

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 11 2025

RE: S.B. No. 1232
S.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 S.B. No. 1232 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:

- (1) Establish and appropriate funds for a three-year New Wastewater Technology Testing Pilot Program within the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center to test and evaluate new wastewater technology systems in coordination with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant College Program, College of Engineering, Department of Health, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and the appropriate county agencies; and
- (2) Require the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center to submit annual reports to the Legislature.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Health, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, University of Hawai'i Water Resources Research Center, Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition, WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations, and one individual.



Your Committees find that Act 125, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017, set a goal to upgrade or convert the 83,000 cesspools in the State to a septic or aerobic treatment unit system or to connect them to a central sewerage system before 2050. Your Committees further find that in recognition of possible alternatives to a septic or aerobic treatment unit system, Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, amended the law to instead require that every cesspool in the State be upgraded to a wastewater system approved by the Director of Health or connected to a sewerage system by 2050. Your Committees also find that new and emerging wastewater technologies and management solutions may more effectively treat sewage for entire communities at a lower cost than existing wastewater treatment technology. Your Committees note that new wastewater treatment technologies must be tested in order to be certified by the Department of Health for use in the State. This measure ensures progress in the State's goal to upgrade or convert cesspools while promoting clean environmental standards by appropriating funds to the University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center to test and evaluate new wastewater technology systems.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Inserting an effective date of July 31, 2050, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

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 S.B. No. 1232, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1232, S.D. 1, 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

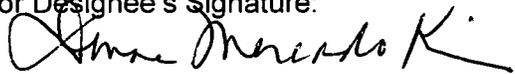


DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
 Thirty-Third Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Higher Education
HRE

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 12 32	Committee Referral: HRE/AEN, WAM	Date: 2/11/2025		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" 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)	X			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	X			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	X			
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	X			
FEVELLA, Kurt	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				

***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.:* SB1232	Committee Referral: HRE/AEN,WAM	Date: 2/3/2025		
<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 type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" 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	4	0	0	1
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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