
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 Hawaii has more than
2 eighty thousand cesspools. These cesspools discharge
3 approximately fifty million gallons of wastewater into the
4 State's groundwater each day, causing harm to the health of
5 Hawaii's people and the quality of Hawaii's waters.

6 The legislature further finds that the cesspool conversion
7 working group recently issued recommendations to facilitate the
8 statewide conversion of all cesspools. The implementation of
9 these recommendations will require a significant effort and a
10 commitment of additional personnel resources. This investment
11 will also help to ensure that the State complies with the
12 mandate of Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, to upgrade,
13 convert, or connect all cesspools in the State by 2050.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

15 (1) Create a new cesspool conversion section within the
16 department of health's wastewater branch that is



1 dedicated to facilitating the conversion of cesspools
2 within the State; and

3 (2) Establish and appropriate moneys for two new full-time
4 equivalent permanent positions within the new cesspool
5 conversion section in fiscal year 2023-2024, and two
6 additional full-time equivalent positions in fiscal
7 year 2024-2025.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 342D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new section to part IV to be appropriately
10 designated and to read as follows:

11 **"§342D- Wastewater branch; cesspool conversion section.**

12 There is established a cesspool conversion section within the
13 wastewater branch of the department, which shall:

14 (1) Manage and facilitate various state financing options
15 for the conversion of cesspools in the State;

16 (2) Develop and manage public outreach and education
17 regarding the conversion of cesspools;

18 (3) Inform cesspool owners of available options and
19 assistance for compliant conversions of cesspools;

20 (4) Manage any federal, state, or other available grants
21 to assist with the conversion of cesspools;



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1 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY: Misle E. Lower
JAN 18 2023



H.B. NO. 180

Report Title:

DOH; Wastewater Branch; Cesspool Conversion; Appropriations

Description:

Creates within the Department of Health's wastewater branch a cesspool conversion section, which will be responsible for facilitating the conversion of cesspools within the State. Establishes 2.0 full-time equivalent positions within the cesspool conversion section in fiscal year 2023-2024, and 2.0 additional full-time equivalent positions within the section in fiscal year 2024-2025. Appropriates moneys.

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