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# 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 eighty-three thousand cesspools across the State,  
3 with 48,596 on Hawaii island, fourteen thousand three hundred on  
4 Kauai, eleven thousand thirty-eight on Maui, 7,491 on Oahu, and  
5 one thousand four hundred on Molokai. Act 125, Session Laws of  
6 Hawaii 2017, requires every cesspool in the State, excluding  
7 cesspools granted exemptions by the director of health, to be  
8 upgraded or converted to a director-approved wastewater system  
9 or connected to a sewerage system by January 1, 2050.

10           The legislature further finds that undertaking a massive  
11 infrastructure project, such as converting eighty-three thousand  
12 cesspools by 2050, requires proper planning and administration  
13 across various stakeholders and governmental institutions,  
14 including those of the counties. According to the Cesspool  
15 Conversion Working Group Final Report to the 2023 Regular  
16 Session Legislature, the cost of conversions to most private and  
17 residential property owners is significant, ranging from a total



1 of \$880,000,000 to more than \$5,300,000,000, with only three per  
2 cent of all residents unburdened by the cost to convert.  
3 Moreover, conversion programs take time and require concerted  
4 long-term efforts, planning, outreach, and adaptation. Many  
5 properties in rural areas, especially on the neighbor islands,  
6 may not be in areas where existing county infrastructure allows  
7 for easy conversion and connection to sewer systems. Therefore,  
8 the legislature finds that requiring each county to identify its  
9 respective infrastructure requirements is an important first  
10 step toward fulfilling the State's mandate to successfully  
11 upgrade or convert all cesspools in the State by 2050.

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

19 SECTION 2. (a) Each county shall develop a comprehensive  
20 integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy



1 specific to the county. Each plan shall identify within the  
2 county:

- 3 (1) Planned connections to centralized public and private  
4 treatment systems;
- 5 (2) Locations where individual treatment systems will be  
6 needed;
- 7 (3) Locations where smaller-scale cluster treatment  
8 systems may be utilized;
- 9 (4) Individual treatment system needs for homes having  
10 cesspools, including whether there is appropriate  
11 existing infrastructure capacity to handle the  
12 conversion of cesspools by 2050; and
- 13 (5) Financial needs, funding mechanisms, and financing  
14 strategies to assist with cesspool conversions.

15 (b) Each county shall submit its respective comprehensive  
16 integrated wastewater management plan and financial strategy,  
17 including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later  
18 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session  
19 of 2024.

20 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



**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. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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

