

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1246

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 21 2025

RE: H.B. No. 736
H.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 736, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO WASTEWATER SYSTEMS,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for a three-year New Wastewater System and Individual Wastewater System Technology Testing Pilot Program within the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health; Department of Hawaiian Home Lands; Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission; University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center; The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra; Hawai'i Association of Realtors; Surfrider Foundation Hawai'i Region; Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition; WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations; and eight individuals.

Your Committees find that the State is committed to transitioning away from cesspools to improve water quality and public health. However, your Committees further find that existing wastewater systems approved by the Department of Health may not be affordable for homeowners or government entities. Your Committees additionally find that new, emerging wastewater technologies and management solutions may improve public health



and the environment at a more affordable cost than traditional wastewater treatment technologies. Your Committees also find that leveraging the expertise of the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center to rigorously test and evaluate new wastewater treatment technologies will expedite the identification of effective and financially feasible solutions while also providing the Department of Health with the necessary scientific basis for approving new, lower-cost alternatives for cesspool conversion. This measure establishes the New Wastewater System and Individual Wastewater System Technology Testing Pilot Program to end the State's reliance on cesspools, improving water quality and public health.

Your Committees note that it may be more efficient for the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center to test multiple wastewater technology systems simultaneously. Therefore, your Committees believe that the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center should prioritize expanding the testing facility's capacity for the simultaneous testing of multiple wastewater technology systems.

Your Committees also note that Genki Balls represent an effective bioremediation tool that has been used to remove pollutants from soil and water in the Ala Wai Canal. Your Committees believe that the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Facility should test Genki Balls to determine the viability of Genki Balls for wastewater treatment. Your Committees further believe that the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center should also test other water remediation technologies that have been deployed to great effect elsewhere.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Higher Education and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 736, H.D. 1, and recommend that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Higher Education
and Agriculture and
Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Higher Education
HRE

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 736 HD 1	HAE/AEN, WAM	3/17/2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	✓			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt	✓			
TOTAL	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Michelle N. Kidani</div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 736 HD1	HREIAEN, WAM	3/17/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
RHOADS, Karl	X			
AWA, Brenton	X			
TOTAL	5			
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

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