legislature*. State of Hawai'i Department of Health. <https://health.hawaii.gov/opppd/files/2022/12/Act-170-SLH-2019-Nov-2022.pdf>



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 1259 A'ala Street, Suite 300
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governments. This bill is an important next step so that we may be able to determine which areas sewer can be built out or where other conversion options are possible as well as to identify funding mechanisms and develop financing strategies to assist with cesspool conversions.

We applaud the state's effort in taking the lead and requiring the counties to develop a comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy to help meet the goal of converting 83,000 cesspools by 2050.

For the foregoing reasons, Hawai'i REALTORS® strongly supports this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



SB-428-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 3:41:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

Friends of Hanauma Bay urges you to pass this important bill!

With Aloha,

Lisa Bishop

President



Aloha Committee Members,

My name is Arwen Revere and I am a high school student from Kailua. Today, I am testifying on behalf of the student-run environmental organization Wild Kids in strong support of SB428. Hawai'i has more than 88,000 cesspools statewide that discharge more than 53 million gallons of untreated sewage into the state's waters each day. This poses significant health and environmental risks to our drinking water, groundwater, streams, and shore waters.

A massive infrastructure project, such as this requires proper planning and administration across various stakeholders and governmental institutions, including those of the counties. Many properties in rural areas, especially those outside Honolulu County, may not be in areas where existing county infrastructure allows for easy conversion and connection to sewer systems.

Therefore, requiring each county to identify its respective infrastructure requirements is an important first step towards fulfilling the state's mandate to successfully upgrade or convert all cesspools in the state by 2050.

Please pass this vital legislation and help protect our planet for future generations.

Thank you for hearing our testimony,
Arwen Revere on behalf of Wild Kids



To: The Honorable Chair Mark Nakashima, the Honorable Vice Chair Jackson Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: **Hearing SB428 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO CESSPOOLS**

Hearing: Tuesday March 21, 2023, 2:00 p.m., room 329

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean. HIROC is deeply concerned about polluted runoff, particularly nutrients, running into the ocean through groundwater polluted by cesspools.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB428 SD1 HD1!

Hawai'i has a significant public health and environmental problem with water pollution from cesspools. We have over 80,000 cesspools that discharge about 50 million gallons of raw sewage into our groundwater every day! This discharge **exposes people to sewage pathogens that can make them sick**. The release of **nutrients** from cesspools causes algae growth, which can **smother the coral reefs that are essential to protecting our shorelines, nurturing our fisheries, and**

enabling our lucrative recreational economy. Sea level rise will further exacerbate the public health and environmental problems as it will cause more cesspools to overflow onto the surface. The recent report of the legislatively-appointed **Cesspool Conversion Working Group recommended that Hawai'i upgrade the cesspools that cause the most pollution (Priority Level 1) by 2030.**

The counties operate most of the larger sewer systems in Hawai'i. One practical way to eliminate cesspools is by connecting them to an existing municipal sewer line or by extending sewer lines, though extensions and connections can be cost-prohibitive unless the cesspools are fairly close to the sewer lines. **The counties therefore will need to play an important role in eliminating cesspools.**

This bill would require counties to develop a **comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy.** It is crucial to the eventual elimination of all cesspools in Hawai'i, as well as proper wastewater system management, that counties do this planning and financial strategizing.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
The Honorable Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Re: **SB 428 SD1, HD1 – RELATING TO CESSPOOLS**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 2:00 p.m., Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Position: **Strong support**

Aloha, Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i stands in strong support of SB 428 SD1 HD1. This measure would require each county to develop a comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy and would require each county to submit its respective plan and financial strategy to the Legislature.

The Platform environmental policies of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i are to “protect and preserve Hawai'i's environment and achieve energy sustainability, advance measures to re-establish a healthy climate and environment for humans and fellow species, including actions to urgently address climate change, and work towards 100% renewable energy goals.

We believe that all people have the right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment. We believe that the preservation of our natural environment and its ecological well-being is essential to ensuring a safe, healthy, bountiful life for future generations in Hawai'i. We support policies that create a more sustainable society. We support the restoration, preservation, and protection of native ecosystems.

We believe in the resource management principles outlined in the Public Trust doctrine of [Article XI, Section 1 of] the Hawai'i State Constitution.” [OUR PLATFORM | DPH \(hawaiidemocrats.org\)](#)

Hawaii currently has an official goal to replace all its cesspools with better sewage treatment systems that cause less harm to the local environment and public health by 2050; however, as many as 83,000 cesspools release about 53 million gallons of untreated sewage into the islands' soil, streams and nearshore waters daily making the 2050 deadline too late to prevent substantial harm.



March 21, 2023
Page 2

In the Report of the [Cesspool Conversion Working Group](#), nearly 14,000 of the worst Hawaii cesspools – the ones that would potentially cause the most damage based on their location – are to be removed by 2030; followed by more than 12,000 “priority two” cesspools to be removed by 2035; and the remaining “priority three” 55,000 cesspools are to be removed by the original 2050 deadline.

“There are no benefits to human health or the environment if homeowners wait or postpone conversion until closer to the 2050 ... deadline,” the 17-member task force of scientists, public health officials, private industry representatives, elected leaders and environmental advocates wrote in a new 1,182-page report to the Legislature. [Microsoft Word - Cesspool Conversion Plan Draft Final-copy-blue wave-FINAL use this one \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

Requiring each county to develop a comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy and requiring each county to submit its respective plan and financial strategy to the Legislature would assist in implementing the recommendations set forth in the Cesspool Conversion Plan which are consistent with the state and counties’ duties under the Public Trust Doctrine and the DPH Platform environmental plank that all people have the right to live in a clean, healthy and safe environment.

Please support and pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

/s/ Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick
Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Tuesday, March 21, 2023 — 2:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 428 SD1 HD1, Relating to Cesspools.

Dear Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports SB 428 SD1 HD1, which requires each county to develop a comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy; and, requires each county to submit its respective plan and financial strategy to the Legislature.

Ulupono supports statewide cesspool conversion working toward a more sustainable and environmentally sound approach to waste management and water security. Hawai'i has more than 88,000 cesspools statewide that discharge more than 53 million gallons of untreated sewage into the state's waters each day. This poses major health and environmental risks to our drinking water, groundwater, streams, and shore waters.

Strategic planning and dedicated resources will need to go hand in hand in order to meet our 2050 goal of converting all cesspools. County planning will be helpful when determining how and when a statewide conversion rollout will occur.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



March 21, 2023

2 p.m.

Conference Room 329 and Via Videoconference

To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: SB428 SD1 HD1 — RELATING TO CESSPOOLS.

Comments Only

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on [SB428 SD1 HD1](#), which would require each of Hawaii's counties to create an integrated wastewater management plan and financial plan and submit those to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of next year's regular legislative session.

The bill is in response to the final report presented to the 2023 Legislature by the Cesspool Conversion Working Group. This report analyzed strategies to implement a 2017 law that called for all of Hawaii's 83,000 cesspools be upgraded or converted to a director-approved wastewater system or connected to a sewerage system by Jan. 1, 2050, excluding cesspools granted exemptions by the state director of health.

The Working Group noted that many properties in rural areas, especially on the neighbor islands, may not be in areas where existing county infrastructure allows for easy conversion and connection to sewer systems.

It also estimated that 97% of Hawaii homeowners with cesspools face a significant financial burden from the conversion costs, with the total costs to replace all cesspools ranging from

\$880 million to \$5.3 billion. Even with a \$10,000 tax rebate from the state, 85% would still face a financial burden.¹

Considering these difficulties and costs, SB428 SD1 aims to establish a framework for meeting the 2050 conversion deadline by requiring the counties to identify their respective infrastructure requirements, including where connections to centralized public and private treatment systems might be planned, locations where individual treatment systems would be needed and where smaller-scale cluster treatment systems could be utilized.

In other words, this bill would help inform county lawmakers, the Legislature and other interested stakeholders about the financial feasibility of wastewater plans and possible cesspool conversion strategies.

It is highly likely that the strategies of the counties would differ from each other, but this would give them the opportunity to learn from each other and adopt more innovative, cost-effective approaches.

This bill makes sense and is preferable to a legislative mandate that all cesspools be converted in a one-size-fits-all manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

¹ [“Cesspool Conversion Working Group Final Report to the Regular Session Legislature pursuant to Act 170 Session Laws Hawaii of 2019,”](#) Dec. 15, 2022, p. 43.

SB-428-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 1:30:48 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manuel Mejia	Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Chair Mark Nakashima, the Honorable Vice Chair Jackson Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

From: The Coral Reef Alliance

Re: Hearing SB428 SD1 HD1 RELATING TO CESSPOOLS

Hearing: Tuesday March 21, 2023, 2:00 p.m., room 329

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

We strongly support this bill (SB428), which will require each county to submit a comprehensive, integrated wastewater management plan / report that addresses the county's wastewater management and financial needs. This will clarify and confirm each county's plans for: sewer extensions; small cluster / package systems; and individual wastewater systems (IWS). These reports will help homeowners with cesspools to know whether they will need to hook up to sewer or convert to a DOH-approved package system or IWS.

This will be a good thing for Hawaii's waters, ecosystems and well-being of our communities. Please pass this bill. Thank you for all that you do in protecting Hawaii's communities.

Sincerely,

Manuel Mejia

Regional Program Director, CORAL

mmejia@coral.org



3/20/2023

CPC Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the Consumer Protection and Commerce Committee,

Position: Support SB428 SD1 HD1 Relating to Cesspools

The Surfrider Foundation, Hawai'i region, is testifying in **strong support of SB428 SD1 HD1**, relating to cesspools. This bill would require the counties to carefully evaluate and develop integrated wastewater management plan.

With an estimated 83,000 cesspools, Hawai'i has one of the highest per capita number of cesspools in the nation. While the state has recognized the crucial need to convert these cesspools to newer technology, one of the primary roadblocks to increasing rates of cesspool conversion is financing: the conversion to septic or sewer can be upwards of \$30,000. The Cesspool Conversion Working Group recommends the removal of the 14,000 worst ("priority one") cesspools by 2030; removal of the 12,000 "priority two" cesspools by 2035; and removal of the remaining "priority three" 55,000 cesspools by the current 2050 deadline.

With the significant environmental impact of cesspools on Hawaii's water quality, we need all the tools and options available to tackle this major issue. This bill as drafted would require counties to develop a **comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy**.

One practical way to eliminate cesspools that are located near sewer lines is to connect them to existing municipal sewer lines or by extending sewer lines. Since the counties operate most of the larger sewer systems in Hawai'i, they therefore play a major role in evaluating these options and assisting in cesspool conversions.

Surfrider Foundation maintains a citizen-science water quality monitoring program called the Blue Water Task Force (BWTF) on Kaua'i, Maui, and O'ahu that tests for enterococcus, a fecal indicator bacteria. Since 2018, the O'ahu BWTF has been monitoring water quality in Kāne'ohe bay at Kahalu'u due to the high concentration of coastal cesspools in this area. Due to these cesspools, the water near and around Kahalu'u regularly exceeds state public health standards. Without mechanisms and tools to help support, finance, and convert cesspools and other failing wastewater systems, we will continue to pollute our coastal and freshwaters, threatening both environmental and public health.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in support of SB285 SD2 HD1, submitted on the behalf of the Surfrider Foundation's 4 Chapters in Hawai'i and all of our members who live in the state and visit to enjoy the many coastal recreational opportunities offered by all of the islands' coastlines.

Sincerely,

Lauren Blickley
Hawai'i Regional Manager
Surfrider Foundation



March 20, 2023

In Support of **SB428 SD2 HD1** Relating to Cesspools
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce (CPC)
Hearing on March 21, 2pm,, Rm. 329

Aloha, Chair Nakashima,, Vice-Chair Sayama and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the non-profit WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations, I am writing in **support of SB428 SD1**. This bill will require each county to submit to the Legislature a comprehensive, integrated wastewater management plan / report that addresses the county's wastewater management and financial needs. This will also clarify and confirm each county's plans for: 1. sewer extensions; 2. small cluster / package systems; and 3. individual wastewater systems (IWS). These reports will help homeowners with cesspools to know whether they will need to hook up to sewer or convert to a DOH-approved package system or IWS.

Hawaii has more than 83,000 cesspools across the state, discharging 52 million gallons of raw sewage each day into Hawaii's waters. That's similar to a massive sewage spill every day! The people of Hawaii need this law to make sure their wastewater systems aren't polluting the groundwater or nearby surface waters.

As a member of the State's Cesspool Conversion Working Group over the last four years, we believe the counties need to come up with clear and comprehensive wastewater management plans that offer guidance to county, state and federal agencies, as well as homeowners, wastewater engineers and contractors. This bill will also help the state and the counties in their efforts to access more State Revolving Funds (SRF) and forgivable loans from the EPA to assist individual homeowners.

WAI is dedicated to protecting our drinking water, groundwater and near-shore ecosystems by reducing sewage pollution from cesspools and failing septic systems. Our goal is to help find more innovative, affordable, and eco-friendly solutions to wastewater management. Better sanitation systems reduce sewage pollution and make properties more valuable, while also protecting our groundwater, streams and the health of our coral reefs and coastal areas.

Hawaii is struggling with serious sewage pollution problems, and the state has a mandate to make sure all cesspools are converted in the next three decades. To do that, the counties will need to work more closely with the state to outline plans for exactly where future sewer lines will be constructed and to help come up with financial assistance plans to help homeowners with the costs of conversion. By completing their wastewater management plans, which are already in progress, the counties will be able to come up with ways to access county, state and federal funding to help homeowners with the financial burdens of converting their cesspools. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue and support of this bill.

Aloha,
Stuart Coleman
kStuart H. Coleman, Executive Director

SB-428-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 4:19:10 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The People will not Except this. the Cesspol was never the problem the Bigs pollutors is the County Wast Plant that spills raw suwege to to the bay several time a Year. We will not Convert to any wast water system. Remeber YOU WORK FOR THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII. !!!

SB-428-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2023 6:15:19 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are approximately 83,000 cesspools across the state, with 48,596 on Hawai‘i Island, 14,300 on Kaua‘i, 11,038 on Maui, 7,491 on O‘ahu, and 1,400 on Molokai. Act 125, Session Laws of Hawai‘i 2017, requires every cesspool in the state, excluding cesspools granted exemptions by the director of health, to be upgraded or converted to a director-approved wastewater system or connected to a sewerage system by January 1, 2050.

A massive infrastructure project, such as converting 83,000 cesspools by 2050, requires proper planning and administration across various stakeholders and governmental institutions, including those of the counties. Many properties in rural areas, especially those outside Honolulu County, may not be in areas where existing county infrastructure allows for easy conversion and connection to sewer systems.

Therefore, requiring each county to identify its respective infrastructure requirements is an important first step towards fulfilling the state's mandate to successfully upgrade or convert all cesspools in the state by 2050. Please support SB428 SD1 HD1.

SB-428-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 1:39:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Deadlines imposed by both State law and EPA mandates to convert our cesspools are rapidly approaching and cannot be met without adequate planning at the County level. I support SB428 to require such planning, as should have been done decades ago.

SB-428-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 8:52:54 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-428-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 3:38:06 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Roney deYoung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have direct experience in Hawaii County in former Kapoho Vacationland, where the County required above ground septic systems in lieu of cellpools as the Waiopai tide pools and many tidal pools were at risk of compromise. It was appropriate requirement in this waterfront neighborhood, of homes valued from \$100k to \$1M.

In order to get a permit to build, the above ground septic at a cost of about \$15k to 20k was required. This meant people could delay, but eventually had to comply.

However, for property significantly inland, in a farm area not close to tidal surge the same requirement did not exist. This was appropriate as people and water were not affected.

The burden of this expense has to be considered and applied as appropriate for the neighborhood and usage.

The option to tie into county sewer or provide own above ground septic should remain an option to the landowner. (if sewer hook up available, especially rural outer island)

Financial incentives (larger in the shorter declining to 2050) such as property tax credits to be taken in future years over multiple years, will provide near-term incentives to homeowners to change NOW vs delaying to 2050. The multi year tax incentive also incents local homeowners to make the investment that could be paid back up to 80% of the cost. This is an affordable and predictable method for the state to support the expense without and unpredictable revenue budget.

While this is an important step for Hawaii, a one size fits all blanket approach will backfire. Take time to either pass the legislation with amendment or kill and take up thoughtful legislation next year.

Nominally in support, only with amendment.

Hawaii Island resident, voter, taxpayer Elizabeth Roney Deyoung.

SB-428-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 10:21:56 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Hixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. It is well-documented that the many cesspools in Hawaii leak waste into coastal waters, and nutrients from that waste fertilize seaweeds, allowing them to overgrow and smother corals. No coral = no reef = no fisheries, no ocean tourism, and no coastal protection. We must solve the cesspool issue before we lose our reefs. Please pass this bill. Mahalo.

SB-428-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 10:42:33 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Amato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Members of the CPC committee

From: Daniel Amato, PhD

Re: Hearing SB428 RELATING TO CESSPOOLS.

Hearing: Tuesday March 21, 2023, 2:00 pm, room 329

Aloha Members of the CPC:

As a research scientist and a water quality professional, I strongly support SB428. Decades of research have concluded that wastewater presents a major stressor for the nearshore environment. It is important that this pollution issue is dealt with at every level of government. Each county needs to take an active role in the treatment of their wastewater. Please support SB428 in your committee. Mahalo -Dr. Daniel Amato

SB-428-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 10:53:16 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/21/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mattison Priest	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

My name is Mattison and I live in Liliha.

Please support SB428. This bill addresses integrated wastewater management and financial strategy. One practical way to eliminate cesspools that are located near sewer lines is to connect them to existing municipal sewer lines or by extending sewer lines. Since the counties operate most of the larger sewer systems in Hawai'i, they therefore play a major role in evaluating these options and assisting in cesspool conversions. This bill would require counties to develop a comprehensive integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Mattison Priest