



GOV. MSG. NO. 1318

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

July 8, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on July 8, 2024, the following bill was signed into law:

HB2743 HD2 SD1 CD1

RELATING TO WASTEWATER.
ACT 217

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WASTEWATER.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has
2 approximately eighty-three thousand cesspools that discharge an
3 estimated fifty million gallons of untreated sewage into the
4 State's groundwater and surface waters every day. This
5 antiquated technology threatens drinking water, increases the
6 risk of human illness, and causes significant harm to streams
7 and coastal resources, including coral reefs.

8 The legislature also finds that, although the counties are
9 responsible for constructing and maintaining wastewater systems,
10 the State presently does not require the counties to develop
11 wastewater management plans nor are the counties required to
12 identify neighborhoods that could be connected to existing and
13 planned wastewater treatment facilities.

14 Due to this lack of formal wastewater management planning,
15 individual landowners, the counties, and the department of
16 health currently do not know which cesspools are situated in
17 areas that will eventually be connected with existing and



1 proposed county wastewater facilities, and when those
2 connections can be made. The legislature notes that although
3 the university of Hawaii established the Hawaii cesspool
4 prioritization tool to prioritize cesspools for connection and
5 conversion, landowners and government agencies are currently
6 unable to identify which priority cesspools are located in areas
7 where wastewater facilities will be expanded. This lack of
8 information makes it difficult for individuals currently served
9 by cesspools to decide whether to invest in cesspool conversions
10 or to wait to connect with existing or proposed county
11 wastewater systems.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 13 (1) Require the university of Hawaii water resources
14 research center and the university of Hawaii sea grant
15 college program to develop an overlay with the Hawaii
16 cesspool prioritization tool to identify specific
17 priority areas in which the county sewer system or
18 other centralized treatment system may most feasibly
19 be expanded or constructed to reduce or eliminate
20 cesspools before January 1, 2050; and



1 (2) Appropriate moneys to the university of Hawaii to
2 develop the overlay.

3 The legislature declares that the actions required of the
4 university of Hawaii water resources research center and sea
5 grant college program pursuant to this Act are a matter of
6 statewide concern.

7 SECTION 2. (a) The university of Hawaii water resources
8 research center and the university of Hawaii sea grant college
9 program shall develop an overlay with the Hawaii cesspool
10 prioritization tool to identify specific priority areas in which
11 the county sewer system or other centralized treatment system
12 may most feasibly be expanded or constructed to reduce or
13 eliminate cesspools before January 1, 2050.

14 (b) In developing the overlay pursuant to this section,
15 the university of Hawaii water resources research center and the
16 university of Hawaii sea grant college program shall:

- 17 (1) Consult with relevant stakeholders; and
- 18 (2) Consider factors such as density of development,
19 proximity to wastewater infrastructure, existing
20 county plans, timing, cost, and any other factors
21 deemed relevant and necessary.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$350,814 or so much
3 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the
4 university of Hawaii water resources research center and the sea
5 grant college program to develop an overlay with the Hawaii
6 cesspool prioritization tool to identify specific priority areas
7 in which the county sewer system or other centralized treatment
8 system may most feasibly be expanded or constructed to reduce or
9 eliminate cesspools before January 1, 2050.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the university of
11 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act; provided that the moneys
12 appropriated shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium
13 for which the appropriation is made; provided further that all
14 moneys from the appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2026,
15 shall lapse as of that date.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

APPROVED this 8th day of July , 2024



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 2743, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

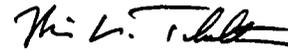
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 1, 2024
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: May 1, 2024
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2024.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate