
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CESSPOOL CONVERSIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that all cesspools are
2 required to be upgraded or converted to a wastewater system
3 approved by the director of health or connected to a sewerage
4 system by 2050. The legislature further finds that Act 153,
5 Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, established a cesspool compliance
6 pilot grant project to assist certain low- and moderate-income
7 property owners, including lessees on Hawaiian home lands, with
8 the costs of upgrading or converting cesspools. However,
9 although certain property owners may be eligible for grant
10 funding, it may not be sufficient to cover all upgrade or
11 conversion costs. The legislature also finds that the
12 appropriation under Act 153 lapsed as of June 30, 2024.

13 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 14 (1) Increase the maximum grant amount for the cesspool
15 compliance pilot grant project; and
16 (2) Appropriate funds for the cesspool compliance pilot
17 grant project.



SECTION 2. Act 153, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022, is amended by amending section 2 as follows:

1. By amending subsection (b) to read:

"(b) The department of health shall not grant awards to any owner of real property with a cesspool or lessee on Hawaiian home lands with a cesspool unless:

(1) The cesspool is located in an area identified as priority level 1 or 2 in the University of Hawaii's [2021] 2022 Hawaii cesspool [~~hazard assessment and~~] prioritization tool;

(2) The owner or lessee provides the department with the tax return required by this section; and

(3) An application, the form of which shall be decided by the department, is submitted and deemed completed by the department of health."

2. By amending subsections (e) and (f) to read:

"(e) The owner or lessee shall provide the department of health with the following before a grant may be awarded:

(1) Design plans prepared by a licensed engineer for a wastewater system that complies with chapter 11-62, Hawaii Administrative Rules;



(2) A licensed engineer's final construction inspection report with photos and as built plans and certification that the system was constructed in accordance with the design plans approved by the director of health;

(3) A copy of an approval to use letter of the wastewater system issued by the director of health; and

(4) Receipts of payment made to the licensed engineer [and], licensed contractor[-], and wastewater and plumbing supply companies registered with the department of commerce and consumer affairs.

(f) The department of health shall grant awards not to exceed ~~[\$20,000]~~ \$30,000 based on receipts of payment submitted under subsection (e) (4); provided that [cesspools] property owners that have previously received a grant award under this Act to upgrade or convert cesspools to a director of health-approved wastewater system shall be eligible for additional grant awards under this Act in an amount not to exceed \$30,000 for the same cesspool. Cesspools that have been upgraded or converted to a director of health-approved wastewater system



1 before the passing of this Act shall not be eligible for this
2 grant."

3 3. By amending subsection (h) to read:

4 "(h) The department of health shall submit to the
5 legislature a report on the pilot grant project, including any
6 findings and recommendations, and any proposed legislation, no
7 later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular
8 [~~session~~] sessions of 2024[-] and 2027."

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to fund
12 the cesspool compliance pilot grant project.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
14 health for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$174,366 or so much
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for to
18 establish two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) permanent positions
19 within the department of health for the purposes of this Act.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
21 health for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Chas. Kingman

JAN 22 2026



H.B. NO. 1816

Report Title:

Cesspool Compliance Pilot Grant Project; Appropriations

Description:

Increases the maximum grant amount for the Cesspool Compliance Pilot Grant Project. Appropriates funds.

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