

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 SB0285 HD1
RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

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

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and
3 personnel priorities. The measure establishes six full-time equivalent (6.0 FTE) permanent
4 positions within the Department's Wastewater Branch.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure that involves establishing and
6 appropriating funds to implement a three-year demonstration pilot program within the University
7 of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center to review, examine, and demonstrate new
8 wastewater systems. The Department recognizes that there is a need for researching and testing
9 new wastewater system options that may be affordable alternatives for cesspool conversions and
10 upgrades.

11 The Department also supports the establishment of a Cesspool Conversion Section within
12 the Department's Wastewater Branch. The Department is concerned about the funding of the
13 6.0 FTE permanent positions using the water pollution control revolving fund. There are
14 insufficient funds in the water pollution control revolving fund to sustain and support 6.0 FTE
15 permanent positions. The Department will be able to fund up to 3.0 FTE permanent positions
16 using the water pollution control revolving fund. However, the other 3.0 FTE permanent
17 positions will need to be funded with general revenues.

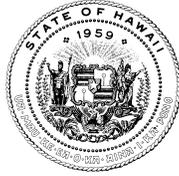
18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

19 **Offered Amendments:** The Department respectfully suggests the following revisions to the
20 measure. Additions appear as underlined and deletions appear as bracketed strikeouts.

1 Revise SECTION 3., Page 8, Lines 7-13, “There is appropriated out of the [~~water~~
2 ~~pollution-control-revolving-fund~~] general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or
3 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the same sum or so much
4 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to establish three full-time equivalent
5 (3.0 FTE) permanent positions, a program specialist VI, a planner IV, and an engineer IV, within
6 the cesspool conversion section.”

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia 'āina o ka Moku 'āina 'o
Hawaii 'i*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia 'āina o ka Moku 'āina
'o Hawaii 'i*



IKAIKA ANDERSON
CHAIRMAN DESIGNATE, HHC
Ka Luna Ho 'okele

KATIE L. DUCATT
DEPUTY DESIGNATE TO THE
CHAIRMAN
Ka Hope Luna Ho 'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho 'opulapula Hawaii 'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

**TESTIMONY OF IKAIKA ANDERSON, CHAIRMAN-DESIGNATE
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
COMMERCE
HEARING ON MARCH 21, 2023 AT 2:00PM IN CR 329**

SB 285, SD 2, HD 1, RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

March 21, 2023

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

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) supports this measure which 1) creates within the Department of Health's wastewater branch a cesspool conversion section, which will be responsible for facilitating the conversion of cesspools with the State, 2) establishes and appropriates funds for three full-time equivalent positions within the cesspool conversion section in fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 and three additional full-time equivalent positions within the section in fiscal year 2024-2025 and 3) establishes a three-year New Wastewater System Demonstration Pilot Program within the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center to examine and demonstrate new wastewater technology systems and implement those technologies in demonstration projects in areas across the State that are identified as Priority Level 1 in the 2021 Hawaii Cesspool Hazard Assessment and Prioritization Tool Report; and establishes a similar ranking system for prioritization levels for the islands of Molokai, Lanai, and Ni'ihau. The measure also appropriates funds for the pilot program.

There are approximately 2,500 cesspools that exist on Hawaiian Home Lands. Pursuant to Act 125 (SLH 2017), these cesspools are required to be converted to a septic system or aerobic treatment unit system or connected to a sewerage system before January 1, 2050.

In consideration of the 2050 deadline to convert Hawaii's cesspools, DHHL supports the establishment of a three-year New Wastewater System Demonstration Pilot Program because it will provide the opportunity for alternative, financially feasible,

and effective wastewater technologies to be evaluated and published in reports for the State of Hawaii to understand the challenges and financial costs of cesspool conversions and wastewater technologies.

Furthermore, the pilot program will require that these technologies be implemented in areas across the State that are identified as Priority Level 1 in the 2021 Hawaii Cesspool Hazard Assessment and Prioritization Tool Report, many of which are located on Hawaiian Home Lands. DHHL supports fully comprehensive data and new technology demonstrations that will include the islands of Molokai, Lanai, and Ni'ihau.

Additionally, DHHL understands that there are approximately 82,000 cesspools statewide that will require cesspool conversion and that the State currently has a shortage of licensed engineers to execute the design plans and final construction inspections required by Act 125 (SLH 2017). DHHL, therefore, supports the appropriation of funds for FTE positions within the Department of Health's Wastewater Branch to facilitate the conversion of cesspools within the State.

Lastly, DHHL understands that there is no simple, one method fits all ahupua'a (land division) solution toward addressing the cesspool conversion and wastewater needs of the State of Hawaii and we support this measure that will initiate the implementation of the diverse and feasible ways in which the requirements outlined in Act 125 (SLH 2017) can be completed.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.



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

Thomas Giambelluca

Director, UH Water Resources Research Center

And

Darren T. Lerner, PhD

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

And

Michael Bruno, Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 285 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

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

The University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center and UH Sea Grant College Program (Hawai'i Sea Grant) stand in **strong support** of SB 285 SD2 HD1.

The State of Hawai'i has shown its intention to improve water quality, mitigate drinking water risks, and join the other 49 states in addressing the known impacts of cesspools. However, Hawai'i's 88,000 cesspool owners are faced with a paradox, the State's approved list of replacement options includes systems such as ATU's, which are effective at reducing nutrients but are very costly, or septic systems, which are less expensive but have been shown to have limited nutrient removal efficiency in Hawai'i's coastal environments.

The lack of affordable, effective technology options is a major impediment to Hawai'i's water quality improvement goals, and has the potential to result in a huge investment yielding little in return. This bill would leverage the University of Hawai'i's extensive research expertise to create an innovative pilot program that would promote development of new less expensive on-site technologies and assess the safety and efficiency of new and emerging on-site wastewater options. Specifically, this bill would enable research to improve our understanding of which technologies are best suited for Hawai'i's unique conditions, and it will ultimately support the Hawai'i Department of Health in approving new, more effective and less costly technologies for large-scale implementation.

While we cannot delay the process of replacing cesspools, a multi-pronged approach including policy changes, creating new financing options, and technology development is needed to successfully address this complex and challenging issue.

Additionally, since the bill delegates responsibility to the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center (UH WRRC), it is worth noting that UH WRRC has significant experience in providing the state with useful research specifically relating to the impacts of cesspools and wastewater. This is demonstrated by our recently developed Hawai'i Cesspool Prioritization Tool created with the Hawai'i Department of Health, our wastewater outflow biomonitoring program that has continued for more than a decade with the City and County of Honolulu, and our faculty's numerous reports and publications that provide critical information on the water quality impacts of wastewater on the environment.

Additionally, we strongly support the appropriation of funds for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) positions within the Hawai'i Department of Health's Wastewater Branch, which is in critical need of expansion in their personnel capacity in order to support the statewide transition away from cesspools.

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 285, SD2, HD1, Relating to Wastewater Systems

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 **supports** Senate Bill 285, SD2, HD1, which 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 and appropriates funds for three full-time equivalent positions within the cesspool conversion section in fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 and three additional full-time equivalent positions within the section in fiscal year 2024-2025. Establishes a three-year New Wastewater System Demonstration Pilot Program within the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center to examine and demonstrate new wastewater technology systems; implement those technologies in demonstration projects in areas across the State that are identified as Priority Level 1; and establish a similar ranking system for prioritization levels for the islands of Molokai, Lanai, and Niihau. Requires the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center to submit reports to the Legislature. Appropriates funds for the pilot program. Effective 6/30/3000.

Hawai'i Association of 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.

Affordability and financial planning are key. The Cesspool Conversion Working Group conducted an affordability analysis for homeowners. Based on the analysis,

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

97%² 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. Costs to convert will vary greatly depending on resources, labor, permitting delays, property terrain, and other variables. Most homeowners will not be able to afford to do this alone. 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 and rural communities.

We appreciate the amendments made in the previous committee and believe that a Department of Health Wastewater Branch Cesspool Conversion Section with additional employees may help with homeowner outreach and education as well as facilitating different funding and financing options for the conversion of cesspools in the State.

Furthermore, new wastewater and cesspool technology systems would be an important solution to help the State reach the goal of converting 83,000 cesspools by 2050, especially for communities with limited infrastructure. We applaud the legislature for taking leadership on this matter through the establishment of this pilot program.

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

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>



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 SB285 SD2 HD1 RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**

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 (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. **The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB285 SD2 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.**

This bill as drafted would:

- Create a **new Cesspool Conversion Section** within the Department of Health's Wastewater Branch that is dedicated to facilitating the conversion of cesspools within Hawaii
- Appropriate **funds for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) permanent positions** within the Cesspool Conversion Section for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025
- Establish a three-year **pilot** in the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center to **examine and demonstrate new wastewater technology systems;**
- Implement those technologies in demonstration projects in Priority Level 1 areas across the State; and
- Establish a ranking system for cesspool priorities for Molokai, Lanai, and Niihau, similar to what was done for other islands previously.

The new cesspool conversion section with **additional staffing is needed** to accomplish the conversion of cesspools within Hawaii. Funding staff is critically needed.

The examination, demonstration, and implementation of **new wastewater technology systems in Priority 1 areas** across the state will benefit everyone in Hawai'i with **significant benefits to public health and the environment.**

This bill is necessary to facilitate the needed cesspool conversions.

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 285, SD2 HD 1– RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS**
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 and its 7,500 voting enrolled members stand in strong support of SB 285, SD2, HD1. This measure would (1) create 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; (2) establish and appropriate funds for three full-time equivalent positions within the cesspool conversion section in fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 and three additional full-time equivalent positions within the section in fiscal year 2024-2025; (3) establish a three-year New Wastewater System Demonstration Pilot Program within the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center to examine and demonstrate new wastewater technology systems; implement those technologies in demonstration projects in areas across the State that are identified as Priority Level 1; (4) establish a similar ranking system for prioritization levels for the islands of Molokai, Lanai, and Niihau; and would require the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center to submit reports to the Legislature; and (5) appropriate funds for the pilot program.

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform plank on the environmental policy provides that members must "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 \(hawaiidemocrats.org\)](#)



March 21, 2023

Page 2

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.

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 \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

Creating within the Department of Health's wastewater branch (1) a cesspool conversion section, which will be responsible for facilitating the conversion of cesspools within the State; (2) establishing and appropriate funds for three full-time equivalent positions within the cesspool conversion section in fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 and three additional full-time equivalent positions within the section in fiscal year 2024-2025; (3) establishing a three-year New Wastewater System Demonstration Pilot Program within the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center to examine and demonstrate new wastewater technology systems; implement those technologies in demonstration projects in areas across the State that are identified as Priority Level 1; (4) establishing a similar ranking system for prioritization levels for the islands of Molokai, Lanai, and Niihau; and would require the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center to submit reports to the Legislature; and (5) appropriating funds for the pilot program would be consistent with the state and counties' duties under the Public Trust Doctrine under Article XI, Section 1, of the Hawaii State Constitution, and the DPH Platform environmental plank to restore, preserve, and protect our native ecosystem.

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 285 SD2 HD1, Relating to Wastewater Systems.

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 285 SD2 HD1, which 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 and appropriates funds for three full-time equivalent positions within the Cesspool Conversion Section in fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 and three additional full-time equivalent positions within the section in fiscal year 2024-2025; establishes a three-year New Wastewater System Demonstration Pilot Program within the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center to examine and demonstrate new wastewater technology systems; implement those technologies in demonstration projects in areas across the State that are identified as Priority Level 1 in the 2021 Hawai'i Cesspool Hazard Assessment and Prioritization Tool Report; establish a similar ranking system for prioritization levels for the islands of Molokai, Lana'i, and Ni'ihau; and, requires the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center to submit reports to the Legislature.

Ulupono supports finding innovative solutions to transition Hawai'i's waste management from cesspools to other environmentally friendly alternatives. 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. The information gathered and analyzed through demonstration projects can serve as valuable tools in transitioning Hawai'i's cesspool systems. Additionally, this bill provides dedicated state resources to further support our cesspool conversion goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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 SB285 SD2 HD1 Relating to Wastewater Systems.

The Surfrider Foundation, Hawai'i region, is testifying in **strong support of SB285 SD2 HD1**, relating to cesspools and wastewater systems. This bill would provide critical state-level support for cesspool conversions, including a new Cesspool Conversion Section within the DOH, additional staff specific to cesspool conversions, and pilot projects to test new wastewater technology systems.

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:

- Create a **new Cesspool Conversion Section** within the Department of Health's Wastewater Branch that is dedicated to facilitating the conversion of cesspools within Hawaii
- Appropriate **funds for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) permanent positions** within the Cesspool Conversion Section for fiscal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025
- Establish a three-year **pilot** in the University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center to **examine and demonstrate new wastewater technology systems;**
- Implement those technologies in demonstration projects in Priority Level 1 areas across the State; and
- Establish a ranking system for cesspool priorities for Molokai, Lanai, and Niihau, similar to what was done for other islands previously.

The new cesspool conversion section with **additional staffing is needed** to accomplish the conversion of cesspools within Hawaii. Funding staff is critically needed.

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

SB-285-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 1:40:49 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:

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

Please support this SB285 SD2 HD1. We at CORAL are in strong support of this bill as it will help improve the quality of water coming from our communities. Our coral reefs need clean, clear water in order to survive the impacts of climate change. This bill would create a pilot program to test the safety and efficiency of innovative on-site wastewater technologies, would provide valuable information on which technologies are best suited for Hawai'i's unique conditions, and appropriates funds for 1.0 FTE engineer position and 1.0 FTE planner position within the Hawai'i's Department of Health Wastewater Branch to support the permitting and approval for cesspool conversions.

Please pass this bill. Thank you for all that you do in caring for Hawaii's environment, economy and the well-being of its citizens and visitors.

Sincerely,
Manuel Mejia

Regional Program Director, CORAL

mmejia@coral.org



March 20, 2023

In Support of **SB285 SD2 HD1** Relating to Wastewater Systems
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 SB285 SD2 HD1**. This bill would create a new Cesspool Section in the Dept. of Health's Wastewater Branch and hire new staff to help process cesspool conversion permits faster and more efficiently. The bill would also leverage the University of Hawai'i's extensive research expertise to create a pilot program to test the safety and efficiency of innovative on-site wastewater technologies. This program would provide valuable information on more efficient and less expensive technologies for large-scale implementation and individual cesspool conversions.

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 that this kind of pilot project for individual wastewater systems will be more efficient and affordable in the long run. The lack of affordable and effective technologies (nutrient & nitrogen reducing) is a major impediment to Hawai'i's water quality improvement goals.

WAI is an environmental non-profit 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 public health and valuable natural resources like groundwater, streams, 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. WAI is working with UH's Sea Grant College, the Water Resources Research Center and innovative sanitation companies from across the country and around the world to introduce more efficient and affordable alternatives for wastewater management. I believe that SB285 SD2 HD1 is a crucial step in the right direction to solving Hawai'i's cesspool issue and sewage pollution problem. Mahalo for your leadership on this issue and support of this bill.

Aloha,
Stuart Coleman
Stuart H. Coleman, Executive Director

SB-285-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 3:42:05 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Individual	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

SB-285-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2023 4:21:07 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 Covert to a Wast Water system. Stop this Now or we will Have to Fire all of you!!!!

SB-285-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2023 1:44:10 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:

Hawaii is making negligible progress toward replacing cesspools with safer wastewater management systems. SB285 is an enlightened and very welcome measure which should help us to get rolling on this before it becomes an absolute crisis.

SB-285-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 10:20:39 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-285-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 10:22:14 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 SB285 SD2 RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS.

Hearing: Thursday 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 SB285. This bill is essential to help Hawaii determine the best path forward regarding wastewater technology intended to upgrade cesspools. More importantly, a pilot study will help the residents of Hawaii understand how and why we need to upgrade cesspools. Please support SB285 in your committee. Mahalo -Dr. Daniel Amato

SB-285-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2023 10:48:45 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 SB285. This bill would provide critical state-level support for cesspool conversions, including a new Cesspool Conversion Section within the DOH, additional staff specific to cesspool conversions, and pilot projects to test new wastewater technology systems. Responsible waste management is critical for public health and this bill would aid in that.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Mattison Priest